



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –  
QUEENSLAND**

**SPANNER NEWS EDITION**  
**3/15**  
**14 Nov 15**

Welcome Spanners, to the third and final edition of Spanner News for 2015. What a wonderful group of people we have that make up the membership of our RAEME Association Queensland. Thank you all for the outstanding effort that you make improving and growing our association.

In the past months we can proudly say that we have held functions in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast – all have been a success and enjoyable. As well, the RAQ Committee has been working on avenues to assist in NQ, and in particular, the Townsville Association. We sincerely hope that the promising vibes emanating from our cousins in the north, continue into the New Year and the Association in NQ can strengthen its bonds with our retired members, as well as those of our large cohort of serving RAEME personnel in the north.

Recently a detachment of RAEME personnel from 102 FD WKSP headed to Papua New Guinea. Their task was to take part in a Combat Service Support Mentoring Task Team working with a PNGDF Force Support Battalion (FSB) located in Port Moresby. The RAQ heard via the grapevine that they needed some support, by way of gifts, which they could present to our opposite numbers in the PNGDF. The RAQ came to their assistance with a donation of promotional material and memorabilia from our 'E' store, to assist them with their mentoring, and spreading the joy to our PNG Colleagues. Their story and experiences should be a good read when they appear in the next RAEME 'Craftsman' Magazine later this month.

I want to acknowledge a very significant event – the donation of a 1942 Willy's Jeep to the RAQ. The Jeep was located and recovered from PNG and restored by a former member of RAEME and RAQ Member #190, Kevin Cheatham, Senior, who served for 12 years in RAEME, commencing in the 50's. Kevin Cheatham, Junior, graciously offered his father's restored Jeep to the RAQ after see the magnificent turnout of RAQ members on ANZAC Day 2015. The Jeep is (for the moment) located at 106 FD WKSP Enoggera, where it is being used for some 'continuation and trade training.' Thank you, Kevin, for your generous donation.

Our 'standout' end of year 'All Ranks Luncheon' is fast approaching, on Sunday 29 Nov 15. May I encourage ALL RAQ members to get their bookings made PRONTO – I also encourage you to put together a group table of eight. The key to a 'stand out' and successful event is your 'buy in' – making the effort to join us with your partner and be part of a group of like-minded folks. As a member, you gain an additional benefit in that everyone gets to enjoy your company, and by simply being there, you make the difference. Don't forget RAQ financial members get a 10% discount on their booking through the RAQ Website.

To all members and their families, thank you for your support in 2015 – have a wonderful Christmas – remember those less fortunate, and those who are away from their loved ones. I look forward to seeing you all at one of our gatherings in 2016.

Kind regards,

**Jeff Maurice**  
**Chairman**  
**07 3268 2148**  
[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



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**FROM THE NEW HEAD OF CORPS (HOC) –  
BRIG HADYN KOHL**



**BRIG HADYN KOHL – HOC RAEME 2015**

BRIG Kohl was recently appointed Head of Corps-RAEME to replace BRIG Andrew Mathewson. The content of the following article is substantially an email BRIG Kohl sent out to a wide RAEME

distribution list introducing himself to serving members of the Corps. I am using an edited version to introduce him to the past members of the Corps amongst our readership. May I offer BRIG Kohl congratulations on behalf of the RAEME Association-Queensland (RAQ).

*'As you are all aware, I have been given the honour by Chief of Army of being the new RAEME Head of Corps, effective 6 Sep 15. In my new capacity, I immediately want to recognise 'Matho' (BRIG Mathewson) for his efforts as Head of Corps over recent years, in particular, for all his work and strong support for the Corps History Book project and his work on Plan Pelican, the review of RAEME support to Army aviation.*

*I am very conscious that most of us in the HOC Cell are volunteers, or undertaking our Corps represented roles as extra-regimental appointments, and as a result, we can't do everything that we would like, to move the Corps forward. Indeed, 'Matho' told me that his single greatest frustration was not having sufficient time to spend on Corps matters that he would have liked. In recognition of this situation, I thank you all for stepping up to the challenge and if there is anything I can do to make the workload slightly easier, then please let me know.*

*As most of you would be aware, I am currently posted as the DG Land Vehicle Systems within LSD in the newly established Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) previously the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO). In this role I believe I am well placed to understand what equipment is coming down the line for our tradesmen to maintain, but I also know that a lot of my knowledge regarding maintenance in the field is dated, so I will need your assistance/thoughts to make sure anything I say from a Corps perspective is based on the realities of contemporary operations. This is especially so for the forthcoming review of the support RAEME provides to land materiel, known as Plan Centaur.*

