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Spanner News

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Spanner News

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome, "Spanners", to the second Spanner News of 2019.

Despite the need to relocate to "FRIDAYS RIVERSIDE", as a result of an earlier fire at the Port Office Hotel, our traditional ANZAC Day commemoration was an outstanding success. Our thanks go to Nick Gregorski, the owner of the Port Office Hotel, who went out of his way to help us secure an alternate venue, which turned out to be the famous "FRIDAYS RIVERSIDE" in the heart of the city overlooking the Brisbane River. Although the turnout was lower than we have seen in the past, we did have over 150 RAQ members and guests attend and enjoy the hospitality of the new venue, its food and drink and each other's company. Special thanks to Max Walker and Steve Howells, who although not able to attend, put together a cracking day. Also a shout out to RAQ member, Maurie Maunsell, one of our WW2 AEME veterans, who at 96 years young, gave us the pleasure of his company once again.

Our busy social calendar continues apace. The RAQ Gold Coast Chapter held its annual lunch in July, which saw over 50 attendees enjoy the food, drink and service of our wonderful Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Life Saving Club – the event was a credit to the organisers, Ed "Beans" Bevans and Barry Skinner. The Sunshine Coast Chapter Luncheon on Saturday 31 August, with our HOC, BRIG Andrew Freeman in attendance, promises to be yet another great gathering and not to be missed. Tickets are selling fast.

Thank you to all of our members who support our functions and also those who put so much effort into organising and running these events.

Of special note, I ask our NQ readership to keep your "ears close to the ground" for news on an upcoming project, which we hope sees our NQ RAEME folk being brought together with a reignited spirit.

I will elaborate more in later editions of Spanner News and Friday Files, but I also look forward to seeing everyone at our many RAQ functions this year.

Arte et Marte

Jeff Maurice
Chairman RAQ
chairman@qld.raeme.org.au



RAEME Association Queensland – What we are about?

The purpose of the RAEME Association Queensland is to promote and reinforce the spirit, reputation, image and competencies of the Corps through its past, present and future members.

The goals of the RAEME Association Queensland locally are to:

- promote the Corps' identity and reputation;
- recognise and celebrate achievements of members of the Corps; and
- provide a focal point for Corps activities.

To gain RAQ membership benefits, join for \$10/year, or upgrade to Life Subscription for \$100. All proceeds support and promote the goals of the Association.

FROM THE COL COMDT-QLD – COL STEVE EVANS

G'day "Spanners", as I write, thousands of "Spanners" are engaged in Exercise "Talisman Sabre" in Shoalwater Bay, training and war-gaming with the Defence Forces of the USA and Japan. Similarly, there are quite a few members of "Team RAEME" deployed on operations around the globe, whilst the rest of the ARA and ARes spanners maintain our readiness, or contribute to the wider Defence effort, all around Australia and overseas. Of lesser importance to the core role, but still contributing in many significant ways, are the many associations and affiliate organisations of ex-serving RAEME and Defence folk. I wish to write a little bit about these institutes shortly.

Foremost, I must thank my predecessor Colonel Tony Borg for the outstanding job he has performed as COL COMDT for the past five years. Tony and I are long standing mates and, for those who did not directly see his efforts, I have firsthand experience of the energy, enthusiasm, and selflessness he applied to the role. It was not just Tony who "put in the yards" for the Corps either, but my sincerest thanks also go to Tony's wife, Alison, who had many of her weekends and family activities impacted by the duties of COL COMDT. Great job mate, you and Alison can now go and enjoy your weekends and planned social activities without fear of the impact of RAEME duties.

Our editor and long-standing mentor of many, BRIG Ross Grant, asked me to use this article to outline my aims as COL COMDT. In addition to the standard representational roles on behalf of our Head of Corps, and the duties I perform as part of the RAEME Corps Committee, I intend to focus on linking the current serving members of RAEME with the various associations and ex-service organisations, who provide a valuable service to our esprit-de-corps and welfare. I am not just referring to the RAEME specific institutes either (such as the RAEME National Network, the RAEME Associations around Australia, and the various Unit and Workshop foundations and associations), but I also intend to promote and link the non-RAEME specific organisations with our current and ex-serving members. Organisations such as the RSL, Legacy, Mates 4 Mates, Soldier On, DFWA, Wet Vets and so on are all providing a valuable service to all service and ex-service people including RAEME personnel.

Anecdotally, it appears these organisations are not well coordinated at the national level, and the knowledge of their role, contact details and other key information amongst our networks are ad hoc and often reliant on word of mouth. Hopefully I can contribute to a more

coordinated approach and greater communications amongst our RAEME network in Qld.

I look forward to serving as COL COMDT Qld and hope to meet as many of you as I can over the next few years. The Corps is in great shape currently and is still the envy of all other Corps in the Army. Over the next decade, the ADF is undertaking a very large and complex modernisation program with most of our fleets of equipment being upgraded or replaced. This will bring significant challenges to our Corps and our people. I am extremely confident we will rise to the challenge and continue to provide maximum equipment availability, as well as modification, recovery and engineering expertise to those we support.

