



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RAEME Association Queensland members –welcome to Edition 2/17 Spanner News in our 75th Anniversary Year 1942 -2017.

The 75th Anniversary Year of the Corps has started off in tremendous style with a proud display of *esprit de corp* at the Brisbane ANZAC Day March where over 120 RAEME from SEQLD Units under the Command of our Head of Corps, Brigadier Haydn Kohl paraded the Corp Banner - an awesome sight. Our ANZAC Day RAEME Function at the Port Officer was attended by over 500 people and was a huge success, bringing many RAEME serving and retired together in one spot to enjoy each other's company.

Our Membership numbers continue to grow and many new members are seeing the advantage of Life Subscription for the one-off cost of \$100. New faces are becoming involved in the running of the RAQ providing fresh ideas and exuberance – thank you to all of our new members, our existing members and those who stand up to shoulder the work load. We owe each of these people a big thank you.

The RAQ would like to acknowledge the RAEME Corp Committee who have provided financial support to each of our four major activities which we will utilise to subsidise function costs –reducing the cost per head and therefore encouraging as many members as possible to enjoy our Corps 75th Celebrations.

Our Gold Coast gathering at the AEME SLSC is next on the calendar -1 July 17 followed by the RAEME Reserve Function on 20 August and then Sunshine Coast Lunch at Maroochy RSL on 2 September.

The success of our association is due simply to your participation – our dedicated committee and function convenors will do all they can to make everything fall into place but nothing fly's without you the RAQ membership being a part of the good times.

Lastly I would like to mention the passing of one of the RAQ's strongest characters; a man who was awarded the RAQ Chairman's Award in April 2017. Colonel Peter Gordon Snowdon (Rtd), 9th Intake Army Apprentice (Fitter and Turner) who made the journey from apprentice to Colonel. Peter was an invaluable asset to myself as Chairman and to the RAQ and his dry wit and willing assistance will be sadly missed.

Jeff Maurice
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FROM THE COL COMDT

Greetings everyone. I wrote earlier this year about the Head of Corps and Corps Committee agreeing to allocate funding support to 75th Anniversary commemorative activities. It has been pleasing to see that for the most part request for funds have been approved and funds have started to trickle out to the respective requesting organisations. Well done to everyone who took the time to reach out to the extended RAEME communities in your respective areas; we will all benefit from your efforts and local celebrations.

Notwithstanding our significant commitment to overseas operations, the recent Cyclone Debbie and subsequent flooding had placed additional pressure on our RAEME personnel throughout Queensland and they continue to do excellent work. Maintaining the Army's equipment has been critical to achieving the mission in addition assisting the affected communities to return to some normality after such a widespread catastrophic event.

Despite the many operational commitments throughout Australia and overseas, over 500 serving and former serving ARA and ARES RAEME personnel, led by our Head of Corps Brigadier Hadyn Kohl and the Corps banner, gathered to march through the Brisbane streets on ANZAC Day. It was an honour and a privilege to be

part of such a large contingent to pay tribute to our fellow and former RAEME soldiers who have served our country. Gathering together in such large numbers also signalled the start of our 75th Anniversary celebrations here in Qld. Organised and led by the RAQ, I want to formally recognise the tremendous efforts of the RAQ committee and ANZAC Day sub-committee for organising the gathering, and post ANZAC Day march event at the Port Office Hotel. With nearly 500 people in attendance, the event went without a hitch thanks to the great work of the organising committee and the staff at the Port Office Hotel. Despite the additional security placed on all ANZAC Day activities the event was a great success and a real testament to your planning, resilience and patience.

In early July I attended the RAEME gathering held at the Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC on the Gold Coast. It was a tremendous function and my appreciation goes out to Eddie (Beans) Bevans and Barry Skinner for having organised the function. Beans was largely responsible for ‘herding’ the Gold Coast based folks with Barry having only just returned from overseas several days before the event to pitch in and take photos on the day. Approximately 50 people attended including BRIG Bert Barker (Rtd), one of our founding and inaugural members of the Corp, having transferred from Ordnance on the creation of AEME and later RAEME. I was particularly honoured to spend the majority of the afternoon with Bert swapping stories about where we had come from to where RAEME is now – interesting how much of the attributes of our Corps have not changed despite the advancements in technology. I was also privileged to present the former Club President and now life member of the SLSC Mr Phil Chipman (former RAE officer) with a leather-bound edition of the Corps History, which will now take pride of place in the very impressive memorabilia cabinet. To those not familiar with the history of the Mermaid Beach SLSC, the inclusion of “AEME” in its title is not a typo but a fitting recognition of its roots dating back to 1945 when the club was started by a group of AEME soldiers and officers who at the time were posted to Bulimba.

