



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –
QUEENSLAND**

SPANNER NEWS EDITION
3/14
30 SEP 14

CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Welcome Spanners, to the 3rd edition of Spanner News 2014. As we move in to the 4th Qtr of the Calender I am really please to see the RAEME Association Queensland making positive progress in Key areas including membership and communications. As well, we aim at bringing our members an increased return for their loyalty and commitment. The association has been working towards activities that are not focused only on the Brisbane area but to expand our activities across SE QLD and QLD.

On 25 July group of RAQ members visited RAMS OAKLEY as guests to celebrate their 25th Birthday and get an insight into the training and facilities. Those who attended toured the hanger and received a comprehensive briefing on the depth of the training and joined the staff and trainees for lunch. The visit was enlightening and very enjoyable. Thanks to LTCOL Tsamis (CO RAMS) and MAJ Ian Johnson for the opportunity and their hospitality.

On 16 August we were pleased to be a part of the Sunshine Coast gathering, which had in excess of 60 members and their guests attend. The occasion was not only an opportunity to mix and renew acquaintances; it was also the unofficial launch of the New RAEME Corp History Book. The late afternoon gathering, (held in the Maroochydore RSL) was intended to be a short affair with drinks and a chat, this blossomed into 3 hrs with many adjourning to the club proper for dinner and more conversation. Thanks to the Maroochydore RSL and their President Mick Liddelow for their support.

As this go to print I am pleased to announce that RAEME Association Queensland and the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club have joined together to make "Life Membership" of their club available to "Current Financial" members of our association. This will make a fabulous club and venue (with a deep bond to RAEME) available on the Gold Coast. Plans are underway for a Gold Coast Gathering in the coming month. Some of our members may not be aware of the deep bond between the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club (MBSL) and RAEME. The MBSL was commenced in 1945 by AEME Craftsmen at the end of WW2.

<http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/about-us/mermaid-beach-aeme-slsc>

The AGM was held on 9 August at the LA Hotel Paddington –with the committee re-elected. All members of our association owe the committee a vote of thanks for doing a great job and for continuing to do so. The RAQ hold a number of Vacant Assistant Positions which we really do need to fill, we have been fortunate to have new blood step up and take on some roles however the **Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Communication and Assistant Membership positions are VACANT** and these need your consideration: - Why not give some of your time back to the RAEME Association Queensland to keep it functioning successfully.

Lastly we are fast approaching our Annual All Ranks Luncheon (30 Nov 14)- Ty Bodle and Shad Marsh have been working with the Port Office Management and the FIX Restaurant to bring yet another cracking event to the members, "You are Invited" ! Notice of the Luncheon is enclosed and I look forward having you and your guest/s join us on the day.

Kind regards,

Jeff Maurice
Chairman
07 5476 6254
chairman@gmail.com



FROM THE COL COMDT QLD

Greetings everyone. As we rapidly approach the end of the year now would be a good time to reflect on how much has been achieved by our RAEME men and women as they go about their normal daily tasks. Many of you have been on exercise since I last wrote, putting your skills to good use maintaining the Army's equipment in some reasonably harsh environments. I know your commanders have been extremely pleased by not only your high standards of maintenance but also your soldiering skills; reinforcing the soldier-tradesman motto: "*With skill and fighting*". By now many of you will have been notified your next posting including possible promotion. I wish you and your families good luck as you prepare for the next move and learning about your next location.

Earlier in August I attended a RAEME function on the Sunshine coast organised by Ross and Leonie Grant. It was a great evening meeting and catching up with a number of serving and former serving RAEME officers and soldiers, many I had not seen for many years. On behalf of all who attended, my thanks goes out to Ross and Leonie Grant, who in

between organising a trip overseas, Ross' day job and managing the Corp History Project (CHP), still had time to organise an outstanding evening with over 70 people attending. It was a great opportunity to hear Ross update everyone about the Corps History Project and to Ray Norman speak about the RAEME National Association (RNA). It was also great to see the chairman of the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Jeff Maurice and a number of RAQ Committee members there.

Congratulations to Jeff Maurice on having been re-elected Chairman of the RAQ and to all the re-elected/ new members of the RAQ committee. You all do a tremendous amount behind the scenes promoting RAEME.

I look forward seeing many of you during the forthcoming RAEME Birthday celebrations.

Arte et Marte,
Tony Borg
COL COMDT – QLD
anthonyborg@optusnet.com.au



MEMBERSHIP

Hello from the membership member, there was no interest in my position at the recent AGM, so it looks like it is me for another two years? Anyone interested in learning the ropes of membership (possibly with the long term plan of taking over in a few years) let me know and I can sign you up as the assistant membership member (the portfolio is not that difficult or time consuming).