Arte et Marte

Steve Evans
COL COMDT – QLD
steve.evans@defence.gov.au



EVENT REPORTS

ANZAC Day 2019. 25 April 2019 marked the 104th anniversary of the landing of Anzac troops at Gallipoli. The Brisbane ANZAC Day March was well attended by over 150 RAEME Members mostly from SE QLD.

We were very privileged and honoured to have RAQ Life Member and Chairman's Award Recipient Maurie Maunsell attend to lead our banner, behind the RAQ Secretary COL Tony Borg and Hon COL COMDT COL Steve Evans.

Maurie who turned 96 this year was a founding member of the Corps, having enlisted on 8 Dec 1941, and served in 116 AUST BDE WKSPS achieving the rank of Corporal.



RAQ Life Member Maurie Maunsell with his son and daughter at "Friday's Riverside"

After the parade the Association hosted the post-march gathering of 175 members at a new temporary venue this year, Fridays' Riverside, near the Brisbane River.



RAQ Members enjoying the Function at Friday's

The new surroundings were very spacious and Friday's Manager, Owen, very graciously shouted everyone their first drink. 150 guests were well catered for at lunch and all comfortably mingled and accommodated across the venue on the banks of the Brisbane River. It was a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon catching up with fellow members of the Corps and their guests.

Specifically, I want to thank Manager, Owen, for his help, as well as Functions Coordinator, Paige, and their staff – your support and generosity was much appreciated. Last, but not least, may I thank our ever-reliable ANZAC Day Committee, who made sure the day ran smoothly for all attendees and making it such a success.

Jeff Maurice
Chairman RAQ
chairman@qld.raeme.org.au



Report on the Army Apprentices Annual Reunion – Brisbane 1 Jun 19. The 20th Annual South East Qld Army Apprentices Reunion was once again held at the Bulimba Bowls Club on 1 Jun 19.

About 200 Apprentices with their wives and partners attended. Attendees from our earliest intakes included two from the 11th Intake, Mike Muirhead and Ian McVie, who did us the honour of cutting the 'Crab' cake beautifully made by Belinda Slaats wife of (Jan Slaats 32nd). Our youngest attendees were Adam Carter and Pauline Blackwood – both 44th Intake.

Our cooks once again excelled themselves with our sausage sizzle – thanks go to "Chook" and "Kim". As usual, many extravagant stories and reminiscences were shared on the day, but a great time was had by all, and everyone is looking forward to a big year in 2020 in SE Qld.



11th Intake apprentices, Mike Muirhead and Ian McVie cutting the "Crab Cake"

The 14th Intake was there in great numbers and combined their 60th Anniversary Reunion with the SE Qld Apprentices Annual Reunion. Their reunion started with a visit to JLU-SQ based at Amberley. Our guide on the day was Nick Rees (36nd Intake F&T), who did an outstanding job hosting a tour of the new logistic facilities including a modern workshop, followed by a BBQ lunch with a raffle, in which two of our 14th Intake friends won meat trays.



The 14th Intake Apprentices in Earlier Times



Slightly Older 14th Intake Apprentices Visit JLU(SQ) Amberley in 2019

The final function for 14th Intakes reunion was a lunch held on 3 Jun 19 at the Carina Leagues Club. It was great experience meeting up with old mates, some of whom, we hadn't seen since marching out the gates of Balcombe in 1961. 32 Apprentices attend the various functions, including some with their wives. Unfortunately, age, wear and tear has thinned our ranks, but those who could make it enjoyed themselves immensely.

Brian Daley
Reunion Convenor and
Proud 14th Intake VM



SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION 2020 NATIONAL REUNION.

The Australian Army Apprentice Association (AAAA) is proposing to hold a National Reunion in Maroochydore, Qld, in 2020. Proposed dates are **23-24 Oct 2020**.

To allow the organising committee time to secure a venue with adequate capacity, and make firm bookings, we are seeking expressions of interest from those who may consider attending. Please let us know whether you are attending, as soon as possible, by email to events@austarmyapprentice.org, making reference to "2020 National Reunion",

Contact Brian Daley Mob: 0412721761 or by email at bjdaley14@gmail.com

Report on RAQ Gold Coast Annual Lunch – 13 JUL

19. The annual luncheon of the Gold Coast Chapter of the RAQ was held on 13 Jul 19 at the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club. 53 members and their partners attended, an increase on last year's event. All were treated to a classic Gold Coast winter's day with the temperature sitting in the low 20s temp, and with a fine view of the Pacific Ocean from the club house. Once again, we were well looked after by the supportive and friendly staff of the Surf Club - the only place to be on a winter's afternoon in Queensland.



Mara Fedczina, Ricci Ressel and Lyn Morrissey

Amongst those attending was a lunch regular, and original AEME stalwart and a past COL COMDT QLD, BRIG Bert Barker (Retd). Bert's is an interesting gentleman to chat to, especially given his links to the origin of the Corps, in 1942. Another first-time attendee was Des Drinkwater, and although now retired, Des was a long-standing member of the RAEME Reserve in SE Qld – any local Reservists, who read this article, and wish to renew his acquaintance, please get in touch. Oddly enough Des and I have been neighbours for 25 years in the same street, only four houses apart and have often "gasbagged" about life in general, but it was only about two weeks ago I found out his RAEME connection.