My goal remains to travel to NQ this year to meet with folks in and around Townsville starting with attending the 75th Anniversary Commemorative dinner on 26 August 2017 being held at the Townsville RSL. Hopefully I may also be able to return later in the year to take part in the RAEME Birthday celebrations in Nov/Dec. I look forward to catching up with many of you at that time.

Arte et Marte,

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MEMBERSHIP/TREASURER’S REPORT

Hello again RAQ Members and others, well we are well into 2017, half the calendar year gone and another FY finished? A busy few months, nearly 40 new members (see below), the shop selling heaps of merchandise (mainly 75th Anniversary gear) and with ANZAC Day lunch tickets being sold on line, almost 400 transactions over the last 4 months (in perspective, the account averaged 250 transactions annually), I have almost caught up on the receipts.

The Treasurer position is going well (busy with end FY accounts), the whole situation will be reviled in the next couple of months when the Auditors report is tabled at the AGM, hopefully I will still have a job? Be assured the RAQ is in a sound financial position to meet all current and known future liabilities. A reminder that I no longer email receipts for every transaction, if you require a receipt let me know and I can send you one on request.

On the membership side, we continue to grow in numbers, had a nice increase around ANZAC Day, new members since the last Spanner News see below. I’m sure that a lot of the new memberships are 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 why they haven’t joined, if they indicate a reason?

New Members: Life Subscription – Michael Weigh, Michael Roughtan, Russell Drummond, Eugene Tinning, Ian Glasson, Mark Edwards, Jon O’Grady, Stephen King, Manfred Ressel, Garth Bess, Ron Freckelton, Fulvio (Vince) Voncina, Peter Leslie, Rex Willis, Dulcie Dyne, Lee Donovan, Allan (Fred) Read, Ian Barnes & Barry Rollason.

Annual Subscription – Shane Porter, Benjamin Reardon, Clarrie Sanders, Jason Harwood, Ray Sprake, John Hatcher, Dave Leddin, Paul Scarr, Karl Sams, Shane O’Neill, William Bishop, Heath Deeble, Andy Aitenbichler, Don Hewett, Geoff Williams

(since upgraded to Life Subscription), Jeffrey Boddington, Harold Holmes & Roy Jarvis.

We have recently also had nine (9) annual subscription members upgrade to life membership and 18 annual subscriptions members renew for another year (or more), well done everyone, thanks for the continued support to the RAQ.

Regards,

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CORPS HAPPENINGS – PLAN CENTAUR

Plan CENTAUR is enhancing operational capability while improving efficiencies in the barracks environment through the delivery of a series of maintenance reform and improvement projects in stages over a three year period.

CENTAUR will soon complete the first stage of its implementation phase which is already having an impact on the way maintenance is carried out in Army. Efficiencies as a result of Lean training, improvements in the accuracy of force generation demand planning and access to technical and production information on portable ICT devices in workshops are just some of the ways Plan CENTAUR is reforming maintenance practices.

“After a period of detailed analysis we are excited to be delivering improvements for Craftsman right through to Defence’s strategic equipment managers. As well as process changes we have also delivered improved tooling and trialled a smarter way to provide workshop consumables”.

In May, the first of two trials of improved portable ICT devices begin in 3 CSSB. The trials will introduce

handheld tablets to enable maintainers to access tech pubs on the workshop floor. It will test the viability of software and hardware, and measure the efficiencies in work practices as a result. A second trial will be conducted in June in 2/14 LHR (QMI).

Meanwhile, Lean training continues in 7 CSSB in May. All three combat Brigades have now been exposed to Lean and the Units involved are reporting greater efficiency and a higher standard of maintenance. WO1 Kitching, ASM 2 Cav Regt said “the workshop was disorganised which contributed to waste. We now have a more functional layout and reduced waste which has increased the standard of maintenance. An outcome is that the transition to CSS CONOPS has been relatively smooth.”

Plan CENTAUR has identified multiple MILIS improvements. It has also identified means of reducing specialist training; improving the flow of the reverse supply chain and is developing a blueprint for adoption of information technology to enhance maintenance decisions.

3 CSSB trial the use of portable tablets to access workshop information



In the next stage, Plan CENTAUR plans to build upon the productivity and training improvements started in stage one along with a number of new initiatives. A key focus will also be the development of a maintenance strategy for Army to inform the way future capabilities are maintained. “The next stage of the Program will help cement the benefits across the maintenance system to ensure we deliver lasting change” said BRIG McGahey.



