



## **RAEME ASSOCIATION – QUEENSLAND (RAQ)**

### **SPANNER NEWS EDITION 2/12 JUN 12**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S DESK – JUNE 2012**

Once again I am happy to report good news on all fronts on behalf of your RAQ Committee. You may not be aware, but a lot of good work is going on behind the scenes to streamline our administrative procedures and with membership renewals. We have also made progress with the development of the RAEME National Association; and the RAEME Corps History Project (CHP). Additionally, we are reviewing the methods and ways in which we conduct all of our activities, including our two most important annual events, the RAEME Birthday Luncheon and ANZAC Day.

We are not contemplating major changes, but our aim is to improve our administration and reduce the workload on your very busy committee. We would be very interested in any thoughts you have on improvements we can make on your behalf with the running of the Association or our many annual events.

One area in urgent need of improvement is the management and accuracy of our membership records and procedures. We ask for your assistance as we renew our subscriptions this year, and introduce changes that may be necessary as your Committee considers incorporation. In particular, I ask that you return your annual subscription forms and ensure they are properly completed as requested by our Membership Chair, Stu Bowles. We would also like to see all non-financial members consider becoming financial as we go through the 'tidying up' process. You can find the membership form at [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org), or at the end of this newsletter.

ANZAC Day 2012 was another fabulous day for our Corps members (past and present) and our RAQ members, as we turned-out in sound numbers to march through the CBD, and then join in the remembrance and the fellowship activities at the Port Office Hotel. We should once again take off our hats off to Ernie Hartshorn and Jeff Maurice for organising another great event. Thanks must also go to our diggers, and WO2 Troy Amy, from ASEME/ALTC detachment,

Enoggera, for providing the Banner Guard and being part of the marching contingent – well done lads. Major Ian Leabeater led, the Banner Guard and our COL COMDT QLD Region COL Richard Kluckhohn led the RAEME contingent – thank you gentlemen for a fine professional job. Once again the staff of the Port Office Hotel looked after us, making us feel welcome and the day complete.

Judging from the response to the recent Spanner Pack distribution our packs are more popular than ever with our troops on deployment. We even have several RAEME folk, deployed in the Sudan, so Spanner Packs were sent to them as well as RAEME personnel deployed in the other locations. The total number of packs sent to all areas of operations to date is 2525, which means that some 3500 of our Corps diggers and support staff have received them in recent years. I have provided the editor with some of the many letters of appreciation, we have received from the troops, but sadly we cannot print them all.

The development of the RAEME National Association has taken a couple of important steps forward. I will provide a more detailed summary of the work going on to establish our RAEME National Association at another time, but suffice it to say here, the National Association's Strategic Plan has been issued to all the regional associations. For those who may not know, the RAEME National Association has the following Mission and Goals:

- Mission of the RAEME National Association - As a volunteer organization, promote and preserve the spirit de corps, reputation, and history of the RAEME Corps through its past, present and future members.
- The goals of the RAEME National Association's management organization are as follows: Promote the Corps' identity and reputation across Australia; recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps; provide a focal point for Corps activities nationally and regionally.

In addition, the RAEME National Association website is now up and working, and although still in its infancy, we are indebted to an ex-RAEME member for his support and assistance in getting it to its current state. CAPT Richard Legge (RTD) has kindly changed an existing website, which features most of the regional associations and made it a national website – I encourage you to have a look at the site and see what your brethren are up to in other states across Australia as well as use it to find out information about the Corps History Project.

The RAEME Corps History Book Project (CHP) is another exciting project for the Corps and all members past and present. As the Project Director, Ross Grant, outlines in this edition of the Newsletter, we need your stories and photographs for the compilation of the book – your stories are important to the reputation of the Corps, and it is important to preserve them and provide them to interested readers.. Details for submissions can be found at [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org) or [www.raeme.org.au](http://www.raeme.org.au) and click on the Face Book banner.

Enough from me, we enjoy your support and encourage others to join the RAEME family, here in Queensland, especially our serving soldiers and officers.