The RAQ membership numbers continue to grow, keep up the good work and ensure you ask the question of those RAEME mates you occasionally catch up with “*Are you a member of the RAEME Association Queensland*” and if not “*Why haven't you joined?*”. I would be interested in hearing responses as to why they haven't joined, we can monitor these and if there are trends, the committee can look at ways to rectify the issue?

Some exciting news is that the new Website will soon have an area that is for members only (all current financial members will be provided with a login). At this stage the area will initially only have the membership roll (data base) and once you have logged in you will be able to view **your** complete record (I want to strongly assure everyone that you will only be able to view your record, so therefore others will not be able to view your personal data). Once logged in you will be able to update your record, if for example you have change telephone numbers, email or moved house, you can update the data base directly. You will also be able to view the current membership (names only) to possibly look

up those long lost friends? If you see a name on the list that you think is the long lost friend and wish to contact them then you will be able to send them a message. We still haven't finalised how you will be able to contact them but it will either be send an email to the committee and we will forward it on your behalf or if the technology allows we will set up a system where you click on the person's name and send them an email directly (it just won't display their email address – for privacy reasons), it will be then up to the member in question to decide if they respond?

Another new initiative that is coming soon is free lifetime membership to “Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club”. By becoming a member you will receive the following: Discounted drinks when you present your membership card at the bar, access to member only discounts, point accrual on purchases when card is provided, reciprocal entry into all surf clubs on the coast. Birthday vouchers are sent to your home address redeemable for a free food and drink and discounted offers. Members will receive emails keeping them up to date on current specials, draws and functions.

This offer is being made to RAQ members that are currently financial (no problem for the majority that have paid for life subscription). Details on how to join will soon be on our Website (just finalising the Application form), but basically it will be fill in the form, send it to me (RAQ membership member); I will confirm your current membership status and if all is good, forward your application to the club. Your membership card will then be available for pick up from the club.

Regards,

Steve Howells
Membership Member
membership@raemeqld.com
(W): (07) 3354 0572
(H): (07) 3264 3967

WEBMASTER

The RAQ Website continues to grow with functionality being added to the site on a regular basis. I encourage all members to visit the website, as updates can be added on a daily basis. Some interesting statistics on viewing habits for August/September include:

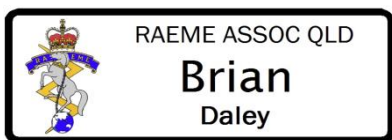
- The four most popular visited pages include, the Home page, Shop, Vale and Membership.
- Not surprisingly most people go to the site directly, with the second largest group able to find the site via Google

- Most users are viewing via Internet Explorer and then Google Chrome
- 80% of visitors to the site are new visits

The above information helps us understand who is viewing the site and how we can provide the most relevant content for our members and visitors. An example of this was we had an issue with viewing the site using Internet Explorer, we were able to identify this and fix how the site was displayed to ensure content was able to be accessed.

Members will also notice the following changes:

- **Events** - Members and Guests can now register and pay for events organised by the association. Where enabled simply click on Join and you will be automatically registered for an event. Payment if required is also enabled. Attendees will be automatically emailed on any updates to their registration or changes to the event. Members can also 'Invite' who they think may be interested in the event and attach a personalised message. Organisers have a dashboard which allows them to keep track of attendees and manage each event.
- **CMF/Reserve Function Images** - 42 photos have now been uploaded into the gallery
- **RAQ Name Badges** - These are now uploaded as items for sale in the online shop and can be ordered and paid for online. Simply select the badge (either Magnetic or Pin Clasp) and submit your order



- **Links** - At the bottom of every web page in the site map area, are all the links to our pages including any RAEME related sites.
- **Membership Portal** - Steve Howell's has been working with the National Website Group to establish our own membership portal. This will enable members to log into their RAQ account, update details, purchase items at member price and also allow for member only content and viewing. It will also allow emails to be sent out to members from the website via the committee.
- **Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club** - A new page has been raised to promote the SLS Club including the life member application form for all current RAQ

members, we also have a history of the club available to download.

Peter Matthews
RAQ Webmaster
webmaster@raemeqld.com

EVENT REPORTS

This year has seen some changes as well as potentially new and exciting events and networking opportunities to our calendar. Apart from our established annual events there has been considerable interest in establishing a Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast chapter. The Sunshine Coast Chapter (Ross Grant, Raymond Norman) and Gold Coast Chapter (Tony Rawson) are the driving force to these new chapters. In the future we would like to see a chapter established on the Darling Downs as we have a large RAEME representation in that area. We are growing in strength.