The CENTAUR team welcomes your questions and comments. For more information on Plan CENTAUR activities, search for 'CENTAUR' on the DRN or email plan.centaur@defence.gov.au

Regards,

BRIG D.F. McGahey
Program Director General
Plan CENTAUR

AROUND QUEENSLAND UNITS

102 Fd Wksp - Townsville. 102 Field Workshop were away on Ex TALISMAN SABRE at the time of this newsletter so no contributions were available. However, 102 Field Workshop together with the NQ RAEME Association will be hosting a dinner in Townsville on 26 August 17 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of RAEME. The event is being held at the Townsville RSL.

Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) – Oakey. CH-47F Chinook training has commenced at RAMS. Historically, CH-47D maintenance courses were delivered overseas to qualified technicians as transition-only courses. The inaugural Australian-based CH-47F technician course commenced on 15 May 17 with a course panel of six aircraft transition students. The students will soon proceed to C Squadron to consolidate their learning through On-Job-Training (OJT) where, once qualified, they will provide a valuable contribution to generation of CH-47F rate of effort.

The CH-47F training system delivered under the acquisition project includes:

- **Cargo Helicopter Maintenance Training Aid (CHMTA)** – A15-201 decommissioned and transferred to RAMS in December 2016. Students can apply power, operate the hydraulic systems, motor engines, operate the avionics systems, and fit role equipment.
- **Maintenance Blended Reconfigurable Aviation Trainers (MBRAT)** – simulates the CAAS architecture and allows students to interface with an immersive virtual environment to isolate and rectify faults induced by an instructor prior to rectifying the faults on the tactile CHMTA or CAT for aircraft and avionics technicians respectively.
- **Chinook Avionics Trainer** – a live CH-47 converted into a training device allowing avionics students to conduct OJT including troubleshooting systems covering communications, navigation, power, and interfaces. Both MBRAT and CAT are manufactured by American company Kratos whose training devices are used by the United States Army's 128th Aviation Brigade (US Army Aviation Logistics School) at Fort Eustis, Virginia. The CAT is scheduled for delivery in July 2018.
- **New RAMS Training Facilities** – Conversion of the JLU-SQ warehouse into 'the precinct', complete with classrooms, Defence computer network connectivity and hangar power.

Course Manager, SGT Neleman, teaches a lesson using the MBRAT.



Brett Nelson, CSM
Lieutenant Colonel
Deputy Head of Corps (Aeroskills)

106 Fd Wksp – Brisbane. 2017 marks the 75th anniversary for the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and it was only fitting, that the Corps celebrated this milestone accordingly, as part of the 2017 ANZAC Parade in Brisbane. Members of the Corps from across South-East Queensland, volunteered to march as part of the RAEME contingent and be part

of a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate the rich history of the Corps. Units involved in the march included RAMS, 6 ESR, 9 FSB, 1 Sig Regt, reservists from 11 CSSB, 7 Combat Brigade units and the Corps RSM and Head of Corps; Brigadier Haydn Kohl. The Corps RSM escorted the RAEME Banner from its home at the School of Logistics in Bandiana.

The march was a momentous occasion, with more than 120 members of the Corps volunteering to be part of the contingent and which also included many ex-serving members of RAEME. This was testament to the passion and loyalty that RAEME personnel past and present have for the Corps. The parade was led by Brigadier Haydn Kohl and the Banner carried by the Banner Ensign LT Martin and escorted by WO2 Shepherd and SGT Hanley. The Banner Party were all members of 7 CSSB and 106th Field Workshop Company.

102 Fd Wksp Coy ASEME and RAMS soldiers escort the Corps Banner through the streets of Brisbane on ANZAC Day.



The end of the march saw hundreds of RAEME personnel descend at the Port Office Hotel for the annual RAEME ANZAC Day function. This was again organised by the RAEME Association QLD and an outstanding success. The environment at the Port Office allowed young and old, current and past RAEME members, the opportunity to reflect on not only the events of the day, but to relive personal experiences and look forward to the future of RAEME.

I personally felt a great sense of pride to march with the Banner as one of the newest members of the Corps. The passion and enthusiasm displayed by Craftsmen was extremely refreshing and served as a reminder that while we can get lost in the day-to-day challenges of military

life, celebrations such as these epitomise our Esprit de Corps. I am intensely eager to be part of the future of the Corps and like so many ex-crafties on the day, believe I will always have a place for Harry the Horse in my heart.