Regards,  
[Raymond G. Norman OAM](mailto:Raymond.G.Norman.OAM@raemeqld.org)  
Chairman 07 5476 6254  
[www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org)  
[rgnorman1944@gmail.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@gmail.com)



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## FROM THE COL COMDT

The ANZAC day march was as always an excellent opportunity to reflect, recognise and remember those individuals that have served their country. The fine weather ensured a very good roll up and it was encouraging to see so many in the RAQ of all ranks recently returned from operations. MAJ Ian Leabeater led a well turned out banner guard, and I had the honour and privilege to lead the RAQ contingent for the march.

At the completion of the march an excellent function at the Port Office Hotel followed. Once again, full credit to the organising committee. As always it was rewarding to catch up with old friends and acquaintances and to meet so many interesting and knowledgeable individuals. On days like this I don't believe there are many other corps that have such a rapport and camaraderie as we do in RAEME.

Ultimately the true test to me is the amount of partners, friends, sons, daughter's and other military members present at these functions – this year there was a great number in attendance. With the large turn up I observed, it believe it speaks volumes and clearly the function was a great success. I should also mention that the relationship between the RAQ and the Port Office Hotel is first-rate and is reflected in the tremendous service and support we the corps receive at every function hosted at the hotel.

Subsequently, I had an opportunity to attend the 104 Fd Wksp / LAD reunion function at Bulimba in early May. I had a very enjoyable time meeting many of the RAEME reserve fraternity and their partners. While recently in decline, our RAEME reservists are on the increase and their contributions both on operations and in barracks continue to maintain and enhance the reputation of the corps.

At this point it would be remiss of me not to mention the annual apprentice reunion, held in June at Bulimba. It was a pleasure meeting so many well-known identities in the corps (including many fellow intake classmates) and while there was representation from a number of corps, the majority were from RAEME. It was a great day, and a wonderful effort from the organising committee.

On a final note, some of you may or may not be aware the Chief of Army is conducting a review of all honorary corps positions across the Army to determine if these positions value add to each corps and the military itself. From my perspective (albeit a slightly biased one) I believe that these voluntary positions provide a valuable service to their respective corps and at minimal cost to the ADF. I actually consider their roles should be enhanced rather than diminished. Many of these positions are held by individuals with excellent experience and knowledge gained not only in the ADF but in private / public organisations. I will let you know of the outcome in the next newsletter.

Arte et Marte  
[Richard Kluckhohn](mailto:Richard.Kluckhohn@bigpond.net.au)  
Colonel  
Commandant – Queensland  
[rkluckho@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rkluckho@bigpond.net.au)



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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our membership renewal is underway as this edition goes to you and we would like all our members to be financial by the 30 Jun 12. Naturally **life subscribers** do not need to do anything, but for those annual subscribers, I encourage you to consider the benefits of life subscription – the benefits of being a financial member were outlined in the previous edition and include receiving this newsletter and the significant discounts on our major events and their accompanying dinners.

Whilst annual membership is good value at only \$10, a 'one-off' life-subscription payment of \$100 means you

will never have to worry about renewing your membership again – and in this case ‘life’ means ‘life’!

For our **annual subscribers**, just a friendly reminder that our subscription year aligns to our financial year, running from 1 July to 30 June and the renewals have been sent out for 2012-13.

For **non-financial members** who receive a constant stream of important and informative and other regular missives from the Association, via this Newsletter, have you considered joining? It’s very easy, with the form available on line at [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org) . We would love to see you become an active member of this great association and enjoy the discounts mentioned previously. For anyone planning to subscribe, we would ask that you use the online form to append your details, and to endeavour to complete the process by 1 August 2012.

In addition, the committee of the RAQ will undergo a significant re-structuring at our AGM in November 2012 and we are looking for a few fresh faces to sit at the Membership Committee table. If you can assist with your knowledge and skills, please contact our Chairman, Ray Norman.