Shad Marsh
Functions Member
functions@raemeqld.com

Past events

Inaugural Sunshine Coast Chapter Gathering.

The first gathering of the Sunshine Coast Chapter was held at the Maroochydore RSL Club on the 16th Aug 14. The purpose of the day was to bring together those past and present members of RAEME or AEME, who live anywhere between Bribie Island and Agnes Waters, for a small social event and become acquainted. The second purpose was to bring all attendees up to speed on the progress of the RAEME Corps History book, which is now in the hands of the publishers.



Veterans who haven't seen each other for a long time – Ian Malcolm, Rod Edgecombe and Rocky Hema.

The day was an outstanding success with many people lingering after the event and catching up with old friends over dinner. Some 55 people turned up

and enjoyed one another's company. Interest in the book was very high as was the desire for another function later in the year when the book is printed.



Les and Pat Edis, Brian Daley and Steve Howells

I especially want to thank the team from Brisbane who had to journey through some pretty ordinary weather; the organisers' especially Leonie Grant, who looked after the funds; and everyone who came along and made this important day such a success.



Anne and Tom Polley, Jim Campbell, Chris Mead and Leonie Grant

I also want to thank the Maroochydore RSL staff for their generosity, for the use of a very good venue, their organising skills, the refreshments and whole-hearted support for our event – well done and thank you. I also want to thank Mick Liddlelow, the President of the RSL, for assisting us with the provision of a wonderful venue and we look forward to working with the club and Mick again.

Regards,

Ross Grant
Gathering Organiser
RAEME Association-Qld



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RACQ

Friends Down South. REP COL COMDT BRIG Dave McGahey sent the following photo of our cousins in Tasmania at a recent RAEME Association – Tasmania.



RAEME Res/CMF Reunion 2014

Another great Reunion was held at the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch on the 24 August. The weather was ominous a few days prior to the function but cleared prior to the event. We had a slight increase in numbers with 75 and again a few new faces. One couple travelled from Darwin.

The sub-branch member who volunteered to work the bar did not arrive but fortunately two of our members, Mick Nearmy and Peter Saxon, had the required Certification to serve alcohol and readily offered their services which saved an embarrassing situation.

Entertainment was again provided on the TV. This consisted of a slideshow from last year's Reunion, music by the REME Band and various military videos. The videos included some old footage

featuring the Scammel recovery vehicle and more recent recovery operations in Afghanistan. A selection of "REME in The Field" also stirred memories.

Twenty-five raffle prizes, many of them donated, were well received. Brian Daley was this year's winner of the popular RAEME cane, which is donated each year by Fred Nielsen.

A "mystery" prize was won by Bernie Sturdy, Treasurer of the disbanded 104 Fd Wksp's Reunion. This was a second novelty cane and came complete with a warning bell for overtaking plus a "stubbie holder" modified to hold required medicine.

Bernie later presented a cheque to the Reunion chairman, Fred Nielsen which were the funds remaining from the 104 Reunion functions. Because of this donation this Reunion's Committee decided not to charge any entry fee.

Fred Nielsen, congratulated Judy Kranen who recently was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to veterans and their families. Judy later cut our Reunion cake.



Judy Kranen OAM cutting the RAEME cake

We now look forward to next year's Reunion so if you could not make it this time we hope to see you next year for a great day when we renew Army friendships.

Regards,
Mr John Parfitt OAM
Welfare Officer
RAEME Association Qld
welfare@raemeqld.org



Future Events

RAEME Corps Luncheon

The RAEME luncheon is once again going to be here soon, this year the luncheon will be held on the 30th November 2014, at the great **Port Office Hotel**.

We have limited seating for 120 guest so make sure that you book your tickets or arrange a table. Tickets are already selling.

All booking can be completed through the new RAEME website via this link, [RAEME QLD - RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon](#). or search in the events tab on the home page.

As usual the staff at the Port Office are putting on a wonderful lunch, with the menu available on the website soon. so please keep an eye out.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Luncheon please contact myself or Shad in the [Contact us](#), and select Functions.

Look forward to seeing some new faces at the luncheon this year.

Regards,
Ty Bodle
functions@raemeqld.com
<http://www.raemeqld.org/>



Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA). The AAAA is pleased to announce that it is planning another gathering of Army Apprentices over the period 23 Oct–25 Oct 2015 in the Albury/Wodonga / Bandiana area – so put this event in your diary!