In conclusion, the march of the RAEME Banner on ANZAC Day to celebrate the 75th birthday of RAEME was an unforgettable experience for all involved. I strongly encourage all members to continue their affiliation with the RAEME Association now and in the future and thank everyone who was involved in making the celebration a memorable one making the celebration a memorable one.

LT Benjamin Kluckhohn, 106th Field Workshop Company, 7CSSB

Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (ASEME) Brisbane OJT Cell. They come, they grow and they go. The revolving door of the Brisbane OJT Cell continues to spin with perpetual motion. There are rumours that the flow from ASEME will begin to taper later in the year (we hope).

At the moment one goes out (usually to 7 CSSB) and one posts in. With the manning at 7 CSSB currently, the OJTs are being posted into surplus pool positions, while the first line units continue to struggle with the reduced manning brought about due to CSS CONOPS.

We continue to field calls from struggling first line unit ASMs eager to take on OJTs in order to boost their production. This has been great for our OJTs, who have gained valuable experience, but not an ideal situation for the overall development. With all of the requests for OJTs for EX Talisman Sabre and our obligations to WONCO Sub 1 EN party and commitments to our civilian detachments, we have unfortunately had to decline requests from the Units.

The OJTs generally spend 12 months developing their knowledge and skills before they are ready for posting. The feedback we are receiving regarding their training has been really positive, with the very occasional unfavourable report.

During their 12 months they will generally undertake a 50:50 mix of civilian and military detachments of a month in duration. Some of them tend to need a reminder from time to time that they are in the Army whilst on civilian detachment. I'm sure we all remember OJT's as being some of the best times of our career. The TTMO and ATTMO conduct regular unannounced site visits to

maintain the relationship with the civilian detachments and also to keep the OJTs 'honest'.

One of our most popular civilian detachments is the QLD Water Police. This detachment is for a trainee Fitter /Armament. Whilst detached to the Water Police the OJTs will service and repair, the approximately 100 strong fleet. Craft from 5 metres with outboards up to 20 metre vessels with twin inboard diesel propulsion and complex hydraulic systems are maintained. The trainees will usually undertake a field trip or two, for a week in duration, taking them from the Gulf to the Cape and all the port cities on the East coast. OJTs are currently detached to the QLD Police, QLD Water Police and QLD Fire & Emergency Service and this arrangement has been extremely beneficial in gaining experience.

We trust that we are delivering a trained and competent craftsman/soldier to your workshop and expect that you will notify us of any potential areas for improvement.

Arte et Marte

WO2 Paul "Vonny" Vonow

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COMING EVENTS TO CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAEME

National Events. The HOC Cell has promulgated some **proposed** official national events for the 75th Anniversary of RAEME. More will be forthcoming but you should put the following place markers in your diaries:

- **11 Aug 17 at 1645 – Memorial Service at the Craftsman Memorial, South Bandiana.**
- **11 Aug 17 at 1730 – Dinner at the Army Museum – Bandiana. RSVP and Cost TBA.**
- **12 Aug 17 at 0800 – ASEME Open Day. RSVP TBA.**
- **01 Dec 17 – Parade at the AWM, Canberra. RSVP TBA.**
- **01 Dec 17 – Dinner at the AWM, Canberra. RSVP and Cost TBA.**

Further details will be released between Aug and Oct 17, there will be **many regional events** occurring throughout the year. Please contact the Regional RAEME Representatives (RRR), or the local RAEME Associations for events in your area. CAPT Mick Gordon (10 FSB) is in the process of designing a

NQ RAEME coin to commemorate the Corps 75th anniversary. Once this has been finalised, we will get the design to you and commence taking orders. Recovery Platoon at 3 CSSB will soon be selling Plat-a-tac brown T-Shirts with the 75th logo (designed by RAQ) on the top right and the Australia flag on the sleeve. The idea is that the soldiers can wear them at work. Again, costings to follow via separate correspondence.

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RAEME SUNSHINE COAST 75th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH – 2 SEP 17. Recent Friday Files have started to provide detail on the next RAEME Sunshine Coast lunch, for 2017. Your organisers are hard at work organising a luncheon on a slightly grander scale than last years, and hope to confirm shortly that the yet to be announced new HOC will be our guest speaker. Important details are as follows:

- Lunch date: **Saturday 2 Sep 2017.**
- Venue: **Maroochy RSL Memorial Avenue, Maroochydore, QLD.**
- Timings: **1200 to 1700 hours.**

The broad outline for the afternoon sees attendees being greeted by the convenors and pre-lunch drinks at individual's expense from the bar, followed by a three-course lunch with a two-plate drop, At the end of lunch, the MC will invite the HOC, to address the audience and talk about the technological and organisational challenges faced by the Corps as Plan Centaur takes hold. Guest may then mingle until 1700 hours and enjoy the company of like-minded friends and colleagues.