Finally, we are streamlining our procedures in the coming months. One issue that will involve you all (members and non-members), and for which we require a positive response, is the matter of correspondence from us to you. We would appreciate you indicating on the renewal subscription form that you wish to continue receiving relevant and pertinent information from, whether by e-mail, ‘snail’ mail, or any other medium. Please tick the box on the membership form if you wish to continue receiving information. Without putting any pressure on you, a negative or non-response MAY affect HOW and/or IF we send you further information. Just to put your mind at ease, it’s all about the Association complying with Privacy legislation and Anti-Spam Rules. We take your privacy serious and in return, you need to let us know you are happy with how we are doing things.

Stu Bowles  
Membership Committee

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## REPORTS ON RECENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**‘ANZAC Day is arguably our Association’s most important annual event’**, or so says our proud organizing committee – Ernie Hartshorn and Jeff

Maurice– and who is going to argue when we continue to attract large numbers of serving and past members of the Corps marching together, and socializing later at the Port Office Hotel, our “home” in the CDB.

Notably may I congratulate all those who attended on your dress and decorum. It is a pleasure to see so many well dressed and well behaved RAEME soldiers. You are a credit to our Corp and our Nation.

Army lead the march this year, so we had an early ‘kick-off’. Our numbers were down on previous years, but we still put in an impressive display with our ASEME soldiers providing the Banner Guard, led by MAJ Ian Leabeater. They are a highlight of our march and their efforts are much appreciated. The rest of us work hard to keep up with them – all I can say is, WELL DONE to everyone who participated.



**The ASEME Contingent in the CBD**



**MAJ Leabeater Leading the ASEME Contingent**

On the other hand, the after-parade function was exceptionally well attended with many of our colleagues coming from other units, with whom they marched, and swelling our ranks at the Port Office Hotel.

Many a story was told and your committee is pleased to report that your entry fee was wisely spent on providing food and subsidised drinks during the long but enjoyable afternoon. We hope you had a good time – we do know that on the day, your immediate feedback was positive, however if you have any suggestions for improvement, please let us via an e-mail.

The committee thanks you for your support on this important day and remember we only have two more ANZAC Days before the big one in 2015, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

**Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn**  
Chair ANZAC Day Organising Committee

#### **Annual Army Appy Reunion Bulimba 11 Jun 12.**

This was the 12th Annual Apprentices Reunion held at Bulimba Barracks, in the old Bulimba Barracks Sergeants' Mess, now called the 'Quarry Club'. Numbers were down on previous years, possibly because the weather on the day was ordinary, but this year's attendees, numbering 51, enjoying the company of many former friends and colleagues.

Over the past 12 years apprentices have come from near and far, including one that graced us with his presence from Japan!

The oldest this year was Rowland Pritchard, a 9<sup>th</sup> Intake plumber. Four members from the 35<sup>th</sup> Intake, Richard Kluckhohn, Steve Peters and Ross Taylor, all electrical trades, attended together with Tom Gill, 35<sup>th</sup> F&T. Graeme Park, 42<sup>nd</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic, was our youngest to attend. This year we were delighted to welcome a member of staff, Doug Croft and his wife Joan.

There was a good balance of intakes with 17 intakes represented with numbers as follows: 9<sup>th</sup>(1), 11<sup>th</sup>(6), 13<sup>th</sup>(4), 14<sup>th</sup>(8), 17<sup>th</sup>(2), 19<sup>th</sup>(1), 20<sup>th</sup>(1), 21<sup>st</sup>(5), 22<sup>nd</sup>(3), 24<sup>th</sup>(3), 25<sup>th</sup>(1), 28<sup>th</sup>(1), 29<sup>th</sup>(2), 30<sup>th</sup>(3), 32<sup>nd</sup>(1), 35<sup>th</sup>(4), 42<sup>nd</sup>(1).

The raffle prizes of special labelled port were a great success with 12 happy winners. Ross Grant, 17<sup>th</sup> F&T, spoke on the RAEME Corps History Project, COL Richard Kluckhohn, COL COMDT QLD, spoke on the

benefits of joining the RAEME Association and its new national focus. Frank Maloney spoke on the Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) and the plans for the next gathering at Balcombe in May 2013, where the gates at the old Balcombe Camp on the Mornington Peninsular will be dedicated. He went on to issue a warning order for all to attend and support the event. Details will appear on the AAAA website so look for the promotional material soon.

