



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –  
QUEENSLAND**

**SPANNER NEWS EDITION  
1/16  
31 MAR 16**

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Welcome to the 1st Edition of “Spanner News” for 2016. On behalf of RAQ members, I want to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of your committee; they are a selfless group who work tirelessly to provide our members (400 plus) with a vibrant and strong association, which ensures we meet one of our key goals – celebrating the Corps’ achievements.

With that goal in mind, 2016 sees an expanded number of functions and events (see the notices and advertisements in this newsletter, but also on the RAQ Website) commencing with our highly revered ANZAC DAY March and Post March Gathering at the Port Office Hotel. Do yourselves a favour and get along to at least one of the many functions in Brisbane, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and in Townsville. The Association allocates funds to each function ensuring those attending get value as members.

“Friday Files”, our regular form of communication provides timely information and reminders, to members, “Friday Files” complements our Website [www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) where you can register and purchase your tickets to events.

2016 sees 101 Fd Wkps and 102 Fd Wksp celebrating 50 year anniversaries – the RAQ wishes those units and their past members all the best for these milestones. Our Committee holds a number of vacant assistant positions and our Secretary has advised that after 12 years he will stand down at the next AGM. Therefore we have a pressing need to fill an executive vacancy – this vacancy must be filled, please consider your position – we do need your help.

All the best for the coming year – and I hope to see all of our members at one or more of our functions.

Kind regards,

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



**FROM THE COL COMDT**

Greetings everyone, and especially to the newcomers to the Qld region, I hope you have settled into your new jobs and units. For many, this year has started at a hectic pace. As is always, QLD based RAEME officers and soldiers are in the thick of things with deployments to Iraq, and most recently Fiji, not to mention the other myriad of other operational deployments. For some, the rapid deployment to Fiji (Operation Fiji Assist) occurred whilst their families were still getting to know your local environment: new jobs, new schools and in some cases, new or not so new accommodation.

I know it’s been a while since the last RAEME birthday function, however it would be remiss of me not to recognise the efforts of the CO 7 CSSB, LTCOL Ben Slaughter, outgoing OC 106 Field Workshop: MAJOR Peter Knowles, ASM WO1 Dion Taylor and the men and women of 7 CSSB, for their great efforts in hosting the RAEME birthday celebrations last December. The event was an excellent example in maintaining the RAEME birthday tradition, and I know that despite the busy unit schedules, it was great to see the participants from all units throughout SEQLD.

I had the privilege of attending another event in February, the first SEQLD Spanner Club gathering hosted by 2 CER. My thanks go to the CO 2 CER for authorising the event, and especially to LT Michael Evans, and the members of the TST, for hosting a great event.

For those of you who may not be aware Army is currently undertaking a study in how the Combat Service Support concept of operations will be supported by RAEME in a modern operational context. Known as Plan Centaur, this is the first opportunity RAEME has had for some time, to determine how it should support Army in the future. Changing the way we currently do business may be perceived as a threat; but Plan Centaur really presents an opportunity to improve the current maintenance paradigm. Either way, it’s healthy to have input from all Corps members to obtain a balanced view. The onus is on every RAEME officer and soldier serving in the ARA and ARES to research Plan Centaur’s aims and goals. It’s vitally important that we all get involved and rise to the challenge. I look forward to catching up to you during the year

Arte et Marte,

**Tony Borg**  
**COL COMDT – QLD**  
[anthonyborg@optusnet.com.au](mailto:anthonyborg@optusnet.com.au)



## THE CORPS NEWEST MAJOR GENERAL

Andrew Mathewson was promoted to Major General in September 2015. Andrew joined the Army as an Apprentice Fitter and Turner in 1980. He entered the Royal Military College in 1986, graduating into the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) in mid 1987.



His early postings were predominantly regimental and technical, but in 1995, Andrew undertook a Master of Science degree at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in the UK and subsequently worked in project management on land weapons and armoured vehicle projects. Following graduation from Command and Staff College in 1999, Andrew served in Joint Logistics Command. During 2001-02 on exchange to HQ Land Command in Salisbury UK, he deployed to Kosovo with the 7th Armoured Brigade in 2001, then to Bosnia with the Multinational Division Headquarters at Banja Luka in 2002.

He later undertook the role of Acquisition Project Manager, in Project AIR87 procuring the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter. He also worked in Army Headquarters, and then returned to the UK as a military attaché. In January 2008, he became the Program Director AIR9000, Multi Role Helicopter Program, and subsequently was promoted to Brigadier as Director General Army Aviation Systems.