We are expecting a great roll-up to celebrate the 75th Anniversary, so book early and guarantee your seats. Make up tables with friends enjoy a wonderful day on the wonderful Sunshine Coast.

Ross Grant & Mike Prain
Co-Convenors
RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter

ARMY APPRENTICES NOTICES

Annual South East Queensland Army Apprentice Reunion 3rd June 2017. The day of the annual Army Apprentice Reunion for South East Qld dawned as an absolutely glorious day in comparison from last year which was a torrential downpour. It was once again held at the Bulimba Bowls Club.

Members came from near and far including New South Wales and South Australia. A good time was had by all with many of the old stories being rehashed, and the 'warries' are getting more unbelievable as the years go by! The oldest intake (9th) represented was plumber – Roley Pritchard. The youngest intake (40th) was represented by Paul Moran, Marty Washington and Mark Peucker.

Approximately 100 members attended including the merchandise member Richard Pike, who was on hand with plenty of memorabilia which was snapped up by those in attendance.

The 30th intake had the most members in attendance with 15 well done to those men.



There was much discussion during the day about the 2018 reunion in Canberra. The two major highlights will be the ANZAC Day March in Canberra, where Army Apprentice Association has been invited to be the lead contingent in the march. The second highlight is the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 26 April 2018 where an Army Apprentice will be honoured. Many apprentices have expressed a keenness to be in Canberra next year, with some having already booked their accommodation.



REMINDER: The attraction of visitors to Canberra on ANZAC Day accommodation will be at a premium, so those wishing to attend next year should be seeking to find accommodation in Canberra ASAP.

Cheers,

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Australian Army Apprentices Association 70th Anniversary Reunion Canberra 2018. A reunion to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Army Apprentices School will be held in Canberra over the period Tuesday 24 – Friday 27 April 2018.

The two major highlights of the reunion are the ANZAC Day March in Canberra, where our Association has been invited to lead the National march. This is a huge honour and we will be looking for a substantial contingent to make us all proud. The second highlight is the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 26 April 2018 where an Army Apprentice will be honoured.

The **broad concept**, at this stage, for the reunion over three days commencing Tuesday 24 Apr 18, includes: a meet and greet; a Gun Fire Breakfast on ANZAC Day, followed by the national ANZAC Day Service and March at the AWM; and finally, on the 26 Apr 18 a bus tour of some parts of Canberra, the AWM, followed by a Reunion Dinner

Venues for a number of activities are still being finalized. We are currently endeavouring to obtain a group/corporate booking at the Narrabundah Abode apartments. This venue has accommodation for about

250 people in 2, 3 or 4 person apartments, a large car park and an adjoining large room, which would be suitable for the Meet & Greet function. We are planning to use buses to/from the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on ANZAC Day itself. Costs have not yet been finalized, but place these dates in your diary now, as it sure to be a memorable event, not to be missed.

Details are in “The Apprentice About” at:
<http://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>

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RAQ EVENTS

ANZAC Day, Brisbane 25 April 2017. Planning for ANZAC Day 2017 for the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) commenced in full swing at the beginning of the year with the President, Jeff Maurice, reaching out to the “brotherhood” in true RAEME style. As this year marked our 75th Anniversary, it was only fitting to have our Corps Banner escorted to Brisbane from its home and accompanied by a 100 man guard and the 1 Regt Band. These arrangements were duly advertised and the response was overwhelming with the main RAQ contingent forming up on George Street six wide and 100 deep.

RAQ Contingent of 600 formed up in George St



There was a strong focus this year on our older veterans. The priority was to have those who elected to travel in an escorted golf buggy to be with the RAEME Contingent during the march, and to be not left stranded at the completion of the parade. After many assurances from the third party organisers, some nervous moments, and some outstanding assistance from our Committee Member, Brian Daley, our eight veterans “fell in” into our contingent where they belonged.

RAQ Veterans waiting patiently for their golf buggy transport



The march was a proud moment for all involved with the Brisbane CBD streets lined 10 deep for the length of the parade.