Note that the 2013 Annual Apprentices Reunion at Bulimba will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June, so if you are in the area, come and join us for a great day.

**Brian Daley**  
14 the Vehicle Mechanic



**COL Kluckhohn (35<sup>th</sup>) COL COMDT-QLD, centre, enjoys a beer with two classmates, Ross Taylor, right, and Steven 'Johnno' Peters, left.**



**Gary Horn and Our Association Secretary Gary Sargent both 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake**



**John Pidgeon (17<sup>th</sup>) RAE, Harry Wilson and Ken Leckenby both 11<sup>th</sup> Intake and RAEME**



**Frank Maloney (13<sup>th</sup>) Encouraging Everyone to Attend the 2013 Gathering at Balcombe with Brian Daley(14<sup>th</sup>) and Bruce Hermann in the background.**

**Corps History Project (CHP).** I am very pleased to report that the Corps History Project (CHP) has commenced its work to gather suitable photographs and stories for inclusion in the next version of the RAEME Corps history.

As mentioned in our previous issue of Spanner News, the intent of this project is to celebrate the achievements of individuals, sub-units and units of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (RAEME) Corps during warlike and non-warlike operations and peacetime training activities. The other equally important intent is to capture and record stories that have underpinned and enhanced the reputation of RAEME over the past 70 years and ensure they are recorded in perpetuity.

Over the last quarter I am pleased to report on the following:

- Both the Northern and Southern CHP Teams have now met and individuals are getting on with a range of assigned tasks.
- The CHP now has a presence on the RAEME National Association's website, which also provides a link to the CHP Face Book page. This is a major step forward so go to [www.raeme.org.au](http://www.raeme.org.au) and click on the Face book banner for details of how to get your stories to the project team.
- The CHP face book site is in place and promoting the project, and the email address for contributions is being promulgated progressively as time passes – note it is [raemebookproject@hotmail.com](mailto:raemebookproject@hotmail.com).
- The two editors have compiled a 'straw man' framework of the book in a similar format to the Army's annual publication entitled, 'Army in Profile', to provide potential writers and supporters an idea of the finished article. This 'straw man' will be sent to the CHP Editorial Board for concurrence and will be ready in July 2012.
- Richard Kluckhohn is redoing the Communications Strategy for inclusion in the CHP Plan.
- Chris Mead, Deputy PD for the CHP, has re-drafted the CHP Plan to ensure the detail is up to date and relevant as the project matures.
- The SO2 Corps Heritage, MAJ Graham Anderson is looking at ways of publishing the book and seeking financial support from existing organisations like the Army History Unit, Australian War Memorial and the agency which produces the 'Army in Profile'.
- There will be a feature article about the CHP in the next issue of the 'Craftsman' magazine to tie in with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of the 'Craftsman'.
- The CHP has received its first \$100 donation from a loyal Corps member. This will be placed in the 'RAEME National Association CHP Working Account' to fund the Team's activities. Other donations can be expected.
- Over the coming months more information will be provided via the RAEME National Association Face Book page and the RAEME National Association website.

If you have a story with good supporting photos, then send them all to [raemeprojectbook@hotmail.com](mailto:raemeprojectbook@hotmail.com). It will be checked for suitability and passed to the CHP Editors for further editorial changes to ensure it fits cohesively in the final book. Hard copy can be sent to:

**HOC Cell – RAEME  
Latchford Barracks  
BANDIANA, Vic, 3694**

Ross L.G. Grant  
Project Director  
Corps History Project

**Operation Spanner Pack – March 2012.** On 26 Mar 12, a further 109 boxes of groceries, Corps stubby coolers, plus 30 large envelopes of various types of magazines and DVDs were packed for our Corps staff and support staff in all areas of operations. For those who may not know, ‘Spanner Pack’ is undertaken by your local association on behalf of the RAEME National Association, and is supported by all regional association, HOC, the Corps Committee and other individual sponsors. This time each box was shared between two diggers. These parcels were despatched in time for the troops to receive them on or about ANZAC Day.