In November 2012, in a part-time capacity, Andrew was appointed as Head of Corps RAEME, by the Chief of Army. He is also Patron of the Australian Army Apprentices Association. In 2015 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia. He has just relinquished his appointment as Head of Corps RAEME, and is now Head Helicopter Systems Division in the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) – formerly DMO.

Andrew, and his wife Tina, have two daughters aged 18 and 21. Andrew's leisure interests outside of

family life include bushwalking, reading, woodwork and painting.

Congratulations, Andrew, from the members of the RAQ.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to grow, with 10 new members this year already. I'm sure that a lot of the new memberships result from current members asking that question when they catch up with mates "Are you a member of the RAEME Association Queensland?" and if not "Why haven't you joined?" So keep up the good work and let me know if you have any insights on the way to improve membership – I am very interested in your views!

I have started down the path of trying to confirm members' current email addresses, as we have many members changing their email addresses and forgetting to update their details. To start with, I'm going to email those members that haven't as yet logged into the members section of the website. So if you haven't logged in yet, please do so. If you have forgotten your password or user name, follow the website instructions to reset it (alternately drop me ([membership@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@qld.raeme.org.au)) or another committee member a line) and we will help.

Regards,

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



### IMPORTANT NOTICE – NEW RAEME NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (RNA) PRESIDENT

We wish to advise that the President of the RNA Phil Coppin has resigned and passed the baton to a Mr Richard Moyses, who is currently the President of the AEME/RAEME Association South Australia.

Richard has stepped into the position for a short period, whilst the RNA organises a roster for the rotation RNA Committee positions. RNA wishes Phil all the best for the future and congratulates Richard for taking on this important role.



## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CORPS



**Plan Centaur.** Addressing maintenance constraints within the Armoured Cavalry Regiments (ACR) is the initial focus of Plan Centaur – the most comprehensive and significant improvement program in 30 years to consider the way RAEME may deliver maintenance to Army in the future

With Phase 2 of the program now underway, work has concentrated on gathering data that will inform a clear understanding of all maintenance-related constraints, issues and interdependencies. Work Streams include:

- A detailed workforce and work practices analysis;
- A review of deployed maintenance structures and lines of maintenance support;
- An examination of actual demand and vehicle usage;
- An evaluation of supply chain practices and procedures; and
- An analysis of maintenance outcomes and root causes of identified issues.

Two “quick wins” projects are also included as part of the Phase 2 program of work, including a “lean” process improvement project at 2 Cav Regt Wksp in Townsville.

The data and issues identified during Phase 2 will be presented at a major stakeholder collaboration event in Darwin in April, where potential solutions will be identified and evaluated by the maintenance community prior to the preparation of business cases for approval by the Army Capability Resource Management Committee. Outcomes of Plan Centaur will also be suitable for other elements of the Combat Brigades.

Plan Centaur’s Director General, BRIG David McGahey, said that it is vital that the Land Materiel maintenance workforce and the extended maintenance community get involved with the program.

“RAEME Corps in particular has a vested interest in getting this reform right,” BRIG McGahey said. “Centaur presents a critical opportunity for the maintenance community to shape its future.”

“We need everyone’s input to make sure that Centaur delivers the most effective maintenance capability to support the modernised Army,” BRIG McGahey said.

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## COMING EVENTS

**General Outline.** The Association across Queensland looks like having another busy year, made busier because of some significant celebratory events planned in Queensland and in NSW early in the year. These include the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the departure of 101 Field Workshops to Vietnam in 1966; and the raising of 102 Field Workshops in 1966, and its departure to Vietnam in 1967. Watch for the specific details on these important events because in some cases attendance will be restricted.

There will also be some important activities around ANZAC Day. For your association this is our pre-eminent event in the first months of 2016. Unfortunately, this busy first half year schedule means that the planned gatherings of the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast Chapters for March and May, have had to be delayed to June and July respectively – so look out for the specific notices for these two events.

Let’s not forget the Annual Army Apprentices Association meeting and get together will be held at the Bulimba Bowls Club in June 2016.

It is important to note also that our Annual All-ranks Luncheon, usually celebrated around the Corps Birthday in December, has been shifted away from that busy part of the year, to 6 Nov 16, in an attempt to de-conflict a number of events in north and south Queensland. We also hope this encourages a number of serving soldiers in the Brisbane region to attend.

So we have much on our plates this year, and with 2017 being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Corps, you can expect a number of celebratory events nationally and in Queensland! Please support the team with your attendance – they work hard to provide opportunities to celebrate the Corps achievements.

### **Shad Marsh Events Member**

**ANZAC Day Activities and Important Details.** ANZAC Day 2016 is fast approaching and planning is nearly complete. One IMPORTANT thing to remember is the Brisbane parade, this year, kicks off at 0930 hours. Please note this time is the time the parade starts. The RAQ will step off at approximately 1000-1015 hours. This year the parade will be led by the Royal Australian Air Force. Please invite all of your friends and family to come along watch the march and join the association at the Fix Restaurant at the Port Office Hotel for the after-march gathering and luncheon.