The day was always going to be big and the RAQ began preparation to host up to 600 at the after parade function held at the Port Office. This year the RAQ pre-sold as

many tickets to the function as possible. The benefits were two-fold; to reduce the amount of function goes lining up at the venue to purchase tickets, and for catering purposes.

The RAEME Corps Funds also supported our event with specific funding to transport the Banner Guard from Enoggera to the function. The RAQ is greatly appreciative for this funding as it made it possible for our serving members to join the function upon completion of their own security formalities.

As usual, the staff at the Port Office were outstanding in the lead-up to the event and on the day. The function area was well suited for the 450 we catered for. The meal was of a superior quality and lined the stomachs for the day to follow.

We also had the pleasure of hosting the Head of Corps & Corps RSM in addition to having a rare photo shoot opportunity with the Prince Phillip Banner at our function.

L to R BRIG H. Kohl (HOC), Jeff Maurice (RAQ President) and WO1 R Turnbull (Corps RSM).



This was no doubt the most successful event the RAQ have ever staged. To see so many current and former serving members and guests attend the march and function was inspiring. The sheer numbers demonstrates that the Esprit de Corps is alive and well in RAEME.

Regards
James (Max) Walker

Gold Coast - Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC – 1 July 2017

We held the second annual RAEME Gold Coast lunch get together on Saturday 1st July at the Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC and our luck held weather wise with the day being a brilliant SE Queensland day. Whilst it was a little crisp it was offset with sitting on the front balcony of the surf club overlooking the beach on a perfectly sunny winter's day.

BRIG Bert Barker (Rtd), Brain Windsor and Mrs Windsor



We ended up with 50 people inclusive of RAEME people and their wives and partners and whilst this was down a little on last year with a few unable to make it at the last moment we also had no grey nomads pop out of left field like last year. That said we were very happy with the roll up and we were particularly chuffed by the people coming down from the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. All in all a good group got together for a good old catch up.

One notable attendee was Bert Barker who is 95 [and I hope I am as sprightly as he is when I am 95] and who is a link to the original founding members of the corps in that he was a member of AEME. I would doubt there would be many around who could say they were in the corps before we got the R !! He was in times past the COL COMDT of Qld so he was able to bail up the current COL COMDT Tony Borg and tell him how it used to be done.

We took to opportunity of it being the RAEME 75th year to present to the club a leather copy of the CHP and a framed RAEME pennant to reinforce the shared history

of the Corp and the club. The book was received by Phil Chipman who is a former President and life member of the Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC and a former RAE Army officer. It turns out that Phil used to be an instructor at Canungra and had met Tony Borg previously when he was Tony was a student on one of his courses.

Corps History and Plaque presentation to Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC



Phil had some interesting few words about where the club had come from through to today and advised that the club takes its AEME/RAEME roots very seriously and part of the nipper program is that they get steeped in the story of the clubs WW2 / AEME roots and present day RAEME.

So in summary the Gold Coast lunch went very well attendance wise , weather wise and catching up wise and you can pencil in the 2018 lunch for around the same time next year with a tentative date of Saturday 30th June 2018.

Regards

Ed (Beans) Bevans

VALE

It is with deep regret that we advise of the following:

- **Krieg**, Harold. Harry was an aviation engine fitter, who served at Amberley and PNG passed away on 20 Jan 17 from kidney failure.
- **Jones**, James (Jim), (13th Intake VM) later trained as

an aviation technician and served in 161 Indep Recce Flt, SVN; 183 Indep Recce Flt PNG and 5 Base Wksp Bn, Amberley and Oakey. Jim passed away in Townsville on 26 Mar 17.