**The March 2012 packing team – Ian and Wendy Leabeater (left) Gary and Lynell Sargent (centre) Raymond Norman and Karen Stafford (right).**

The Association has received too many letters of thanks to publish them all, but the following two give a you a sense of what the packs mean to those of our Corps serving overseas:

*Dear Sir*

*I send this quick email to thank you on behalf of myself (CFN Shaun Martin VM) and CPL Lee Bailey (Fitter Armourer) for the spanner pack that you and the RAEME National Association send to us. We are currently serving as part of MTF 4 out of Patrol Base Wali just outside of Tarin Kowt. It's always heart warming to receive your package, especially ones whose content reminds us of home and the people back*

*there that are thinking over us and giving their support to us while we are away from our friends and family for an extended period of time. This is both our second deployment as RAEME soldiers and the RAEME Association has shown its support to both of us on both trips, so thank you for your continuing support to RAEME soldiers both overseas and back home.  
Regards, Shaun and Marty, Two Tradies, PB WALI*



**One of Our Happy Recipients in Afghanistan**

*G'day Raymond,*

*Most of the ANZAC Day Spanner packs arrived some weeks ago, with the remainder trickling in with the last of the ANZAC Day goodwill mail. Thank you once again for the efforts of yourself and your volunteers. I know the Spanners Packs are gratefully received by all members of the Corps, especially those who are serving their deployment in the more remote and isolated Patrol Bases.*

*My deployment is coming to an end and my replacement is WO1 Steve Frost, who has been copied on this email, so the contacts are not lost. I know that Frosty will provide you with the same support that I have. Thank you once again and I look forward to catching up with you once I'm home and back at work.*

*Cheers,*

*Steve Luke*

*Warrant Officer Class One*

*EMEWO*

*HQJTF 633*

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## COMING EVENTS

**Reserve Forces Day Committee (South Queensland)** wishes all to know about a very important forthcoming event that recognises the values of volunteer service to the Nation. The following events should be noted by all and placed in your diaries:

- **29th June 2012. RFD Cocktail Party and Wine Tasting.** To be held at Victoria Barracks Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Brisbane, between 1830-2100 hours. Cost \$30.00 per head. Boer War theme. Substantial Finger Food. Service Dress with Ribbons. This is a Tri-Service event and all ranks are welcome.
- **30 June 2012. Recognition Ceremony.** To be held in ANZAC Square at 1000 hours. This is a Tri-Service event and all ranks are welcome. Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, Governor of Queensland, will deliver the Address. The theme is the Boer War. Service Dress with Medals should be worn and Unit, Ship, Squadron, Corps Associations Banners may be displayed.
- **1 July 2012. RFD Parade.** Ipswich, 1000 hours. Static Parade in South Street, commencing at 0930 hours. Step-off at 1000 hours (left into Nicholas St, halt at RSL Park.) Boer War Theme. Medals to be worn and the 'Recognition Ceremony' will be held in the Ipswich RSL Park following Parade. This is a Tri-Service event and all ranks are welcome.

**Note.** Commemorative Medallions will be presented to 'Boer War Descendants' at the events on Saturday and Sunday. Also note further details are on the website: [www.rfd.org.au](http://www.rfd.org.au).

**RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion.** This important event is to be held on Sunday, 19th August 2012 at the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch at 2 Clewley Street, CORINDA, see picture below, between 1100 – 1600 hours. Other details include:

- **Dress** – Casual.
- **Cost** – \$5/ person.
- **Attendance** – The reunion is open to all serving and ex members of RAEME (Army Reserve or Regular Army), or associated Corps, who served with RAEME Res/ CMF units, their families and other people, who were associated with RAEME and who wish to renew past friendships. Ex cadre staff members are especially welcome.

- **Contact Details** – RSVP John Parfitt Tel: (07) 33761778. Email: [jparfitt@bigpond.com](mailto:jparfitt@bigpond.com) 17 Elinga St Jindalee, 4074.