You can find the complete order of march on:  
<http://www.anzacamarchbrisbane.com.au/>

The RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) contingent number is 129. We will form up in George Street somewhere near Mary Street. The contingent numbers will be displayed (in order) on nearby building walls. The RAQ banner will also be proudly displayed at the front of the contingent.

**Dress:** Please note ladies and gentlemen the minimum standard of dress is smart casual. Gentlemen are encouraged to wear coats as appropriate.

**Protocols.** Please remember the March Protocols, which are designed to respect the dignity of the occasion, in particular the following:

- The wearing of fraudulent medals and awards is NOT permitted. Section 80B(1),(4) of the Defence Act 1903 makes it an offence for a person to wear a service decoration that they are not entitled to wear, or to falsely represent themselves as a person on whom a service decoration was conferred. If you are bringing visitors please ensure they are aware of these requirements.
- Veterans and other marchers are to wear full size medals.
- WW11 veterans who are able to march the full distance of the Parade are welcome to parade behind their Banner at the front of the parade with one carer or one person of discretionary age.
- Large groups of descendants wanting to march may only do so behind the banner 'Descendants of "Veterans All Conflicts"' – please check the Order of March for positioning.
- Pictures of deceased Veterans are NOT permitted to be carried on Parade.
- Any livestock, including dogs MUST have approval from the ADCPC to enter any area of the ANZAC Day Parade – there are NO exceptions as this is a WHS requirement.
- Children being pushed in pushchairs or carried in slings are a potential OH&S risk and parents are asked to refrain from including them in the parade.
- Unit Leaders on parade are responsible for the appearance of those marching with their associations and to stipulate the need to respect the March Protocols as set down by the ADCPC. Copies of the Protocol are available on Parade or prior by visiting:

[www.anzacamarchbrisbane.com.au](http://www.anzacamarchbrisbane.com.au)

- Closed in footwear is a requirement on parade. Those marchers that do not comply with this requirement, do so at their own risk.

**Taxi Services.** If you have need of a taxi or Jeep please contact me and I will explain the procedure to obtain such services.

**Post March Function.** Put ANZAC Day 2016 in your calendar now, especially the RAQ Post March Function at the Fix Restaurant, Port Office Hotel, 40 Edward St, Brisbane. Separate instruction on this part of the day's activities will be provided later.

**Nick Rees**  
**RAEME Association Queensland**  
**Phone 07 53617882**

## **OTHER RAQ ACTIVITIES**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 101 Field Workshops Deploying to South Vietnam.** See details below:

- When: 24th May, 2016.
- Where: Reception room at Windsor RSL NSW
- Timings: 5.00pm to 10.00pm Arrival: 5:00pm for 6:30pm Banquet.
- Platters served between 5:00 and 6:30pm
- Cost \$48.00 per head.
- Dress neat-casual with medals. Partners welcome!
- Organisers – Barnet Fyfe and Danny Williams, who can be contacted via [kaybone8@bigpond.com](mailto:kaybone8@bigpond.com)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Raising of 102 Field Workshops.** See details at page 13 of this edition.

**RAQ Gold Coast Chapter Gathering - Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Life Saving Club.** See details below:

- When: 25th June, 2016
- Where: Mermaid Beach Surf Life Saving Club 172 Hedges Avenue, Mermaid Beach, QLD, 4218
- Time: Luncheon commencing 1130 hours ordered from the dining room at own expense
- Drinks: From the bar at own expense
- Dress: Neat-casual
- Please RSVP Barry Skinner or Ed Bevans by NLT 15 Jun 16 one of the following addresses:  
[BarrynKaySkinner@aapt.net.au](mailto:BarrynKaySkinner@aapt.net.au) or  
[beans55289@iprimus.com.au](mailto:beans55289@iprimus.com.au)

**The Army Apprentices Association Queensland**  
gathering at the Bulimba:

- When: 4 Jun 16
- Where: Bulimba Bowls Club Thynne Rd, (Access off Quinn St.) Balmoral, Brisbane
- Time: Lunch commences at 100 hours
- Cost: \$5.00 per head.
- Dress: Neat-casual. Partners welcome
- RSVP: Tel: (07) 3399 1300 or MOBILE 0412 721 761 or Email: [bjdaley@hotmail.net](mailto:bjdaley@hotmail.net)