*I know that Bill Myer (SO2 Corps Heritage, is planning for a Corps Committee Meeting in Melbourne and I am looking forward to catching up with as many members of the Committee, as I can on the day. I'm also keen to get out and about and meet the members of the wider Corps – so hopefully we can get to know each other, when I am in your locations. I certainly know that BRIG Dave McGahey, Project Director for Plan Centaur, and I will be speaking regularly as the momentum grows behind this important project; indeed I have already unashamedly plagiarised his presentation at the Corps conference, when speaking*

*recently, as the figures he presented, speak for themselves.*

*Finally, I must take this opportunity to thank BRIG Ross Grant (Rtd), and his team for a stellar effort with the Corps History Book. I think the simplest metric that everyone would understand is that over 50% of the books have been sold in only two weeks – a success by any measure.'*

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is growing steadily, but we could always do better, remember, ensure you ask the question when you catch up with mates 'Are you a member of the RAEME Association Queensland' and if not, 'Why haven't you joined?'. I would be interested in hearing responses as to why they haven't joined (to date I haven't heard any), we can monitor these and if there are trends, the committee can look at ways to rectify the issue?

We still have a number of people that haven't as yet logged into the members only section of the website, as mentioned this concerns me as I think they are possibly not getting emails from us or possibly their contact email address is out of date)? What I'm going to start doing is listing some of these people in each addition of the Friday Files. So keep a look out and if you recognise a name, let them know I'm trying to get in touch so we can confirm their latest contact details.

Regards,

**Steve Howells**  
**Membership Member**  
[membership@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@qld.raeme.org.au)  
**(W): (07) 3354 0572**  
**(H): (07) 3264 3967**



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## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Introduction.** This coming year will be my last year as Secretary of the RAQ Committee. After 12 years I know it is time to hand over to a younger member. I intend to travel for longer periods and don't wish to cause any disruption for the Association by my absences. So what follows is my summary of the Associations busy year so you can all see how I feel about our wonderful Association.

**End of Year Summary.** This past year has been as interesting and busy as any preceding it. I think we

can all be proud of the RAQ and its commitment to our stated goals of: promoting the Corps' identity and reputation across Australia; recognising and celebrating the achievements of the members of the Corps; and providing a focal point for Corps activities nationally and regionally. Just look at what we achieve in any given year.

**Meetings.** The storm that hit Brisbane last November had a significant impact on our Association. Victoria Barracks sustained severe damage to many buildings and combined with heightened security, it meant that after a period of 12 plus years, we could no longer use the Barracks as our meeting place. Thanks must go to MAJ Steve Howells, that we were able to use the DCO conference room at Mitchelton as an interim meeting venue, whilst sourcing a permanent home. Our permanent home appears to be Kedron Wavell Services Club and we thank them for allowing us to meet there. Unfortunately this enforced change is not suitable to some, but our options are limited. Also we have changed the Tuesday meeting schedule to Wednesday to encourage attendance of more members at our meetings – we seem to be adjusting well!

**Membership.** MAJ Steve Howell in collaboration with the Webmaster has incorporated Membership into our web site functionality giving members access to their details, as well as membership discounts to functions and merchandise. Well done Steve. I know it is still a work in progress, particularly with our lost members, but it is a huge improvement for our ability to communicate to our members and maintain contacts.

**Web Master.** Pete Matthews has working extremely hard incorporating and activating many administrative tasks and procedures into the web site. One of the harder tasks has been training those of us that need to use the website routinely. The Web Site is fantastic and thank you Pete for the enormous amount of time you put in the website for our association.

**Functions.** The Functions Team under MAJ Shad Marsh have really delivered this past year. Ty Bodle has stepped up to fill Ray Norman's shoes organising our RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon. Our Centenary of ANZAC March, and 'after parade' function at the Port Office really brought the RAEME family together. Ernie and his small team made the Centenary of ANZAC very special. Thanks also to Ross, Ernie, Mike and Ray for organising the gathering of RAEME on the Sunshine Coast – it was well done and brought together many more of our RAEME family outside of Brisbane

**Welfare.** The importance of communicating welfare

information to the wider RAEME family has been made a lot easier with John Parfitt using the web sites functionality to broadcast vales and sick reports. John has recently stepped down and Barry Shipway has accepted the Welfare baton. Thank you John for what you have done over a long time, and Barry, for stepping up to the plate.

**Merchandise.** Bruce Hermann is unflappable. The introduction of the Web Site Shop and Pay Pal has transitioned our merchandising to the next level. Well done Bruce, your efforts are really appreciated.

**Communications.** Our Communications Chair, Ross Grant, has had a very busy year getting the Corps History Book 'With Skill and Fighting' published. It has been a very long term project for Ross but what a great book. In between that task, Ross has been busy with Spanner News, Functions and Patron duties as well as working behind the scenes for the RAQ. Your guidance and wisdom Ross is priceless.