**106 Fd Wksp Reunion Notice.** 106 Field Workshops is holding a reunion in Mandurah, WA, from 19-21 Oct 12. Please contact the following for bookings and latest details:

- Peter Perry 08 9581 9113
- Steven Cartner 08 9547 1720

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## AWARDS.

**Australia Day 2012 Awards – CSC.** As we reported in the last issue, MAJ Keirin Joyce, 1 ATSR, Enoggera was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for his contribution to the introduction into service of the Skylark and Scaneagle unmanned aerial systems (UAS) capability. . Keirin received his award from the Governor of Queensland, Penelope Wensley, on the 14 May 12.

For those who don't know, Major Keirin Joyce jumped across from managing Army helicopters to Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in 2006 and '07, when appointed as the first Technical Support Troop (TST) Commander and Senior Maintenance Manager (SMM) at the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA Regt) (old 131 Div Loc Bty). He was part of the team that introduced the Skylark and Scaneagle UAS into service, doubling and tripling as the Aviation Safety Officer and Test and Evaluation Engineer for the Force Insertion Teams on OP CATALYST (Iraq) and OP SLIPPER (Afghanistan).



### MAJ Joyce with his Wife Rachael and daughter Lia

Major Joyce transitioned this knowledge into the DMO during 2008 and 09 where he was the Logistics Engineer on Joint Project 129 (JP129), contributing first to terminating the flailing contract that was underway, and then restarting the project as a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) acquisition with the United States Army for the Shadow 200 UAS.

Staying with the program, Major Joyce posted into Army HQ in 2010 as the Capability Manager Desk Officer for UAS responsible for the Skylark, Scaneagle and Shadow 200, and was seconded back to the DMO in 2011 to run JP129 as the Project Manager. Shadow 200 was delivered ahead of schedule, under budget, and immediately deployed to Afghanistan where it has replaced the Scaneagle.

### Queen's Birthday Honours 2012 – OAM and CSM.

The RAEME Association Queensland offers its heartiest congratulates two of our members for their award of the OAM and CSM respectively in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours:

- **Ronald Thomas McElwaine RFD ED** for 'service to veterans and their families through the Returned and Services League Australia'.
- **WO1 Paul Christopher Gibbs** for 'meritorious achievement as the Regimental Artificer Sergeant Major of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment'.

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### VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- **Mr Bruce IRELAND**, recently re-located to the USA, passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011, of a heart attack.
- **Bevan Pattison HART**, late of Peregian Beach, formerly of Indooroopilly, passed away at the Mater Private Hospital, Brisbane, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 aged 76 years.
- **Brian John Nugent MALONE**, 18<sup>th</sup> Elec Fitter, succumbed to illness and died in Pindara Private Hospital on the Gold Coast 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- **LTCOL John (JP) POWER, MBE, (RTD)** late of Carseldine. JP passed away peacefully 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 aged 79 years. JP was buried at Albany Creek Crematorium.
- **Ted Richards (Gentleman Ted)**, passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> May 12 following a stroke – more detail is expected.
- **Henry O'Reilly**, 14<sup>th</sup> Apprentice (ex 161 Recce Flt) passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> Jun 12 following a long illness.

### SICK PARADE

**Jim Morse** has been in Greenslopes Private Hospital with a bout of pneumonia but he is on the recovery list and is in good spirits.

To place welfare notices in the Spanner News please contact:

Mr John Parfitt  
 Welfare Officer  
 RAEME Association Queensland  
 Or send them to:  
[welfare@raemeqld.org](mailto:welfare@raemeqld.org)

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### COMMUNICATION AND CONTACTS

**Progress on the Fair Indexation Bill – A Fight for Fair, Just and Equal Indexation.** This update from our DFWA Representative, Peter Snowdon, gives our members a broad summary of the status of the current campaign:

DFWA is still heavily involved in the fight to get the Government (ANY Government) to agree to grant



veterans and retired members a fair, equal and just indexation. The fight continues with Operation Aware and several follow-on activities. ‘The fight continues’...that refrain has become a bit of a theme song lately, but it does continue and the pace is increasing.