Freddie Baker and Graeme "Blue" Morrissey

COL Steve Evans, our new COL COMDT QLD, and his wife, Melissa, also attended for the first time, so attendees were able to put a face to the name. Steve also had a few words to say about the Corps' direction in today's Army and some of the challenges for RAEME in the introduction of, and the ongoing support for, many new weapon and operational systems, ranging from hand-held drones weighing about 40 grams through to new armoured vehicles. A brave new world !!

Thanks to all those who came for the day, especially those who came down from the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Bribie Island, some of whom as I understand were caught up in MI traffic, which is not the best way to start the day.



Lunch Convenors, Barry Skinner and Ed "Beans" Bevans and a visitor from Wodonga, Joe Owens

In a nutshell, we had a great afternoon with the usual fun of catching up with old friends – pretty noisy bunch all things considered – and we were blessed with fine weather.

Regards,

**Eddie 'Beans' Bevans &
Barry Skinner Co-Convenors**



QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS TO RAEME PERSONNEL - 2019

The following Corps members received Queen's Birthday awards in June 2019:

- Order of Australia Medal in the military division - **Major John Gordon HALEY**, for meritorious performance of duty in the fields of employment category management, training management and logistics capability development.
- Conspicuous Service Cross - Lieutenant Colonel **Trent Ashley GROVES**, for outstanding devotion to duty as Staff Officer Grade Two Postings within the Directorate of Officer Career Management – Army.
- Conspicuous Service Cross - **Lieutenant Colonel Edward Ronald STOKES**, for outstanding achievement as the Staff Officer Grade Two Logistics, Headquarters 1st Brigade.
- Conspicuous Service Medal - **Sergeant Gayle Claire WALKOM**, for meritorious devotion to duty as the Unit Welfare Officer and Batugade Platoon Commander at the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion.



On behalf of the RAQ, we congratulate all the award recipients.

SPECIAL AWARD TO ONE OF OUR OWN **AAUS Industry Champion – Leadership Award.**

On 17 Jul 19 at a special award ceremony, one of our serving RAEME officers LTCOL Keirin Joyce, CSC, was honoured with the award of the inaugural AAUS Industry Champion – Leadership Award; no mean feat for a Defence member.

Keirin's citation reads:

"Recognised for his hard work and contribution to the Australian unmanned systems industry, LTCOL Joyce has spent the last 13 years in support of the Army Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) capability including deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan and is currently the Australian Army UAS Sub-Program Manager responsible for all Australian Army UAS activities. Keirin's leadership has delivered remarkable, tangible benefits to the broader unmanned systems industry in Australia. So wide reaching and inspiring is his impact, when discussing unmanned systems in almost any context – Defence, Academia, Research, Industry, Professional Associations, Drone-Racing or STEM outreach programs, not only does everyone recognise Keirin, he is always the first person mentioned. Keirin has become the face of unmanned systems not only in Defence, but across the broader unmanned systems environment. Critically, this is the result of his deep commitment to the entire capability ecosystem, recognising the importance in developing a STEM workforce of the future that enables future unmanned systems development, understanding the value of collaboration across the research and development environment – from blue sky research institutions, through incremental capability enhancement through current service providers and end-users, through to ultimately realising world-class, disruptive innovation."



The RAQ congratulates Keirin on this achievement – for those who attended the Sunshine Coast Chapter luncheon in 2017, you may recall Keirin was our guest speaker and he spoke on the role of UAS in the ADF.

COMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE
RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion Sherwood RSL	Sun 4 Aug 19
Sunshine Coast Luncheon Maroochydore	Sat 31 Aug 19
AMEC Brisbane	16-18 Sep 2019
All Ranks Luncheon Brisbane	Sun 1 Dec 2019
77th RAEME Birthday	Sun 1 Dec 2019

For further details on any Events please contact the [Functions Officer](#).

RAEME ARES/CMF Reunion Sherwood RSL – 4 AUG 19.

The annual reunion is open to all serving and ex members of RAEME (ARES/CMF or Regular Army), or associated Corps, their families and other people who served with or were associated with RAEME ARES/CMF units. This reunion provides an opportunity to renew past friendships. Ex cadre staff members most welcome.

If you know of anyone interested in attending, who may not be aware of the function, please pass on this information:

Date: Sunday, 4 August 2019
Venue: Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSLA Sub Branch
 2 Clewley Street CORINDA
Time: 1100- 1600 hrs
Dress: Casual
Cost: \$5 per person
Catering: BBQ
RSVP by 28 Jul 19
Contact John Parfitt Tel: 33761778 or
iparfitt@bigpond.net.au

RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Annual Luncheon – 31 Aug 19.

Readers are reminded of this year's RAQ, Sunshine Coast Chapter, Annual Luncheon to be held at the Maroochy RSL on Saturday 31st August 2019.