**Treasurer.** Our Treasurer, Ian Leabeater, has again controlled our finances as well as the finances for the National Association in his usual efficient manner. Thank you, Ian, and we are very pleased at the state of the Associations finances at this stage of our evolution.

**Chairman.** Our Chairman Jeff Maurice has been working hard in keeping the momentum of this Association moving forward across the state. New initiatives and the confidence shown in his committee has made it a great year for the RAQ

**National Association.** On 1 Nov 14, Raymond Norman handed over as President of the RAEME National Association to Phillip Coppin from the South Australian Association. We look forward to working closely with Phil and his new committee to advance the cause of RAEME across Australia.

In 2010, with the support of many Head of Corps and the Corps Committee, Raymond commenced development of the RAEME National Association and has worked tirelessly, overcoming many hurdles on behalf of all current and former members of the Corps to achieve the impossible – an Association that connects all State based RAEME Associations for the greater good of the Corps

The November handover also marked 50 years of active involvement with the Corps by Raymond Norman both as a serving soldier, officer and retired member. Thank you Ray, I personally value your friendship and guidance of many years very much.

**General.** There are many units, members and teams

who deserve a big thank you. Here are two:

- CO of RAMS in allowing the Association to visit his establishment to see firsthand the great training facilities for our RAEME Aviation brethren; and
- the National IT Team for developing great web sites for all Associations of the Corps. In particular, many I thank Dean Ellis for his assistance to our web master.

As always I applaud the progressive nature of all who contribute to the RAQ, which sadly isn't always appreciated by some of our members.

Yours sincerely,

**Gary Sargent**  
**Secretary**  
**RAQ**



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## EVENT REPORTS

**General Report.** The Association held its inaugural gathering of RAEME folks who live on, or near the Gold Coast, at the Mermaid Beach (AEME) SLSC on the 26 Sep 15. By all accounts it was a great success for all those that attended. There was a good feeling abroad, and I gained the impression that attendees felt privileged to now be part of an organisation, that was not only started by our RAEME brethren in 1945, but still carries our title in their name.

Our next big event on the social calendar is the RAEME Luncheon on Sunday 29 Nov 15. A 'not to be missed' event, so book quickly, as we are limited by numbers who can fit into the venue. Remember, it's an all ranks luncheon, for both retired and current service personnel, so put it on your social calendar. You can book through the RAEME - QLD at [www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) website and you can choose as a single person, or with a partner, and or form a group on a table of eight or ten.

Our events are growing from strength to strength and are not to be missed.

Regards,

**Shad Marsh**  
**Events Member**

**RAEME Res/CMF Reunion 2015.** This year's Reunion was once again held at the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch. The

function was held on the 23 Aug 15. This time of year always seems to bring splendid weather. Approximately 60 people attended from as far afield as Townsville. A number of new faces appeared and it was great to see the return of members who have not been able to attend for some time.

Our special guests were Col Tony Borg, QLD Hon Col Comdt, and Mr Jeff Maurice, Chairman of RAEME Assoc QLD, each of whom addressed the members on current RAEME activities.



**Col Borg Cutting the Cake**

Again this year the BBQ rissoles proved a tasty treat with many comments on their quality and the excellent cooking by Glen Dixon and Ian Leabeater. As there were no Sub-branch members available to man the bar Peter Saxon stepped in ably assisted by his wife, Joy. Mention must be made of the committee members and their partners for their efforts during the year and during the function.

Those attending had the opportunity to enjoy some entertainment on the TV. This consisted of a DVD on the '2015 Trooping the Colour' and the revealing of the secret of the 'spin wheel' manoeuvre performed by the massed bands. Probably the most complex drill movement performed by military personnel with band members marching in slow time in all directions, forward, backwards and sideways, it is amazing how they do not collide with each other,

The raffles were well supported with over 20 prizes, many of which were donated. The much coveted RAEME Cane was won by Jim Kelly. Prizes included a copy of the Corps History book 'With Skill and Fighting' which Pam McElwaine won.

Well this year's function is concluded and we now look to next year's, which will be held at about the same time, so if you could not make it this time, we

hope to see you next year for a great day when we renew Army friendships.

Regards,

**John Parfitt**  
**Convenor**  
**RAQ**



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**Australian Army Apprentices Association Reunion 2015 Report for Newsletter.** Upon arriving in Albury for the Reunion, attendees were greeted by Albury Council's sign strung across Dean St (the main road in Albury) welcoming the Reunion to Albury. This was a very welcome sight after a long trip as one immediately knew the Reunion was on and well supported.