The most notable activity in recent weeks has been a series of excellent interviews with Air Vice Marshal Peter Criss (Retd) on a variety of television and radio stations. They are well worth listening to so browse [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org) for the detail of the discussions.

There have been a lot of articles and updates recently from the DFWA. There has also been an article on 7:30 Queensland on the ABC, which outlined all the key points of the argument for a better indexation method, but it was heavily edited and lost a lot of impact. The subject was well aired at the time.

Another development has been the notice of motion put to the House of Representatives by Independent Rob Oakshott, seconded by Tony Windsor, about the need to improve Defence pension and superannuation indexation. It was debated on Monday 18 June 12, and detail will be provided on the outcome later. Bear in mind that this is not a Member’s Bill for Legislation – it is only a debate. While such a debate is not definitive in itself, and will not bind the Government to anything, it does raise the level of parliamentary and public awareness of our plight and is recorded in Hansard. Rob Oakshott’s Motion is:

**“MEMBER FOR Lyne :** *I give notice that on the next day of sitting I shall move that this House:*

*(1) recognises the:*

*(a) involvement of Australian service men and women in war and peacekeeping operations; and*

*(b) role of family, friends and community networks in supporting those Australians who have served in our military; and*

*(2) calls on the Government to:*

*(a) consider increasing the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme Pension, Defence Force Retirement Benefit Pension and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Pension twice annually by the greatest of the Consumer Price Index, the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings; and*

*(b) do this in recognition of the unique circumstances of military service compared to all others within the public service.”*

It could be argued that the motion does not go far enough, but it is a very good start. We wish Rob Oakshott every success.

A letter was recently sent out from Minister Snowdon’s office. This letter was widely distributed to anyone who had written to him over the preceding months about Indexation. Space precludes reprinting the letter here (if you want a copy email me, see below) but suffice to say it is the usual Government argument refuting our case. It is full of inaccuracies, false figures and misrepresentation of the facts. DFWA have provided Rob Oakshott a detailed critique of the Minister’s letter, to give him more ammunition to continue his campaign in the House.

A lot of information about indexation is being distributed by a various individual address books as detail comes to hand. With the “ink blob” effect it goes ‘feral’ fairly quickly. If anyone wishes to be included on my address list for distribution, please send me an email stating that you wish to be added and it will be done. Mail [pm.snowdon@bigpond.com](mailto:pm.snowdon@bigpond.com).

Finally, a plea for your help. Join the DFWA if you haven’t already done so. Without your help DFWA cannot do its job and fight for your rights. Join as an ordinary member and/or as someone who is willing to help. Check out the website [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org) and join today...please. It really is in your interest to do so.

You could also write to your local Federal MP, regardless of their party affiliations, and put our case. The more letters the better. I would ask that you are always polite (and I know you will be), but some letters have been disrespectful and I am sure you will agree that it doesn’t help our case.

Kind Regards

Peter Snowdon

[pm.snowdon@bigpond.com](mailto:pm.snowdon@bigpond.com)

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## FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

As I write this edition of the Spanner News, you will be pleased to learn that Ray Norman is at home recovering well from his triple bypass operation. He is under the strict supervision and care of his lovely wife, Karen, who has had to become ‘hard-hearted’ Karen, as Ray isn’t allowed to do anything physical at all, including play golf, for at least six months. So Ray is learning new habits – like lifting nothing, seeking help for the smallest of tasks, and becoming very a very patient

patient! Keep up the good work Karen, and Ray, get well soon.

Your Committee has had a busy three months since the March Newsletter and Ray's illness has compounded the workload of our association members, however, I am pleased to report that many have stepped up to the plate to minimise the fact that Ray must take time to recuperate. In the long term, this is a timely reminder that we must refresh our ranks, in particular the senior positions of the Association. You should be aware the Chairman's plan is to hold the delayed AGM in November, and put in place some new faces to manage the various committees. I encourage you to consider volunteering as a committee person so we can continue with a vibrant association and we guarantee its longevity. You will be made welcome, and in the true fashion of this association, there are many who will support you as you come to grips with the tasks we undertake on behalf of our membership. The load is evenly distributed to ensure you can still have a life outside the Association.