Our Head of Corps, Brigadier Andrew Freeman, will be guest speaker and will address the 'Emerging Role of RAEME as the Result of Changing Technology and Operational Requirements', a very topical subject.

The newly appointed Colonel Commandant, Queensland, Colonel Steve Evans (Retd), will host the lunch and once again we are well supported by the Maroochy RSL, which looks after our every need.

Lunch Details:

- **Venue** - Room M4 Maroochy RSL, corner Memorial and First Avenues, Maroochydore.
- **Cost** - \$35.00 per head for RAQ members, including their partners, and \$40.00 per head for non-members.
- **Timings** - 1200 for 1230 hours on Sat 31 Aug 19.
- **Dress** - Neat casual.
- **Menu** – Includes a three course, alternate drop meal, with an interesting menu chosen for the lunch. Details of which are available on the [RAQ website](#).
- **Drinks** - The bar opens at 1200 hours and all drinks can be purchased at own expense.
- **Parking** - Free parking is available in the multi floor car park directly opposite the RSL. To ensure easy exit from the carpark, please advise the attendant at the

front desk in the Club foyer of your vehicle registration number before departing.

- **Reservation(s)** - Reservation details and options for payment are set up on the RAQ website shown above. If you have any difficulties booking or paying on the website, please email the Webmaster at: webmaster@qld.raeme.org.au
- **RSVP** – Reservations must be made and paid for by COB on 16 August 2019.

If you can't use the website to make your reservation, contact Treasurer, MAJ Steve Howells, at treasurer@qld.raeme.org.au or call 0400 850 396.

If you wish to request specific seating, dietary requirements, or arrange a group table, please email: commschair@qld.raeme.org.au



Ross Grant & Mike Prain
Co-Convenors RAQ Sunshine

50 Anniversary of Army Aviation Technical Training at RAAF School of Technical Training.

On the 17 September 1969 Army Aviation Technical Trade Training commenced at RAAF School of Technical Training at RAAF Base Wagga Wagga with four members of the 100 AFMECH course. Now all the Army Aviation Tradesmen and Engineers pass through RAAFSTT during their initial training phases.

To mark this occasion the CO and ALO invite all past Army Aviation Tradesmen and Engineers to join the Army Members of the RAAF School of Technical Training for a tour of the Training facilities, monument dedication and Dinner in the midst of the RAEME Banner. To be conducted on the Friday 13 September 2019.

The cost for Dinner will be \$50.00 per person for a three-course meal.

Please RSVP to the Army Liaison Support team by COB 9 Aug 19.

Army Liaison and Support team contact details:

MAJ Ted McKellar Ph 02 69374602
 email Edward.mckellar@defence.gov.au or

SGT Trevor Gillham Ph 02 69374604
 email trevor.gillham@defence.gov.au.

Ted McKellar

Major

Army Liaison Officer

CORPS ACTIVITIES, HISTORY AND MEMORIES

Chinook in Army Colours – Part I. A RAEME Perspective.

The surrender of the Medium Lift Helicopter (MLH) capability in 1989 was a force structure decision made under financial pressures with little appreciation of the importance of the CH-47 Chinook to the tactical mobility and logistic support requirements of the Army. As it has proved most recently in Afghanistan, the Chinook helicopter is a valuable means of concentrating and rapidly deploying forces and achieving one of the most critical principles of war; surprise. While serving in Canberra I was part of the campaign to reintroduce the Chinook into service with the ADF in the early 1990s.

In the mid-1960s Army was in the early stages of accepting responsibility for the maintenance of Army Aviation aircraft. As a young officer at 2 Base Workshop in Sydney in early 1967 I remember the recruitment visits and lectures to fourth year Vehicle Mechanic and Fitter and Turner apprentices enticing them to retrain to become Aircraft Engine and Airframe Fitters. Little did I realise at that stage that within a few months I would be at the RAF College Cranwell in the UK undertaking post graduate Aeronautical Engineering training destined for a career in the Aviation stream of RAEME. Over the next twenty years I spent approximately half of my time in Aviation related appointments and the remainder in broader General Staff and Engineering appointments.

I became the DGEME in December 1988. Prior to this I had two appointments in Canberra; firstly as the Director Technical Services – Army (DTS-A) in Defence Central (1985-86) and then as the Director Vehicle Procurement in Materiel Branch – Army (1987-88). In this latter appointment Major Mike McKague AAAvn was part of the Materiel Branch team involved in the early stages of the Air 87 project to replace the Kiowa.

When the Government decided to transfer the RAAF battlefield helicopter capability to the Australian Army in 1986 I was involved as the DTS-A in drafting the maintenance support element of the plan for the transfer. The catalyst for the decision that all battlefield helicopters be controlled by Army was the experience in Vietnam where RAAF helicopters were under separate command and based at Vung Tau approximately 50 Kilometres south of the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base at Nui Dat. (In South Vietnam 1ATF had also been supported by US Army helicopter units that were able to offer Medium Lift Helicopter (MLH) support with the CH-47 Chinook as well as troop lift support).