The Reunion commenced with the now familiar registration and Meet and Greet Function which were held in the Albury Entertainment Centre. Attendees were welcomed at the registration by the familiar friendly faces of Jeff and Jan Heron, who have been the welcoming party at numerous previous reunions. At registration, attendees were given their show-bags containing a 'Welcome to Albury' kit courtesy of the Albury Information Centre, the Reunion program and mugs & stubby holders for gentlemen and an inscribed plate for the ladies. Mugs from a previous reunion were offered as 'extras' and were eagerly snapped up. The Meet & Greet function was very convivial and attendees soon gravitated into their intake groups. Brian and Barbara Daley did a roaring trade on the raffle sales whilst Richard Pike also had a strong demand for AAAA Memorabilia.

The RAEME representatives were present to provide attendees the opportunity to purchase the recently released Corps History "With Skill and Fighting Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014". When it came to the formalities, and some attendees continued their own conversations, they were smartly brought into line by the Albury City Mayor who had a voice any RSM would be proud of. The response that was received when attendees were advised that the intake signs for the Saturday morning's Street Parade were to be returned after the Parade indicated that it was highly unlikely many would ever be seen again, let alone returned. A number were seen again at subsequent Reunion events over the weekend as rallying points for various intakes. By now, I'm sure they are scattered far and wide around Australia.

Saturday morning began with the Annual General Meeting which was very well attended. There was

some initial concern the AGM might run over-time and impact on the Street Parade. However, the AGM finished early as I suspect attendees really did not want to miss the Street Parade. The Parade was led by Australian Light Horse Association riders followed by the Australian National Flag, the Army Apprentices School flag and the flags of RAE, RASIGS and RAEME, being the three Corps that received most graduating apprentices.

When it was announced at the M&G the previous evening that transport for those unable to march could not be organized, the Mayor stepped in and offered to arrange suitable transport and assured us that one or two vehicles would be available next morning. A convoy of five vintage jeeps appeared for the Parade and provided transport for those unable to march. Once the intake signs were distributed, the attendees decided that they were going to march by individual intakes, rather than in four contingents as had been planned. The Army Band Kapooka attended the Parade and provided excellent marching music to help everyone to keep in step. As the marchers came past the saluting dais where LTCOL Andrew Hodgkinson, the last CO/CI of the Army College of TAFE took the salute, it was very evident that everyone was extremely proud to be marching behind their individual intake sign – their backs were straight, chests were puffed out and heads held high.

In the afternoon, Reunion attendees had the opportunity to visit Latchford Barracks to view the trade wings and today's training methods. I understand from various attendees that these visits went very well.

On the Saturday evening, it was off to the Commercial Club Albury for the Reunion Dinner, which was attended by over three hundred people. A number of people subsequently said to me, that on entering the room their first thought was – WOW! The décor of the room combined with the table setting were excellent and indicative of a very good night ahead. Many attendees also advised me they thought the meal was excellent. The placemats designed by Jeff Heron were also a big hit and provided a memorable souvenir of the night. The Army Band Kapooka provided an ensemble for the dinner which played light music which was greatly appreciated by all. LTCOL Andrew Hodgkinson provided his reflections on what it was like to bring the Army Apprentice era to a close, and provided numerous anecdotes including the significance of the Duntroon Bell to the last Crab night. The last RSM, WO1 Brian Hatfield, in his reflections of 1995, addressed as to how he handled the matter of the Duntroon Bell that appeared at Latchford

Barracks on the last Crab Night, and that as a subsequent RSM at Duntroon, he kept a very close eye on the Duntroon Bell.

The Sunday morning began with a very moving Memorial Service at the Apprentice Memorial at Gaza Ridge Barracks led by Rev Alan Kelb OAM. The Service was followed by a visit to the Army Museum Bandiana and a BBQ lunch provided by Redback Mobile BBQ.

Based on the feedback, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and was able to catch up with old friends and also make some new ones. The weekend must have been a success, as I didn't get any 'pokes in the chest'! Overall, the weekend is best summed up by one response received: "I am sure everybody who attended had a great time and those that didn't make the effort are the poorer for not attending."

In closing, I would like to pay tribute and say thank you to the whole organizing committee, but especially to Jeff and Jan heron, Richard Pike and Rev Alan Kelb OAM, who all contributed enormously, both before and during the Reunion itself, to help make it the success that it was.

**Otto Aberle**  
**Events Manager**  
**AAAA**

### **MATES 4 MATES**

**'The Power of Mateship'**. Mates4Mates is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing holistic welfare and treatment programs that give direct support to current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have suffered physical or psychological wounds, injuries and illnesses as a result of their service, either in Australia, or overseas. Integral to supporting our brave mates is the provision of support to their families.