**24<sup>th</sup> Intake Army Apprentices Reunion.** See below:

- The 24 Intake of Army Apprentices is having a reunion in Cairns over the weekend 12th to 14th August 2016. For those wishing to attend, please contact Paddy English 0740331933 or [englishe@tpg.com.au](mailto:englishe@tpg.com.au)

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**RSL RAEMUS Rover Racing Team.** As the team commences final preparations for the 2016 racing program, we also have our eyes on the 2017 season, especially the iconic Finke Race. As a means of providing a snapshot of recent developments, I provide the following points of interest:

- The Team has historically been supporting Mates4Mates veterans. We are now also supporting “Young Veterans” members who reside in South East QLD. This has expanded our reach to include **all** those who may need the type of physical and mental challenges our program provides.
- The matriarch car in the team, Car 878, is under going a rebuild to ensure its longevity; we predict the car will be back on track by mid year.
- Cars 187 and 879 are in the final phase of consolidating their race set-ups for this year’s racing. Both cars are now much stronger after a lot of off-season work. We are now focussing on the QLD State Short Course Championships.
- Access to and planning for a series of three short course events, aimed at raising funds for the veterans’ support network, is well underway. This series will form a minor program called the “Veterans Cup”, to be held as an integral part of the QLD State Short Course Series.
- This race series now links into the following activities:
  - RAEMUS Rover is now linked with the Race2Recovery team from the UK. This team is comprised of injured and ill veterans from the British Armed Forces, who are part

- of the “Royal Foundation” with HRH Prince William and Prince Harry as their Patrons.
- The UK team has raced in the Dakar Rally 3 or 4 times and have been on the top rated TV show Top Gear twice.
- Next year (2017) it is our intent is to bring to Australia several of the Race2Recovery (R2R) team members to be fully embedded into the RAEMUS Rover Racing team.
- Organisation of most of the Brisbane local events is progressing well, with tremendous support coming from the Ipswich City Council, SEQORRA and the off-road racing community.
- We are also attempting to secure one of the Foundation patrons to join the team at some stage in Australia,
- We are now focussed on finding a supporter to help finance the airfares for this venture, if you know of anyone who may be able to help please let me know.
- We are aware of the significant increase in public interest this venture will provide, and while acknowledging this, we will maintain the sanctity of the race team and its purpose.

2016 looks like being the most active and best racing program the team has had to date. 2017 will take it new level. I look forward to continuing our fantastic relationship into the future and hopefully seeing you a race sometime this year.

**Ian Baker**  
**Convenor**  
**RSL RAEMUS Rover Racing Team**  
[tiffy-os@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffy-os@hotmail.com)



**MATES 4 MATES**

**“The Power of Mateship.”** Mates4Mates is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing holistic welfare and treatment supporting 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. Integral to supporting our 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)**.

## Major Grant to the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial Project (APMP) - 29 Oct 2015.

The APMP is delighted to announce that it has received a grant from the Department of Defence of \$2,000,000. This grant is being provided to assist the establishment of this significant national memorial in Canberra.

The Minister also noted the funding acknowledges that Peacekeeping is an important part of Australia's military history.



This grant will also go a long way to achieving the APMP's aim of opening the Australian National Peacekeeping Memorial (see above) on its site on Anzac Parade before the 70th Anniversary of Australian peacekeeping on 14th September 2017. As APMP supporters would know, prior to this major donation, the APMP has raised almost \$ 900,000 through other grants, donations and fundraising activities. In addition, prototype testing has been finished and the long lead time materials for the Memorials have been purchased. Advice from the contractor is that the Memorial can be built in about nine months from commencement.

The APMP Committee thanks all those who have been supportive. Our particular thanks goes to the Federal Government for its major support to the project.

The APMP still needs further funding of about \$1,000,000 to ensure it can complete all aspects of construction and the dedication ceremony. The Committee greatly appreciates the ongoing assistance of all supporting organisations, all peacekeeping veterans and supporters and the Australian community to reach the September 2017 goal.

Further details on the APMP are available at: <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/index.php> and the memorial design concept is available at: <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/designconcept.php>

**Mike Prain  
RAQ**

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

**“Spanner Pack”**. A further forty packs left in March for the Middle East bringing the total sent to date to 3314 packs, reaching in excess of 5500 RAEME members and support staff, including some RNZEME tradesmen and women. I have already received a letter of thanks from WO2 Nick Shaw, ASM TG AFG – see below:

*“G'day Ray, On behalf of the RAEME guys deployed here in Afghanistan I would like to extend a huge thank you for the Spanner Packs we received today. As we work hand in hand with our REME brethren from 2 Scots, it is very easy to establish that the work done by our association members and sponsors supporting deployed members are truly world class! Although a little disappointed that these days sick mags and rum cans are not encouraged the contents were great and will be shared around with all (yes even with the REME blokes). Thanks again for your support and although we won't be home in time, I trust you and all RAEME Association members will have a great march and successful function at the Port Office next month.*

*Kind regards,  
Nick.  
Nicholas Shaw WO2”*



**WO2 Nick Shaw (ASM Task Group Afghanistan).  
CPL John Hewittson (TESG Force Protection  
Element 5). CFN Aaron Maas (VM Force  
Protection Element 5). CFN Craig Gibbs (VM  
Force Support Element 4).**

Check out your Corps' Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RAEMEassociation](http://www.facebook.com/RAEMEassociation) or at [www.raeme.org.au](http://www.raeme.org.au) Please add your comments and ideas on the Facebook.