At the time I became DGEME the transfer was well advanced. 9 Squadron RAAF had re-equipped with Black Hawk helicopters throughout 1988 and was in the

process of relocating from Amberley to Townsville. On 5th February 1989 it was disbanded and A Squadron 5th Aviation Regiment was established. This left the CH-47C Chinooks of 12 Squadron as the only helicopters remaining under RAAF control.

It was against this backdrop that when Defence cuts were required in early 1989 the RAAF offered up the CH-47C Chinook capability. The federal budget in May announced that the Chinook would be removed from service on 30th June 1989 and 12 Squadron RAAF was disbanded on 25th August of that year.

The decision to remove the Chinook from service represented a significant loss of Army capability. Exercise Kangaroo 89 was about to commence over an Area of Operations ranging from Cape York to the Pilbara. It ran from July to September 1989 and involved one third of the Regular Army, 6,000 Reservists and 2,000 US Service Personnel with a mission to defend the AO against low level threats. The exercise highlighted the need for highly mobile ground forces and the difficulties of operating in hostile terrain over vast distances. In particular it exposed the range limitations of the Black Hawk helicopter and the lack of MLH capability required to deploy troops and combat support elements and position fuel, ammunition and stores.

The Minister for Defence at the time, commented after the exercise that “the basic conclusion was not that the ADF needed more troops but that we need to keep going down the road of mobility and that is to get people to the places where they’re needed at the time that they’re needed, and that is far more important than having a large number of people that can’t move anywhere”.



Photo by Ray Munden

RAAF CH47-C A15-001

The CH-47C Chinook was introduced into service with 12 Squadron RAAF in 1973/74. The Squadron was accommodated in purpose-built facilities at RAAF Base Amberley; not an optimum location given that the major Army formations were based in Townsville and Sydney. By 1979 six of the helicopters had not flown and it was contemplated that they would be sold. Over the next

decade the C Model Chinook proved to be a costly, maintenance intensive helicopter and as a consequence experienced a very low flying rate. In 1989, after 15 years of ownership, the helicopters had flown on average 2,500 hours each. So the potential revenue from sale of the airframes and a large volume of spares, and the reduction in operating costs that withdrawal from service would bring, prompted the RAAF to offer up the Chinook when financial cuts were demanded.

Despite the low flying rate the CH-47C Chinook had provided a military capability in areas where fixed wing aircraft such as Caribou and C130 could not operate. In addition the Chinook had performed a range of spectacular Aid to the Civil Community missions such as flood relief, shifting cargo from grounded ships, positioning mud to quell gas well fires and recovering downed aircraft.

Following the removal from service and after the identification of the lessons learnt from Exercise Kangaroo 89, Army Headquarters began a campaign to re-introduce the Chinook. This was urgent given that the Minister for Defence in answer to a question in parliament in October 1989 had stated that the Chinooks were to be sold as soon as the necessary administrative arrangements were in place.

The US Army had commenced accepting upgraded CH-47D model Chinooks from Boeing in 1982. The upgrade program included the installation of an improved drivetrain, composite rotor blades, improved avionics and flight control systems and improved cargo carrying equipment. In addition reliability had been improved by simplifying systems. By the end of 1989 the CH-47D upgrade program was in full swing and Boeing offered the upgrade as a way of overcoming some of the operating cost and reliability issues that had dogged the CH-47C in RAAF service. Boeing advised that it would cost \$13m to upgrade each of the Australian CH-47C to the D configuration.

In May 1990 the topic again became the subject of parliamentary questions in light of the absence of support for flood relief in Queensland. The Minister for Defence responded to the questions by stating that "one does not make Defence decisions on the basis of what civilian use they may have. I have ordered that the decision to mothball the Chinook be reviewed, but for military reasons, not for civilian reasons".

The Defence Program Management Committee in May 1990 accepted that a minimum of four CH-47D helicopters would be required to provide a capability to have two on line at any one time. In July 1990, based on this advice, and indications that the US was the only government to show interest in purchase, the Minister agreed to offer up only five helicopters for sale.

Ongoing discussions with the US throughout 1990 developed a frame work for an exchange agreement which was to be cost neutral. In March 1991 the Minister approved the exchange proposal on the basis that at least four and up to six helicopters and an acceptable logistic support package be achieved. Following the development of detailed proposals the Minister gained cabinet approval in late October 1991 for Defence to proceed with negotiations to reintroduce a Medium Lift Helicopter capability.

The negotiating team, consisting of representatives from Defence, Army, Air Force and the Crown Solicitor's Office, left Australia in mid-January 1992. The team first visited Boeing in Philadelphia to be briefed on the CH-47D Modernisation Program and view the Modernisation line. We then travelled to Washington for discussions with the Defence Attaché staff and the US Army. Discussions at The Pentagon were cordial with considerable recognition being given to the Australian contribution to the Gulf War in 1991. During these discussions, however, there was a suggestion that the US would only be offering three upgraded helicopters. The National Guard was withdrawing a Company of AH-1H Cobra helicopters from Hawaii and there was considerable political pressure to replace it with a company of eight CH-47D helicopters.