Mates4Mates provides a wide range of services including psychological counselling, career coaching programs, wellbeing workshops, family support meetings, physical rehabilitation and conditioning programs including individual recovery plans and physical training sessions for adventure challenges.

For help or to support our wounded, injured and ill ADF mates, visit [www.mates4mates.org](http://www.mates4mates.org) or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

**RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon – 29 Nov 15.** Time is running out to make your bookings for the forthcoming luncheon. This is our second most popular event of the year after ANZAC Day, and as many know, the Fix Restaurant at the Port Office Hotel, does us proud in putting on a great lunch for the association and our partners – so please join us.

### **Details are below:**

**Venue:** FIX Restaurant, Port Office Hotel, Brisbane CBD, Corner Edward and Margaret Street.

**Timings:** 11:30 hrs for 12:00 hrs pre luncheon gathering.

**Cost:** Financial RAQ Members & partners, and serving members & partners: \$67.50 per person (Members save \$7.50)

**Cost:** Non-Members and partners: \$75.00 per person

**Meal:** Four courses, silver service.

**Dress:** Smart Neat Casual, Gents Tie please.

**RSVP:** 21 Nov 15. Payment must accompany the reservation to secure your booking.

**To Book:** Go to the RAQ Web Site – <http://www.qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/36-raeme-birthday-all-ranks-luncheon>

Click on the 'Join' button and follow the following instructions

1. Enter Name and email address in required boxes (if you login, this will be pre-populated for you).
2. From the drop down **select the number of tickets** you wish to purchase.
3. From the drop down menu **select the type of tickets** (Financial Member or Non-Member).
4. Click on **'Add Ticket'**, your selected tickets will appear below with the total. If you make a mistake, simply click the (X) next to the total to delete your selection and start again.
5. **Select your payment method** and click **'continue'**. If using PayPal, it may take 30-60 seconds to redirect to the payment page. You will receive a confirmation email. (Note: You don't need to have a PayPal account to use this method).

If you have any problems registering simply send us an email, or let us know the number/type of tickets, your preferred payment method and we'll sort it out for you.

Google Chrome is the best browser for viewing RAQ content.

As this is a limited event with a **maximum number of 120 Seats**, the seats will disappear very quickly, so book now! Make up a table of RAEME friends and guests. Tables of eight to ten are available, or part thereof. To reserve your group table, send an email to [functions@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:functions@qld.raeme.org.au) and provide the names on your table, (you can all pay individually).

**Non-Member Info** - By joining RAQ for as little as just \$10 per year, you can purchase tickets at discounted prices. As an example, If you purchase two Member tickets you will **save \$15.00**, which is more than the Annual RAQ Fee. Joining is simple, it can be completed online.

Regards,

**Ty Bodle**  
**RAEME Birthday Luncheon**  
[functions@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:functions@qld.raeme.org.au)



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## OTHER HAPENINGS

**Spanner Packs.** Since last reporting to you the team from RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) on behalf of the RAEME National Association (RNA) has dispatched a further 100 Spanner Packs to our soldier/tradesman on operations, principally in Afghanistan and Iraq. The most recent 50 packs left on the 30 Sep 15, and surprisingly, were in the hands of all addresses within two weeks – almost in record time. We have already learned that the troops were very pleased.

Operation Spanner Pack once again became an International operation, as five of the last shipment of spanner packs also went to RNZEME tradesmen, who are working alongside our diggers.

We are happy to report that the number of packs to be dispatched next time will be reduced by ten and as you can appreciate this means we will have fewer soldiers in harm's way.

Please keep up your support for Spanner Pack.

Kind Regards

**Raymond G. Norman OAM**  
**Spanner Pack Coordinator**  
[rgnorman1944@gmail.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@gmail.com)



## HAPPENINGS AT THE OLD BULIMBA SITE.

The following report has been provided by Brian Daley who recently attended a Brisbane City Council meeting on the future of the Bulimba Barracks site.

*'The Brisbane City Council has drawn up a draft plan for the Bulimba Barracks area. A community planning team of approx 30 locals, council town planners, developers and other 'experts' have already had two meetings, one to explain the concept where they asked for suggestions; and a second, to review a draft plan which was presented. They are seeking comment on the latter. The basic concept presented was a 30 metre green area along the river front, retaining the large shed (Shed 6), which would possibly be used for markets.*

*All other buildings would go, including the Sergeant's Mess. The rest of the area is to be taken up by a spread of accommodation ranging from separate houses, up to medium density housing, which are five stories high. Council estimates approx 1,000 dwellings and approx. 3,000 people occupying the area. The Navy will retain their area with plans for more buildings and access from Taylor Street.*