- **Drayton**, Andrew Stephen. Andrew passed away at home, with his family present on 2 Apr 17 from a short battle with an aggressive cancer. A funeral service was held at Norfolk Chapel, WA on Monday, 10th April 2017.
- **Larsen**, Peter (23rd Intake F&T), Peter suffered from a stroke on 5 Apr 17, and died with his family present, on 7 Apr 17.
- **Rooney**, James McNulty. “Jimmy” late of Bribie Island, passed away peacefully February 24, aged 99 Years. A Celebration of Jimmy's Life, was held at the Bribie Island Uniting Church, Bongaree on Saturday March 4.
- **Anderson**, Barry. Barry passed away March 6 after a battle with leukaemia in late February. The family held a private cremation n but there was a Memorial Service for Barry, at Broulee on Friday 24 March for Classes 2/68 and 3/68
- **Coleman**, Peter. Peter passed away March 12 after his long fight with cancer. 1204601 Peter Coleman was a 28th intake Apprentice Fitter. Peter funeral was held at Kilcoy on March 20.
- **Snowdon**, Peter. Peter lost his fight against cancer and passed away at St Vincent's Private Hospital on 23rd April 2017. Peter had a private Cremation at Mt Thompson.
- **Laidlaw**, Peter. Peter passed away ANZAC day morning after battling cancer. His funeral was Wednesday 3rd May at Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery. Bridgeman Downs.
- **Jarvis**, Ron. Ron passed away on Friday 16 June 2017 after having suffered a major heart attack. He served in Vietnam as a Lieutenant with 102 Field Workshop RAEME in 1968-69.
- **Keihne**, Desmond. Des passed away suddenly on 4 July 2017 after having suffered a heart attack. Des is survived by his wife and his five sons.
- **Ross**, Mick. Mick passed away on 17 Jul 17 in Canberra after having been admitted to hospital several days previous. Mick served as the Adjutant for 102 Field Workshop in 1967/68. His wife Terri is taking calls and can be contacted on (02) 6299 8041.
- **McKeown**, James William. WO1 James McKeown (Rtd) passed away on 17 June 2017. A memorial service was held on 24 July 2017 at the Vietnam Veteran Park, Bribie Island RSL, Bongaree.

WELFARE

- **Mike Prain** had succumbed to a bout of pneumonia shortly after ANZAC Day which unfortunately prevented him and his wife Barbara travelling overseas. Thankfully Mike is well on his way to recovery.
- **Ron McElwaine** is recovering from a recent back operation and by all accounts it has been successful in alleviating some of his ongoing back and neck pain.

Please remember to contact me if you hear of one of our RAEME folks becoming sick.

Barry Shipway
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DFWA INFORMATION

Non-Liability Health Cover. We understand many people are unaware that DVA will pay for treatment for a number of conditions **and they do not need to have been service related.** The criteria to access support for mental health and substance abuse conditions is now **only one day** of Full Time Service. All cancers and TB are also covered but have different eligibility criteria. This is quite valuable as DVA covers the ‘gap’ costs. If you know somebody, who may benefit from this information, contact DFWA, or one of the other ESOs for help.

Qld Veteran Advisory Council (QVAC). The QVAC provides advice to the Assistant Minister Assisting the Qld Premier who is responsible for veteran matters in Qld. Through QVAC, DFWA is still pursuing the adoption of a Qld Veterans’ Charter aimed at ensuring current and ex serving ADF members and their families are not disadvantaged in access to state delivered services. This is particularly aimed at families not dropping to bottom of waiting lists for medical, education, disability and other services when members are posted inter and intrastate. We have also approached all political parties for Qld to appoint a state Minister for Veteran Affairs to provide a focus for veteran matters across various portfolios, e.g., health, police, prisons, coroner, to address issues such as homelessness and suicide. Other states have a dedicated Minister who attends the Commonwealth’s Veteran Ministers’ Round Table which helps co-ordinate delivery of veteran services Australia-wide. The LNP have adopted this as policy and Labor is expected to follow shortly.

Open Forums for Members and other ESO. We have held two Open Forums so far this year. The Sunshine Coast Forum in February was organised by VP Win Fowles. About 50 members and other ESO reps attended, including the local MP. Speakers included National President, Qld RSL President, other Sunshine Coast ESO reps. We held another mid-June at Victoria Barracks for the Brisbane Region. Speakers were the National President who provided a DFWA update, including current Pay Case progress, , Rob Shortridge representing QVAC, John Lewis (Military Covenant) and Peter Burns, Administrator and Founder of the Facebook site, ComSuper-Military Entitlements. It was attended by over 50 with Members, ESO reps and a good number of serving ADF people from Amberley and Enoggera.

ADF Pay Case. DFWA is an Official Intervener at the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal for ADF Pay. Early discussions with CDF on the 2017 Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) established some principles with all parties not wanting a repeat of last fiasco. The Initial Offer is 2% per annum with no loss of conditions of service. DFWA focus is on whole package – Home Loans, Various Charges. MQ Rents, not being out of proportion to the Pay Rise. Feedback will be sought from serving ADF when details come out.

Facebook Groups Run By Younger Veterans – Supporting Across Australia. DFWAQ is in regular discussions with the Administrators of two groups, ComSuper- Military Entitlements and ADF Invalidity Payments-Taxation Treatment. The Groups do a really good job, providing advice and support on-line. Both are involved in challenges in AAT and Federal Court aiming to force ComSuper to report the nature of DFRDB/MSBS Class A/B Disability Benefits to be in accordance with the legislation. The current media headlines are about a side issue which developed out of this legal action. If successful, this will impact on tens of thousands of current recipients of these payments with possible refund of tax going back to 1997.