We are particularly looking for someone who can assist us develop our own website since the resignation of our web master, Leo, so if you have those type of skills get in touch with me.

Membership is another issue, which your Committee has been tackling recently. We are revamping our membership lists and are considering the merits of continuing to send out our material to our non-financial members – this debate continues, but watch it closely as it develops.

Many thanks to Brian Daley, and his good lady, Barbara, and their friends and family, who once again organised a superb Annual Army Apprentices Reunion at Bulimba.

Regards,  
Ross Grant AM  
Chairman of the Communications  
Committee  
[ross.grant140@bigpond.com](mailto:ross.grant140@bigpond.com)

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## **RAEME REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES 2012**

**NSW** 17 Sig Regt OC OP SPT SQN MAJ Bridget Mitzevich  
Holsworthy Bks, Holsworthy, NSW. 02 8782 2162

**ACT** DOCM-A CA - RAEME MAJ Elizabeth Stevens  
Russell Offices, Russell, ACT. 02 6265 5777

**NORTHERN REGION** 1 CSSB OC 101 WKSP COY MAJ Paul Luck  
Robertson Bks, Palmerston, NT. 08 8925 9101

**NORTH QUEENSLAND** 3 CSSB OC 102 WKSP COY MAJ Kane Wright Lavarack Bks., Townsville, QLD.  
07 4411 7678

**SOUTH QUEENSLAND** 7 CSSB OC 7 CSSC MAJ Cameron Aitken, Gallipoli Bks, Enoggera, QLD.  
07 3332 7645

**SOUTHERN REGION** ALTC SO2 ECM RAEME MAJ John Haley, Latchford Bks, Bonegilla, VIC. 02 6055 4053

**DARLING DOWNS** CO RAMS CO LTCOL Michael Millar, Army Avn Centre, Oakey, QLD. 07 4577 7400

**CENTRAL REGION** 16 AD REGT BC SPT BTY MAJ Tom Dowsett Woodside Bks, Woodside, SA. 08 8389 0290

**WESTERN REGION** 13 CSSB S3 OPS MAJ David Goldsworthy Irwin Bks, WA. 08 9269 4305

## **STOP PRESS**

The Federal Member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, MP, invites you to a Veteran's Community Forum to discuss indication of the DFRDB and DFRB with Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader of the Opposition on the Centenary of ANZAC, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012, at Caboolture Memorial Hall, 61-65 King Street, Caboolture. 09:45am for 10:00 am start. RSVPs are essential.

RSVP by COB 4th July to:  
[Wyatt.Roy.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Wyatt.Roy.MP@aph.gov.au) or by PH 5428 7755

The RAEME Associations wishes to once again thank the Northern Golf Club, Glenroy, Melbourne, for their generosity in donating \$2000 towards "Spanner Pack" program.



## RAEME Association Queensland Application for Membership / Renewal

New Membership  
Application

Existing Member

Member  
Number (If Known)

Title

Given Name

Surname

PostNoms

Spouse / Partner's Name

### Postal Address

Line 1

Line 2

Suburb/Town

State

Postcode

Country

### Contact Details

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Primary Email

Alternate Email

Life Subscription \$100

Annual Subscription \$10

No of Years

Total \$

### Payment Methods and Details

**EFT:** DEFCREDIT BSB: 803 205 Account Number: 20682037 Account Name: RAEME Association Queensland  
Member Number 82731 (For other DEFCREDIT Transfers only)

Please add your Surname and word 'Membership' in the reference box

Please email [treasurer@raemeqld.org](mailto:treasurer@raemeqld.org) to advise you have transferred the money

Cheque or Money orders made out to 'RAEME Association Queensland'

and send to: The Treasurer

RAEME Association Qld

PO Box 11

CANNON HILL QLD 4170

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