Finally please join your RAEME social network on the RAEME National Association (RNA) site. This will

help you now and in the future to stay connected with all your RAEME Mates and please keep up your support for Spanner Pack.

Kind Regards

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



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## **VALUABLE LINKS IN WHICH YOU MAY BE INTERESTED**

The **Defence White Paper** 2016 is at this link:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/WhitePaper/Docs/2016-Defence-White-Paper.pdf>

The latest “**Craftsmen**” magazine can be found at:

<http://walshmedia.realviewtechnologies.com/?xml=craftsman>

The latest **Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter** can be accessed at:

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/wp-content/uploads/TAA-Nov-2015-v1.0.pdf>

**RAEME National Website, RNA and RAQ Web Site.** Just put “RAEME” on your browser, select “RAEME National”, go to the map of Australia and select a State or Territory on the right of home page.

It is worth looking at the “Gallery” on the RAQ site, where there are many quality photos of functions and events from past few years. See who attended and you might find a long lost mate – really worth a look!

On the National site [www.raeme.org.au](http://www.raeme.org.au) go to “Join the Social Network” on right of Home page. This is where all the RAEME family (YOU) can log in. You may join for free and you can find mates present and past with their email contact. This Social Network will grow to be a very useful tool for you and your friends.

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## **UNIT AND EVENT REPORTS**

**102 Fd Wksp 73rd RAEME Birthday Celebrations - Townsville.** The celebrations were held on 4 Dec 15, with invitations sent to all RAEME workshops and TSSU within Lavarack Barracks and Garbutt Air Base. Sticking with tradition, all invited RAEME units were required to construct a go-cart that could successfully

negotiate a makeshift racetrack comprised of hair-pin turns and chicanes. Unlike previous years, a new challenge was issued to construct a motorised go-cart, a challenge which all units graciously accepted. It seems that for years the question has been asked by the Crafties, “Why don’t we use a motor instead of pushing the damn cart?” This ancient question had fallen on deaf ears year after year, but 2015 changed everything...!

Suitably designed carts soon appeared from all corners of the BDE, the drivers sized up their competition while the “pit crews” compared engine sizes. In the first round, drivers were required to complete two circuits of the track in a head-to-head knockout style competition. Slowly but surely the weaker competitors were cut from the field. The final race was set; 2 CAV versus 102 Fd Wksp, it was to be a test of endurance and reliability, with 2 CAV proving to be the victors and taking home the trophy.

The next activity was the spanner throw where competitors swung a 36 inch shifter, or for the metric folk, a 900mm shifter, which was selected as the weapon of choice. A victor prevailed in the form of CPL Kurt Buchanan from 3 CER, who out-threw his competitors in a close competition. See below.



The “Chain of Command Relay” followed shortly. This race consisted of hammering nails and drilling screws into a plank, while drinking a variety of liquids, and eating various foods which tested the stomachs of some. The eating of scones and cream signified the WO’s usual morning tea, while the officers ate their cucumber sandwiches and sipped iced coffee (with an additional shot of chilli sauce to make things interesting) resulting in 3 CER taking out the title.



The final activity of the day was the Tug of War which saw teams “recover” an MRV by pulling it with a rope, this is more commonly known on the outside world however, as a “truck pull”. Unit teams stepped up and dragged the MRV along the road in a time trial event with 5 AVN REGT taking out the honours.

After all that excitement it was time for a feed, where the various unit members set aside their differences, and enjoyed a nice cold beer with one another. It was great to have the NQ RAEME Association represented by Mr Gus Angus, in attendance. Gus and CFN Searle from ASEME, cut the Corps birthday cake.



The NQ Region Craftsman Award was presented to CFN Dylan Rowe of 5 Avn Regt, while CPL Liam Price, also of 5 Avn Regt, was presented with NQ Region Regimental Award. Mr Peter Stojanovic, the QLD State manager for SNAP-On tools, presented CFN Nathan Cartwright with the Snap-On Tool’s Apprentice of the year award. Throughout the afternoon \$700 was raised through the raffle in support of Legacy.