A successful outcome will also impact on Family Court asset splitting decisions which were based on incorrect ComSuper advice. The leads in this are 2 ex RAEME Craftsmen who have represented themselves in the Federal Court against solicitors and barristers of ComSuper and the ATO and so far have won.

Regards,

John Lewis
President
DFWA(Qld)
Johnlowis2@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I have been entrusted to compile this edition of Spanner News on behalf of Ross whilst he has been away overseas. Noting that this newsletter is one of Ross' great passions can be a bit daunting but thanks to the many contributors, the task has been made all the more easier. Like many things this newsletter is only as good as it's contributors and I'm very thankful that you have made it easy for me publish the July edition. So much has happened in the first half of the year to celebrate our 75th Anniversary and there is still much to occur between now and December, again largely thanks to "the strong sense of volunteerism in our members and the support we give each other". That support was tested early in 2017, especially for Max Walker and Jeff Maurice and has continued thanks to people like Beans Bevans on the Gold Coast. Last edition Ross wrote about the potential for this year's ANZAC Day march to be "...biggest ANZAC Day parade and after-parade event, in our history". Well it was, all thanks to the tenacity, patience and flexibility of the organising committee.

I also wish to express my appreciation to MAJ Julian Fleming (despite being deployed to assist post Cyclone Debbie with little notice) and his unit, 106 Fd Wksp, for coordinating the activities of the Banner Guard on the day – marching at the front of the ANZAC Day parade in Brisbane is a wonderful honour for the combined units of SE QLD and the RAQ. **I am also grateful for the support from our many local unit commanders, who contributed to this Spanner news – well done.**

Regional celebrations for our 75th Anniversary will occur throughout the year. Please contact the Regional RAEME Representatives shown on various websites, or your local chapter of the RAQ for detail of events in your area. Above all, participate, renew friendships and be proud of this important milestone and the contribution you made as an individual, or member of the RAEME team.

Regards to all,

Tony Borg (for) Ross Grant
Chairman Comms Committee
commschair@qld.raeme.org.au

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*\$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 May 2017 - 30 April 2018 and must be used by 30 June 2018.

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LEGACY

CALL FOR LEGACY VOLUNTEERS

Legacy is a voluntary organisation whose members (Legatees) are dedicated to providing support to the widow/ears and dependants of Service personnel who died during war, or after war, during hazardous service, or while training for war.

Legacy depends on volunteers to help continue its vital role. Throughout Australia Legacy currently cares for around 80,000 widows and 1,800 children and disabled dependents. On the Sunshine Coast alone, we look after around 1,400 widows and wards.

SUMMARY OF RAQ EVENTS 2017

HOW TO BUY THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED CORPS HISTORY – 'WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING: CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1942-2014'

For those yet to buy the Corps History book, here is a great gift for a friend in our 75th Anniversary year. The HOC Cell, Bonegilla,

still has a reasonable quantity of hard cover (HC) versions available, at \$80.00 a copy. The SO2 Corps Capability, MAJ Perri

Hobbs, and his small team are managing sales, so the best way to secure a copy, before they run out in our 75th Anniversary year, is to go to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on 'Shop' and then click on the photo of the book's cover.

Please follow the instructions for payment shown on the website, and spelt out in part as follows. *'To purchase a book, you need will need to make a deposit of \$80.00 by electronic transfer to the following account:*

RAEME Corps

Fund BSB –

803205

Acct – 20509705

Once payment is made, please send an email to RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au and add the CC address of MAJ Hobbs, perri.hobbs@defence.gov.au, together with proof of payment (a scanned receipt of deposit), point of contact details and an up to date delivery address. The HOC Cell will distribute the book upon confirmation of payment.'

Note: *In the reference field of the electronic transfer and proof of payment, please include your surname and phone number.*

Please 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.

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 on (02) 6055 4325, prior to ordering. Books should be despatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.

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| Nth QLD RAQ 75 th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Townsville RSL | Saturday 26 th August 2017 |
| Sunshine Coast 75 th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon Maroochy RSL | Saturday 2 September 2017 |
| RAQ 75 th Anniversary Celebration All Ranks Luncheon Brisbane – Port Office Hotel | Sunday 5 th November 2017 |