The CH-47D Modernisation Line Philadelphia

Negotiations commenced in earnest at Aviation Systems Command in St Louis on Monday 20th January 1992. After introductions both teams made presentations. The Australian presentation was based on the K89 scenario of vast AO's, limited manpower and the need for mobility to concentrate and redeploy quickly. The emphasis was on the requirement for at least four CH47D helicopters. On this basis, and within the constraints of the knowledge we had, our broad assessment of the financial aspects of the arrangement was also outlined. The US team advised that they were operating under tough, narrow guidelines but that the political will to succeed was high. They indicated that the financial aspects of their position were based on guidance that we would want three to five CH-47D

helicopters in return for our eleven CH-47Cs. They also stated, quite candidly, that in the overall US Army Chinook Modernisation thinking this project did not have much impact.

By Wednesday afternoon the US team had firmed up an offer. They agreed that we would receive the first four CH-47D helicopters of the eleven when remanufactured but that this would make it difficult financially for them to offer an adequate logistic and training package.

By the end of the week we had managed to negotiate an additional spare engine and other support elements into the package so that the final Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) consisted of the US acquiring from Australia eleven CH-47C helicopters, T55-L-11C spare engines with T55-L-712 conversion kits and Australia acquiring from the US four CH-47D helicopters, four spare converted engines, a support package, training assistance, access to the US Army Repair System, provision of a Customer Service representative, preparation and of CH-47C helicopters to US and provision of technical and maintenance publications.



CH-47D A15-102 and A15-103 in the hold of MV Tonsberg shortly before departure for Brisbane



Boeing representative, Derek Hart, hands over the logbooks of the first two CH47-D to OC C Sqn, Major Jeff Stark, on the 30 Jun 1995

The MOA formed the basis for negotiation of a formal agreement to proceed. The formal acquisition process followed the signing of the MOA with the eleven CH-47C helicopters shipped to the US in late 1992 for induction into the US Army Modernisation Program. Aircra

training took place at Fort Rucker and maintenance training was conducted at Boeing in Philadelphia and on-the-job with US Army units. In May 1995 four of the original Chinooks returned to service with C Squadron 5th Aviation Regiment in Townsville.

The Chinook has subsequently performed exceptional service in the operations in the Middle East and the next generation CH-47F has now entered service. The fact that this capability was reintroduced highlighted the skill and ability of the soldiers of the AA Avn and RAEME Corps to embrace new technologies and equipment.

**BRIG Bob Millar, Retd, RAEME.
DGEME-A 1989-90**

RAEME (All) at Sea. This year I had the opportunity to deploy on Operation RESOLUTE as part of a multi-discipline 7BDE team. Operation RESOLUTE is the ADF's contribution to the Whole-of-Government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

The training we received at 7BDE prepared us to operate as Transit Security Element (TSE) personnel integrated within a RAN crew. As a senior soldier, I operated as a team leader for a small section of soldiers, embarked on board an Armidale Class Patrol Boat. Our primary role as TSE was to provide security and personnel handling capability when boarding a Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV) or Foreign Fishing Vessel (FFV).

While onboard we integrated into the daily routine of the RAN crew. We assisted in daily ship cleaning stations, duties in the galley, maintaining personnel fitness and cleaning the 25mm Bushmaster cannon, 50cal MG and small arms in the ship's armoury. As an Electronics Technician, I worked alongside my RAN equivalent tradesperson, known as a 'Greenie', to fault-find and repair breakdowns at sea of the rudder indicator instrumentation and the all-important satellite television system.



Operation RESOLUTE provided the opportunity to engage with multi-disciplined teams of ARA, RAN and

AAR to achieve a common goal of maintaining the security of Australia's borders and maritime interests while exercising our compassion as Australian Soldiers and humanitarians.

CFN Tom Price 106 Field Workshop, 7CSSB

END of an era. Sunday 30 Jun 19 marked the end of an amazing career for Captain Steven Beck. Steven Corps enlisted to RAEME on 21 Mar 72. After a stint at Kapooka, he completed the 69/72 Adult Tradesman Electronic Course at Bandiana and the Number 4 Army Aviation Elect/Inst course at RSTT Wagga.

Steven had many interesting postings, all with Army Aviation at 5 Base Workshops Oakey and 162 Recce Sqn, Townsville, working on Sioux & Kiowa. He was promoted to WO2 fulfilling roles as Artificer Avionics, Artificer Aircraft Repair Troop and discharged from ARA to Inactive Reserve in 1995. In 1996 Steve attended James Cook University to study Museum Practices, Anthropology & Archaeology. After completing his Bachelor of Science Degree, with First Class Honours and University Medal, Steve embarked on a PhD in Philosophy in Archaeology. Stephen says that the Army taught him to dig holes and Archaeology taught him to record them.

In 2007, he transferred to the Active Reserve in the Australian Army History Unit serving as Collection Manager and then Assistant Manager with the Army Museum North Queensland (AMNQ) where he was involved in the AMNQ's move to its current location at Kissing Point, Townsville.