The 2015 RAEME Birthday celebrations were a massive success and continued late into the afternoon with many stories or “warries” being told. The day served as a reminder that if you’re part of RAEME,

you know you’re part of the best Corps in the Australian Army.

Arte et Marte

**WO2 Wayne (Brains) Tarrant  
102 Fd Wksp (An Original)**



**102 Field Workshops Deployment to PNG.** 102nd Field Workshop, 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion, deployed to Port Moresby, Papa New Guinea, as part of Exercise Olegetta Warrior 2105, during the period 10 Sep - 31 Oct 15. The main role of the 102nd Fd Wksp was to mentor the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) in trade practices and processes. Six personnel deployed from the workshop and included LT Jason Burford as the OPS LT, SGT Shane Vaccaro as the EMEOPS liaison, CPL Timothy Bromet as the Vehicle Mechanic Mentor, CPL Murray Condon as the Fitter Armament Mentor, CFN William Pollard as a Vehicle Mechanic mentor and finally CFN Tom Hawkins as the Truckie with winch, I mean Recovery Mechanic Mentor.

We travelled by RAAF Service air to Port Moresby and were then transferred to our accommodation at the Holiday Inn. The Accommodation was great with gym facilities and a pool for our down time. After spending a weekend of sight-seeing, we started work at the Barracks on Monday. It was interesting to see how the PNG tradies worked a lot of the time without specialty tooling that we take for granted.



**CFN Hawkins Oversees the Recovery of a PNGDF Vehicle**

Mostly the PNGDF have white-fleet vehicles including Toyota Land Cruisers and Mitsubishi Canthers. They have a number of M16 and F-Mas weapon systems in varying states of disrepair. They really struggle with getting parts as their funding is non existent. The ADF Liaison Officer WO2 Mark Ward was a big help and provided us with the parts and tooling that we required to get the job done and assist our colleagues in the PNGDF.

We managed to get the GE Workshop's Recovery Vehicle up and going and even managed to recover a few vehicles. By the end of the trip we had achieved everything that we had set out to and overall we had an enjoyable trip.



**Left to right: CPL Condon, SGT Vaccaro, CFN Hawkins, CPL Bromet, CFN Pollard aka Swollard, LT Burford**

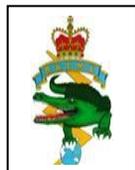
There were some opportunities to get out and about and see the country. We managed to walk the last leg of the Kokoda trail and visit the memorial at the end trail. We also visited the War Cemetery and some local villages completely by accident due to "officer navigation skills" – thanks LT Burford.



**Inside the Workshop Boozer**

Our last day at work was spent gifting RAEME memorabilia, to our PNG brethren, which was generously provided by the RAEME Association-Queensland. The PNG tradies love anything RAEME related and were really appreciative of the gifts. We even found a little surprise in the workshop boozer of another time!

**Sergeant Shane Vaccaro**  
**B Vehicle Admin**  
**102 Field Workshop Company**



**CORPS HISTORY PROJECT – ‘With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014’.** I am pleased to announce that the project has been closed and the team stood down. However, I am sure most people are aware that the book can still be bought via the HOC Cell Bandiana. Work to complete the development of the RAEME Corps Electronic Repository, a by-product of the project, is yet to be finalised. In time it will provide access to a lot of RAEME reference material, The following summary for your information:

- **Manuscript.** The manuscript used to produce the book has been amended as a result of feedback from people who purchased the book, but it also includes observations and improvements provided by several readers and the three authors/editors. Shortly, the final manuscript will be provided to Mr Paul Gibbs, who established the electronic repository. Paul will update the repository, which is managed by the Victoria Barracks Chapter of the RAEME Association Victoria.
- **Team.** The team has moved on to new challenges, and rightly so, after such a long and dedicated period of service and support. So I simply want to thank the main team who stuck with me over the last seven years, but also the extended team, that came and went and maintained the faith – it was much appreciated.
- **Transfer of Sales Responsibilities.** The responsibility for continued sales has already transferred to the HOC Cell and the Corps Committee. I understand that sales now exceed 1000 copies.

**Conclusion.** I have received a great deal of feedback from people who bought the book, or received it as a gift, and it is almost all universally good. The feedback on the launch ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 9 Sep 16 has been even better, so my thanks go to MAJGEN Mathewson and COL Tom Reynolds for their work, and that of their teams, who made the day possible. Given the amount of material we collected, and were not able to use, I suspect there is another book that perhaps needs to be written, so I trust someone else in the Corps puts their hand up and starts planning!!