*The locals on the committee expressed concerns at the current level of road infrastructure, which is already over-loaded, with this huge development only adding to the many current problems. There is also a high level of disappointment that this block of land in the centre of the 'city' does not have some sort of grand plan to create a great urban space entirely dominated by open space and community facilities.*

*The Council and adviser's focus of history of the site seemed be on the building of barges by Chinese labour during the war, which indicated their lack of knowledge of the site. I provided a history lesson on the Workshop over the last 60 odd years, starting with AEME Watercraft Workshop, and pointing out the many memorials on the site.*

*The Brisbane City Council intends to release the plan on the BCC internet site on 19th Oct allowing two weeks for comment. That may be a bit rushed considering that the site has not even been sold! Of course this is all subject to the whims of the purchaser of the land and what they want to do with the site.'*

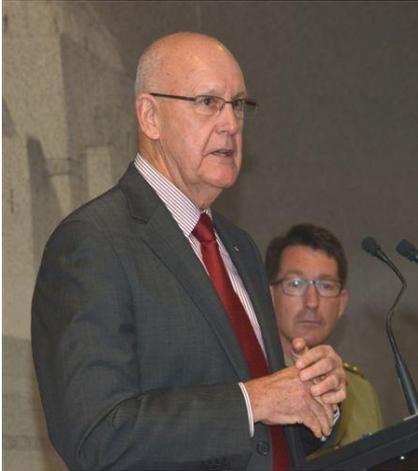
Regards,

**Brian Daley**  
**Bulimba History Buff**  
**RAQ**



## **CORPS HISTORY PROJECT**

I am pleased to advise that the national launch of our memoir 'With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014', at the Australian War Memorial on 9 Sep 15, was a very successful event. For those who weren't able to get there, the launch was preceded by the RAEME Corps Seminar, where a key topic, was the commencement of Plan Centaur, a project to review the way RAEME conducts its business within a Plan Beersheba and CSS CONOPS force structure, on the modern battle field, as the Army introduces new equipment, but principally new armoured and protected vehicles.



**BRIG GRANT at the CHP Team Leader responding to kind words from BRIG Mathewson**

Those that could attend the launch were welcomed by the HOC BRIG Andrew Mathewson; heard the Chief of Army speak about the Corps in glowing terms – he was most generous in his praise; and all enjoyed the hospitality for the Australian War Memorial (AWM).



**Chief of Army, LTGEN Angus Campbell, thanking the Project Team and the HOC on a job well done**

The AWM was the perfect spot for socialising and catching up with RAEME people (past and present) and the organisation of the day was a credit to the HOC Cell, the AWM staff and the generous efforts of KBR & Raytheon, facilitated by the COLCOMDT ACT/NSW, Tom Reynolds. Everything clicked into place, and it was a wonderful evening, regardless of whether you were participating, or a member of the audience of some 150 plus enjoying the hospitality.



**The Setting at the AWM for the Last Post Ceremony**

The launch was preceded by a Last Post Ceremony, at the AWM, which was not only well attended, but fittingly saw an address delivered by MAJ Ian Cook RAEME.



**MAJ Ian Cook, after his reading for the AWM Last Post Ceremony, and his Mother, Mrs Heather Cook, at the Book Launch**

The atmosphere in the room was simply terrific. The book's sponsors were honoured – the RAEME Corps Committee, Aspen Medical, Raytheon Australia, KPMG, Airbus Group Australia Pacific, KBR and the DVA. The audience consisted of a broad mix of senior

officers and senior ranks, together with some more junior officers, NCOs and other members, who earlier that day attended the RAEME Corps Seminar. There was also a large contingent of retired folks.



**COL Tom Reynolds, COL COMDT ACT/NSW and Chair of the RANSW, Brendan Robertson, sharing a joke**

I wish to add my personal thanks to all that contributed to the project and the launch, but especially the project team, who were publically honoured on the day by BRIG Mathewson; as well as the many others whom have been involved at specific stages over the last 5-6 years, or brought specific skills to the Corps History Project team.



**HOC, BRIG MATHEWSON, presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the CHP Team – prominent here is MAJ Keirin Joyce.**

Despite my attempts at the AWM to get around and thank everyone personally, I failed – there were just too many people at the launch to engage with in the time available. If I have missed anyone, who has made a contribution – great or small – I apologise; but I am extremely grateful for everyone's support and

assistance throughout, especially those who provided me with the occasional 'morale boosting talk', during the journey!

I understand there a few folks who are yet to receive their books, but they will come – the HOC is doing its best with limited resources. **If you haven't ordered your book, details are contained on the last page of this newsletter, will assist you to do so.** We have sold in excess of a 1000 books to date, of the 2000 printed, and orders have increased as a result of the national launch, so if you wish to order a copy, please don't delay – it is unlikely that further books will be printed.