In 2015 Steven transferred to the Army Museum South Queensland as Curator where he has overseen the 6 monthly displays set up in the All Ranks Mess at Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, which now form part of the tours conducted at the Barracks. It just goes to show that a career with RAEME can lead to many interesting scenarios.



Presentation to CAPT Steven Beck

At a ceremony at Victoria Barracks on Wednesday 22 May 19, Steven was presented with a Head of Corp RAEME Medallion by Colonel Steven Evans, Colonel Commandant RAEME, Queensland. Steven was also presented with framed drawing by the Mr Neil Dailey, Manager Army Heritage, Australian Army History Unit.

**Kingsley Pocock
Membership Officer**



OPERATION SPANNER PACK

Quick Update. A further sixty Spanner Packs left on 2 Jun 19 for our men and women deployed on operations.

This dispatch takes our total to 4576 packs and approx 9120 kg's of goodies.

For all readers, please note we need your help to make the packages useful and meaningful, so if you can donate items or money, please visit the online shop on the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Website at www.qld.raeme.org.au where you will find a "make a donation" tag.

Arte et Marte

**Raymond Norman
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator**



VALE

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

- **Krishna**, George, passed away peacefully on 7 May 19. Aged 84 years. Celebration of George's life was held at Centenary Memorial Gardens, Wacol Station Rd, Sumner, Qld.
- **Lobegeiger**, Trevor, passed away on 10 May 19, followed by a funeral service at Emerge Church 1 Coorparoo Rd Warner, Qld.
- **Brown**, Ray (Fuzz), CAPT (13th VM) passed away 17 May 19 after a battle with brain tumours over recent times.
- **Tocock**, Ken, passed away 6 Jun 19. Ken was born in Reading Berkshire, England, and served in Vietnam 22/11/1968 and 5/11/1969.
- **Bestwick**, Darryl, passed away 6 Jun 19 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was a direct entry tradesman and a Fitter Armament.
- **Newby**, Fredrick Norman, QX081282, late of Sunnybank Hills, passed away on 25 Jun 19, aged 97 years. Loved and loving Husband of Corrine. Father and Father-in-law of David & Ruth, Peter & Judy, and Andrew & Gayle. Poppy/ Grandad to 8 and Great-Grandad to Ivy.
- **Stafford**, Roger, passed away on 2 Jul 19, after a heart attack on 29 Jun 19 in Townsville General Hospital.

- **Knott, Kelly Michael** (29th VM). Kelly passed away on 22 Jul 19 after a long illness.
- **Welsh, Thomas , Elnora Welsh** advising off his passing on 12 Jun 19. His funeral service was held at Chambers Flat Cemetery on 19 Jul 19.

WELFARE

- **Larard, Peter** (18th VM) is still very ill with Alzheimer's disease.
- **MacDonald, David** (Macca) was rushed Wesley Private Hospital following a major heart attack on 4 Apr 19. While in hospital, Macca was diagnosed with bowel cancer. He successfully underwent surgery on 21 May 19.
- **Dixon, Glen** returned home 2 Jun 19, following heart surgery, a valve replacement and with a stent inserted. He is doing well.
- **Hawkins, Trevor** (Trev) was admitted to the Mater Private for brain surgery. On 22 Jul 19. He has a tumour that must be removed. Messages can be sent to: trevorhawkins4@bigpond.com.

Please contact me if you hear of one of our RAEME family is unwell or in distress.

Barry Shipway
Welfare Officer
welfare@qld.raeme.org.au



DFWA INFORMATION

The following extract has been taken from the DFWA National E-News Issue 1 - July 2019. It focusses on the recent Pre-Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) meeting, but in the coming months our regular report will look at the many activities in which DFWA is involved and the critical restructuring of the national and state-based organisations currently underway.

"The ESORT meeting was held in Canberra on 20 June 2019. The 14 ESOs that are members of ESORT met to discuss the ESORT Agenda and other issues that members have raised. It is up to individual ESOs to prosecute their own issues with, if appropriate, the acknowledged support of others. [The pre-ESORT agenda is available here \(follow link\).](#)

You will note that:

- the Covenant remains an issue despite it now before Parliament. This will remain the lead issue for ESORT/ADSO until it is formally legislated.
- all issues that are on the pre-ESORT Agenda are not on the ESORT Agenda. Many are raised for the benefit of other member ESOs, to generate discussion or float ideas.
- Noel McLaughlin (President RAAC) attended the pre-ESORT though not a member of ESORT. He was and remains an intellectual contributor to the various submissions made by ADSO and reports accordingly.

- the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide—a Resolution was made, from which the Media Release was drafted. Both the Resolution and the Media Release are available for download;
- there were no DVA representatives in attendance at the pre-ESORT meeting.

The ESORT meeting was held at DVA Head Office Canberra on Friday 21 June 2019. It was Chaired by Liz Cosson, as Secretary DVA. Watch this space."

John Lowis

President DFWA(Qld)
johnlowis2@gmail.com



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I have just returned from a busy holiday in the UK walking through the countryside of various counties and catching up with friends. Those friends included a number who served in our sister Corps, REME. Much has changed in the way our respective Corps operate, but they still have a well-deserved reputation for professionalism and technical competence – just like RAEME! I was reminded, in many ways, just what a good job both REME and RAEME has done keeping pace with change, and technical innovation, and how that change will continue as our respective Armies prepare for future operational contingencies.