Kind regards,

**Ross L. G. Grant**  
**Ex PD CHP**



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## VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- **Noone**, William (Bill) George Henry, passed away 20 Jan 14 in Malanda, QLD, following a heart attack.
- **HODGES**, Ronald William “Woodstock”, passed away peacefully in palliative care at Broadmeadows Hospital, Victoria, 23 Oct 15.
- **Poor**, Malcolm, passed away 28 Oct 15.
- **McManus**, Arthur, passed away in hospital in Canberra, ACT, Nov 15 after a prolonged period of illness and hospitalisation.
- **Winterton**, Trevor Albert, passed away on 1 Aug 15 Bindawalla Gardens, Burpengary, QLD.
- **Humby**, Raymond James, passed away peacefully on 19 Nov 15, in Warwick, QLD.
- **Higgins**, Alec, passed away, 17 Dec 16 on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Winder**, Russell, passed away 22 Dec 2015 in Nambour General Hospital, Nambour, QLD.
- **Scherf**, Roger, National Serviceman, 1968 to 1970, passed away 30 Jan 16, on his 69th Birthday after a hard battle with cancer.

## SICK LIST

The following members are in hospital or recovering from illness:

- **Snowdon**, Peter is still undergoing treatment for a very aggressive small cell cancer.
- **Stoodley**, Charles has been transferred to St Vincent’s Palliative Care Unit.
- **Putland**, John is in full time care at Warrina Lakes, Innisfail, NQ.
- **Campbell**, Mal, 22nd Elec Fitter continues to battle an aggressive form of 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 FOR 2016

Just to refresh memories. The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) is part of the organisation collectively known as the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). The RAEME Association of Queensland is not a full member of ADSO; but we are

Life Members of the DFWA. This provides us with a voice and allows us to take an active part in various activities, without the burden of responsibility of being full members.

2015 was a busy year, but in 2016, the DFWA, through ADSO, will continue to protect the well-being and improve the entitlements of serving and former ADF members in the following areas:

### Military Superannuation

- Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2014. Seek adjustments to include superannuants under 55, in particular priority be given to those on DFRDB invalidity superannuation pensions.
- Indexation. All military superannuation payments (DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS). Seek indexation twice each year by the same percentage adjustment incorporating the CPI, PBLCI with reference to the MATWE.
- Access to Employer Benefits. MSBS members no longer serving but with “preserved employer” funds to be given the opportunity to roll over their benefit into an accredited superannuation funds of their choice.
- DFRDB Commutation. Encourage the Government to adopt up-to-date life tables in calculating commutation and fortnightly payments for all new DFRDB superannuants.

### Veterans’ Disability Payments.

- The Veterans’ Disability compensation payment for TPI/SRDP. Rate has declined in relative value when measured against average weekly wages and even the Age Pension and is inadequate.
- The above general rate component should be tied to the net minimum wage (100% TPI/SRDP and 50% Intermediate Rate).

### ADF Pay

- DFWA will support a provision enabling the Commonwealth and ADF to negotiate and agree a position to be jointly put to the Defence Force remuneration Tribunal should be abolished from the Defence Act. This would then force the Public Service Commission representing the Government and representatives for the ADF serving members to argue the merits of their respective cases for wage movements in open forum before the DFRT to allow decisions to be made in a fairer and more transparent manner.

## Military Covenant/Accord

- Continue to support the development of a Military Covenant/Accord which places on public record the Nation's enduring obligations to its service personnel and in turn the latter's obligations to the Nation.

## Other Objectives

- A single compensation regime for all serving and former members of the ADF that recognizes the unique nature of military service. Support Legislation for a single path process for compensation claims that protects veterans.
- Defence Housing. Oppose Any Government's intention to privatize DHA and to protect an important condition of service that provides quality housing to Defence families.
- Gain additional Government funding and DVA support for appropriate community accommodation to meet the needs of veterans with mental health issues as well as younger veterans in need of care.
- Improve care and accommodation needs of homeless veterans under the combined ESOs Homeless Program.
- The Government accredit ESO's active mental health support programs that are evidenced based or at least evidenced aware and where appropriate fund the programs.

Please take the time to visit the DFWA website [www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au) and the ADSO website [http://adso.org.au/](http://adso.org.au). Without your commitment to support, DFWA/ADSO would not be able to provide a collective voice that even the most senior of decision makers within Government concedes is not only loud and powerful, but is reasoned, at the same time.

Regards,

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



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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Association has another busy year ahead of it, and somewhat belatedly, has become aware of two very important activities – the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the despatch of 101 Field Workshop to South Vietnam in 1966, and the raising of 102 Field Workshop in 1966, prior to departing from South Vietnam in 1967. Both workshops gave valuable service during the Vietnam War, together with 106 Field Workshop (about which we will hear more later) and have proud histories from the last 50 years, including in their modern forms in 1, 3 and 7 CSSBs respectively. Many of the stories in our recently launched Corps history, “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army” were provided by soldiers who served in these units, but the previous history published in 1992, holds many more stories.