I will keep everyone informed on future events to 'launch' the book. Finally, I must say how wonderful it was to catch up with so many familiar faces at the national launch – young and old!

Kind regards,

**Ross L. G. Grant**  
**PD CHP**  
[raemebookproject@hotmail.com](mailto:raemebookproject@hotmail.com)



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### **A LITTLE MORE CORPS HISTORY**

I have been lead to believe there is some misunderstanding about the history surrounding the establishment, deployment and restructuring of the 1st Independent Armd Sqn Workshop, which deployed to SVN in 1967 and 1968. Des Kearton provides the following story for your interest.

*'This unit was raised in October 1967 at Puckapunyal Victoria to move to South Vietnam in support of an Independent Armoured Squadron equipped with 57 ton Centurion battle tanks and a Forward Delivery Troop Detachment, following the Government's unexpected announcement that tanks would form part of Australia's increased commitment to that war.*

*From the formation of the unit on 29th October 1967, the unit had strength of three officers and 93 other ranks. Some 1500 stores indents for vehicles, weapons and equipment were submitted, of which 80 per cent were satisfied prior to the cut off date of 8th December 1967. All vehicles and stores were required to be in Sydney for on-forwarding to South Vietnam by 1st December 1967, 43 days after notification of the unit's formation.*

*The unit consisted of RAEME, RAAOC and AACC personnel, with the stores section advance party arriving in country first, closely followed by the*

workshop advance party during late December 1967. Early in 1968 the Independent Armoured Squadron concept was dropped and the use of the squadrons of the 1st Armoured Regiment in rotation was adopted (with C SQN undertaking the first tour), therefore the Independent was deleted from the unit name.

On arrival in NUI DAT unit members had to secure the unit area, build not only living accommodation with defensive positions, but also the tank workshop complex. This activity took place during the TET 68 period, when members were also required to carry out perimeter defence patrols and provide APC support with M113A1 Fitters Vehicles to 3RAR in the battle for the provincial capital, BARIA.

On arrival in country extensive superficial modifications had to be carried out to better adapt the tanks to local operational requirements. General maintenance and emergency repairs were undertaken by unit tradesmen, many of whom were national servicemen with no prior exposure to Centurion tanks. However skill were developed quickly, with extensive repair tasks successfully undertaken in the field on operations to levels never before attempted outside large static mainland Australia tank repair workshops.

Unit forward repair teams, including recovery teams mounted on RAEME armoured special vehicles, accompanied the C SQN tanks on all operations, until November 1968. These operations included the significant battles for FSB CORAL and FSB BALMORAL in May 1968.

A change in repair policy resulted in the unit being disbanded in country on the 1st November 1968, with personnel from the unit becoming the nucleus of 106 Field Workshop and C SQN LAD, which were formed in country on the disbandment of 1st Armoured Squadron Workshop. Regardless of which units supported the tanks, they delivered outstanding support of which RAEME can be proud.'

## Des Kearton

\*\*\*\*\*

## VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- **Davis**, Terence 'TD' Gabriel, born in Berkshire England, served with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt Wksp as the ASM from 11 June 1970 until 23 June 1971. Passed away from prostate cancer and a rare bone marrow disease called pure red cell aplasia.

- **Leslie**, Graeme Benjamin John, (13<sup>th</sup> RM) passed away at the Gold Coast Hospital on the 30th July 2015 after a long illness.
- **Light**, Dave, killed in a motorbike accident 1 Aug 15.
- **Smith**, Robert Joseph Smith, (16<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away suddenly at home on 8 Aug 15.
- **Hopkinson**, James (Jim/Skippy/Hoppy) (23<sup>rd</sup> F&T) passed on 18 Aug 15 from cancer.
- **Westfall**, Bradley, (26<sup>th</sup>) passed away following a battle with cancer.
- **Rushby**, Noel (Blue) passed away peacefully on 29 Sep 15 at Glenview Rutherglen, aged 91 years.

## SICK LIST

The following members are in hospital or recovering from illness:

- **Snowdon**, Peter – undergoing treatment for a very aggressive small cell cancer.
- **Hawkins**, Trevor, recovering at home after surgery.
- **Mitchell**, Felix is recovering from surgery to five coronary arteries.
- **Burns**, Kevin recovering from surgery for cancer.

Regards,

**Barry Shipway**  
**Welfare Officer**  
**RAEME Association Qld**  
[welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)



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## DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

The DFWA has been active lately in a number of areas, but space doesn't permit me to dwell on each, so I have chosen two topics of immediate concern for this edition of Spanner News – the Disabled Veterans entitlements and the Military Covenant with which DFWA is dealing.