When I meet and talk with serving officers and soldiers of RAEME, and hear of the work they are doing, I am especially proud, whether it means coming to terms with new operational concepts and plans, assimilating new equipment as it enters service and adapting trade and work practices to meet the needs of the ADF in a new era and at a very busy time.

Our local Queensland RAEME units are part of the development process as they currently participate in Exercise "Talisman Sabre". We wish them luck and trust they not only increase their professionalism, but enjoy the exposure to many scenarios and situations with our allies.

Ross Grant
Chairman Comms Committee
commschair@qld.raeme.org.au



SPECIAL NOTICE FROM MAJ PERRI HOBBS, FORMER SO2 CORPS OF THE RAEME HOC CELL BONEGILLA.

The RAEME Head of Corps, the Deputies and the Corps RSM, are all extra-regimental appointments for people in otherwise very busy positions – Brigade and Unit Command, and RSM of the largest Army unit. Therefore, while emails and Corps queries will still be answered,

response times will vary greatly – please be patient, the HOC Cell is working to address the lack of manning.

While I am no longer the SO2 Corps for RAEME, I still would like to advertise the timeline for submission of articles for the RAEME Craftsman 2019. The magazine will be published in early 2020 to allow for articles and photos from the Corps Birthday. Submissions for normal articles and unit jottings should be submitted by **I Sep 19 to the RAEME HOC Cell email address. Articles and photos from RAEME Birthday should be submitted no later than 15 December.**

We need two types of articles: Unit Jottings and Feature Articles. Unit Jottings are the stories and events from 2018 that sum up the experiences of the unit's tradesmen over that time. It is a chance to get your name, and pictures, in print for posterity. Feature Articles can be written about a specific event, an argumentative piece on a topic dear to your heart (TRF or PME maybe), or interesting equipment modifications or construction. The 2018 Craftsman had excellent articles on the LEAN process, simulation in training, the results of the 2018 Corps Conference and the future of maintenance, and others. There were also two moving eulogies for Lloyd Millican and Mick Kenny.

All submissions need to be in MS Word, with separate pictures in TIFF or JPEG formats. Attach the photos in an email – do not embed the photos in a Word or PowerPoint document. Photos should be the highest resolution possible and uncompressed.

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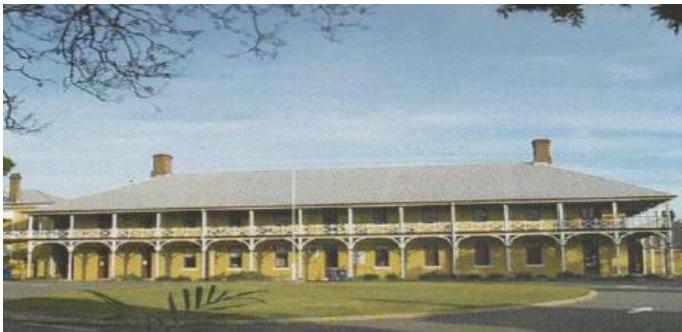
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BUY "WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING: CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1942-2014".

For those yet to buy the Corps memoir, it is a great coffee table book on the history of RAEM. It is also a great primer for those who have relatives in the Corps, who may be interested in their loved ones day job! The Corps RSM, WO1 Richard Colefax, and the acting SO2 Corps Heritage, WO1 Reinhold Dekrell, are managing sales, so the best way to secure a copy is to go to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on 'Shop' and then click on the photo of the book's cover.

To purchase a book, you need will need to make a deposit of \$40.00 by electronic transfer to the following account:

RAEME Corps Fund

BSB – 833205

Acct – 20509705

Once payment is made, please send an email to:

RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au and add the CC address of WO1 Dekrell, reinhold.dekrell1@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 2274, prior to ordering. Books should be despatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Army Maintenance Effects Conference (AMEC), previously known as the RAEME Corps Conference, will be held in Brisbane, Enoggera Barracks, 16 – 18 Sep 19.

The Administrative Instruction is located on the RAEME FORCENET page (www.forcenet.gov.au). Should any RAEME personnel wish to attend, who are not current serving members, OC 106 Fd Wksp will facilitate base access for the Conference, BBQ and dinner (subject to lecture security classifications, conference attendee numbers, dinner seating availability etc). Please contact MAJ Angela Langdon for further info/liaison. Email: angela.langdon@defence.gov.au or 0458 230 895.

AMEC 2019 Topics:

- Topic 1. How does Army maintenance training reduce specialist courses?
- Topic 2. How does Army baseline the doctrinal roles, responsibilities, and tasks for all key maintenance positions and ranks?
- Topic 3. What would an Army risk based optimised maintenance model look like to deliver the maintenance effect?
- Topic 4. Lessons for the L400 Boxer – what the aviation community learnt through experience with the introduction of Tiger and Taipan into service.

A Langdon

MAJ

OC 106 Fd Wksp Coy