This brings to ‘front of mind’ the need to plan for 2017 because that is the **Corps 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. More will be said about that important event later, but be aware the RAEME HOC Cell is considering a number of activities and events. Your association is already discussing how we can help to celebrate this important occasion on our patch.

We have become aware of a number of our elder members, who have disappeared from our lists and are desirous of re-connecting – if you have contacts that wish to be re-instated on our mailing lists, so they can join us in our activities and receive their newsletter, please get in touch with me or the Membership Member Steve Howells – we will rectify the problem.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the 102 Fd Workshops function in May.

Regards,

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



### THE RAQ CALENDAR FOR 2016

- ANZAC Day – Monday 25 Apr 16
- 101 FD WKSP 50th Anniversary – Tuesday 24 May 16
- 102 FD WKSP Townsville 50th Anniversary – Saturday 28 May 16
- Army Apprentices Reunion Bulimba – Saturday 4 Jun 16
- Gold Coast Gathering – Saturday 25 Jun 16
- Sunshine Coast Function – Saturday 9 Jul 16 - TBC
- All Ranks Function – Sunday 6 Nov 16

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2,560 ft Highest Point  
**3 National Parks**  
5,120 ft Elevation Change  
**18 DAYS**  
2 Old Diggers



**BRIG Dave McGahey**  
**BRIG Phil Edwards (ret)**

<https://soldieron.giveeasy.org/campaigns/walking-across-the-uk/>

# \$25 OFF\* RACQ BATTERIES

\*\$25 rebate on the purchase of any RACQ battery. Rebate is valid for QLD RAEME ASSC members only. Rebate is for the battery only. Redemption is to RACQ Batteries PO Box 4 Springwood QLD 4127. Member must post this voucher and a copy of the tax invoice from either the RACQ or the RACQ battery stockist clearly indicating the name of the supplier, battery part number, your name, address and ASSC member number only. A cheque will be posted to the address supplied. Voucher is valid for batteries purchased 1 November 2015 - 31 October 2016 and must be used by 31 January 2017.

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### 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.



**RAEME Corps Committee and Corps Fund**




**102 FD WKSP COY 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**COMMEMORATIVE DINNER**  
**28 MAY 2016**


THIS YEAR MARKS THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAISING OF  
102 FIELD WORKSHOP COMPANY.

TO CELEBRATE THIS SIGNIFICANT OCCASION THE COMPANY WILL BE HOSTING A  
COMMEMORATIVE DINNER AT:


**102 FD WKSP COY**  
**3 CSSB**  
**LAVARACK BARRACKS**  
**TOWNSVILLE, QLD**


**ON 28 MAY 2016, COMMENCING AT 1830**

THERE ARE ONLY 60 SEATS AVAILABLE FOR EX SERVING MEMBERS WHO WOULD  
LIKE TO ATTEND. ATTENDEES WILL BE SELECTED ON A FIRST IN, FIRST SERVED  
BASIS.

COST IS \$50 PER PERSON WHICH INCLUDES A  
THREE COURSE DINNER AND DRINKS.  
(PAYMENT OPTIONS WILL BE DISSEMINATED VIA EMAIL ONCE ATTENDEES ARE  
CONFIRMED)





TO REGISTER YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, PLEASE EMAIL THE WKSP CSM  
AT:

kenneth.brown1@defence.gov.au

WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Name  
Address  
Contact Number




**'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:*

**RAEME Corps Fund**  
**BSB: 803205**  
**ACCT: 20509705**

*Once payment is made, please send an email to [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au) and add the CC address of [william.myers@defence.gov.au](mailto:william.myers@defence.gov.au), together with proof of payment (scanned receipt of deposit), point of contact details and an up-to-date delivery address. The Head of Corp Cell will then distribute the book upon confirmation of payment."*

**In the reference field of the electronic transfer and proof of payment, please include your surname and phone number. Retain a copy of the deposit transaction, or ask your bank for a receipt, and then send a scanned copy to: [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au).**

In the email, please ensure you include your name, delivery address and contact phone number. Should you have any queries, please contact the HOC Cell directly, 02 6055 2193, prior to ordering. Books should be dispatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.

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In April 2016, Long Riders from all States and Territories will travel thousands of kilometres through rural Australia and across the Nullarbor Plain before coming together and finishing in Margaret River, WA. Riders will travel past iconic towns and places such as Broken Hill, Port Augusta, Ceduna, Nullarbor and Cocklebidy before stopping at Albany on the final stretch to Margaret River.