**Disabled Veterans.** The TPI Federation together with its ADSO partners are involved in a campaign to win fair economic loss compensation for the most disabled Veterans in our community, namely the Special Rate/Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (SR/TPI) members. What is required is an adjustment to their compensation payment to reflect today's standard of living. These Veterans, most physically and psychologically disabled from their service, can not adequately survive and support their families in the current system.

In effect, what is sought is these disabled Veterans be allowed to live in dignity and with self-esteem by having the SR/TPI Compensation increased to 100% of the average weekly wage. It is currently at a lowly 43%. This has diminished over the past 65 years from 80% to 43%.

For that reason, the TPI Federation with ADSO support initiated a campaign on 17 Aug 2015 seeking public and defence community support. Part of the campaign includes a public petition for Fair Compensation for our Most Disabled Diggers and releasing an awareness SR/TPI video.

Readers are cordially asked to access both links and support the cause for redress for our most disabled veteran colleagues. The lack of redress explains a number of facts:

- the significant number of Veterans who are homeless;
- an increasing number of Veterans' whose spouses/partners must work to bring in a sustainable income;
- an increasing number of Veterans who cannot afford the rising cost of living;
- the number of Veteran and civilian organisations asked to provide services that are the responsibility of Government;
- the number of Veterans who cannot hold their heads high with the proud knowledge that they have done their country proud and that the Government will not look after them.

**Military Covenant.** In the case of the 'covenant' the link below is for an on-line petition to the government regarding the establishment of a Defence Covenant.

<http://www.defencecovenant.com/>

This is an initiative that has been under consideration by the Australian Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) group of ESOs for some time.

You are invited to consider the media statement and if so moved, access the petition to make your feelings felt.

Regards,

**Peter Snowdon**  
DFWA Rep  
[pm.snowdon@bigpond.com](mailto:pm.snowdon@bigpond.com)



**The ultimate toolbox:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFnYRUyBQg4&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFnYRUyBQg4&feature=player_embedded)

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This newsletter is the last one for 2015, in line with our Association's desire to rely less on the 'Spanner News', and use the functionality provided by our new and continuously evolving RAQ website. It is clear our members are increasingly using the website for many things, but in particular, for getting information in a timely manner, and ordering goods and service provided by your committee. This saves your busy committee many hours of hard work and more importantly, the information is 'fresh' thanks to the attentiveness of our webmaster, Pete Mathews, and our proactive committee.

For those, who only get a hard copy, do not worry, the snail mail will arrive and have your hard copy as usual. Of our 350 plus members, we now only have around 30 members who receive a hard copy.

I won't say too much more on the Corps history book because we are now closing down the project team, who have loyally supported the work of producing a very readable book. You may not be aware there were several spin-offs in this project, not the least being, we now have an electronic repository of stories, which were used and many that were not used. All will become available to the RNA for display and promulgation on our website – so watch this space.

From time to time, I will publish some of the stories that didn't end up in the book, or were severely edited to fit into the book – I am sure you will enjoy them. Feel free to send me new stories which I will publish in Spanner News and continue to populate the repository.

This brings to 'front of mind' the need for new volunteers to constantly refresh our ranks regardless of the task, importantly to take on projects like the history book, but also within our RAEME organisations. Again I ask for volunteers to assist the committee – it is much appreciated and takes little time, if all share the load – and share we must!

Regards,

**Ross Grant**  
Chairman Comms Committee  
[commschair@raeme.qld.org.au](mailto:commschair@raeme.qld.org.au)



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**RACQ**



**New Product**

Ever have trouble pushing the right key on your Smartphone or a tablet because your 'fat-fingers' hit two keys at once? Well your RAQ Shop now has the solution – the all new Stylus Pen. This pen is a 2 in 1 product, it writes and when clicked to close, it then has a silicone nib to use as a stylus on tablet and Smartphone screens.

Not only that, but to know who took your pen, it has black ink and on a metallic blue body is laser engraved 'RAEME ASSOCIATION ARTE et MARTE'

**ALL FOR THE BARGAIN PRICE \$3.50.**

Order online and it can be sent along with this year's RAEME Port or any other items that you may wish to buy.

**'WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING – CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
ARMY 1942-2014'**

For those yet to buy the book, there is a reasonable quantity of Hard Cover (HC) versions available, from the HOC Cell, Bonegilla, at \$80.00 a copy. The SO2 Corps, MAJ Bill Myers, and his small team are managing sales, so the best way to secure a book is to go to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on 'shop' and then click on the photo of the book. Please follow the instructions shown on the screen (and spelt out in part below) for payment, ensuring delivery details are provided:

*"To purchase a book you will need to make a deposit of \$80.00 by electronic transfer into the account below:*

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