Many will recall our previous Balcombe Commemorative event in 2013 on the site of the old School, for its excellent turnout, contributing to the success of the event. The 2015 gathering is still in the early stages of planning, however I can advise the broad outline of events will include:

- Friday – a 'Meet and Greet' at a local venue with finger food, registration, merchandising of memorabilia and other goodies.
- Saturday – a visit the trade training facility at Latchford Barracks (ASEME), a function in Albury in the afternoon structured around the AAS "Freedom of the City of Albury" and the Gallipoli Centenary and Reunion Dinner.
- Sunday – a remembrance service at the AAS Memorial, Bandiana South Barracks, followed by brunch and dispersal.

Just keep a close watch on the AAAA website and Facebook. Your comments /suggestions/ offers of assistance are most welcome, so contact **Frank Maloney**, on frmal@bigpond.com or **0418 728 181**.

REUNION NOTICE – 106 FD WKSP ASSOC INC – HOBART 3-5 OCT 2014. 106 Fd Wksp RAEME Assoc Inc started off purely as a SVN

veteran's association. In recent years the Association's rules have been amended to cover any soldier of RAEME, RAAOC or AACC, who served in the Unit (or the workshop company of 7 CSSB Enoggera - recently redesignated 106 Fd Wksp) in either SVN, or any of its Australian locations over the last 40+ years.

The Association has conducted reunions bi-annually in various Australian locations over many years. The 2014 reunion in Hobart gives an opportunity for old and new to catch up with Army mates and holiday in a great location at the same time.

Accordingly, ex 106ers, and their partners, are invited to attend our unit reunion at Hobart's Wrest Point Casino function facilities this October. For detail on the event, including accommodation, please visit the 106 website at:

www.106fdwksp.com or send an email to either sectreas.association@106fdwksp.com, or president.association@106fdwksp.com to have detail sent directly to you. **Alternately, contact Pres: John Strachan – 0419 786 501, or Sec/Treas: Phil Bond – 0418 735 642, or Hobart Organizer: Pat Downey – 0417 336 218.**

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Operation Spanner Pack.

The final pack of Spanner Pack for 2014 will take place early October and hopefully the packs will arrive by Christmas to our soldiers on operations.

Unfortunately our number has increased slightly because of a further deployment to the Middle East.

As stated many times previous, the RNA will continue to send packs to our RAEME Soldiers and support staff on operations whilst they are deployed in harm's way.

Raymond G. Norman OAM
Spanner Pack Coordinator
rgnorman1944@gmail.com



RAEME National Association (RNA) Development. Thank you to all the RAEME Associations Nationally, especially the Head of Corps staff and Executive Committee members for your continued support in the ongoing development of the RNA. Still a way to go but we are gradually getting there and will soon have a draft Constitution for all member associations to comment on.

The most important step that the RNA needs to accomplish in the short term is to attract as many serving members as possible to the RNA as members. Not a difficult task you may think as membership is **free** and all we need is the serving members PMkeys (number) name and current contact email address for them to become a member.

All contact details will be secure, private and not passed to any organisation or person without the express permission of the member concerned.

All RAEME members that are members of a RAEME Association that are affiliated with the RNA are also members of the RNA free of any subscription. All State and Territory RAEME Associations are affiliated. More RAEME unit type associations will be invited to become affiliated with the RNA very soon. An application form is available on the RNA website www.raeme.org.au. Please encourage your serving mates to join up as many benefits are available to them and the State and Territory Associations

A short list of a few benefits by way of example:

- RAEME contact network to keep in touch with mates;
- Job opportunities that come up from time to time;
- Placing your CV on our various sites especially the RNA Facebook page;
- Advice on pension and DVA from RAEME mates who understand and care; and for the various affiliated Associations;
- The benefit of having contact details of those serving, so when a member decides to separate from the service the appropriate regional Association will be advised for membership recruiting and support purposes.

The RNA is very keen to hear from you with your thought and ideas on how we can improve our services to you and your association. We encourage serving members to become involved in their Association.

Please give this process some thought as without your support it will not succeed.

Changing of the Guard

I as President of the RNA will be handing over the position of President of the RNA to Phillip Coppin a member of the South Australian Association. He has

been a loyal supporter of the RNA and its goals and is currently the Vice President.

I ask that all please give Phil the support that I have enjoyed from you in the past. The Hand over will take place on the 1st November 2014.

Regards,

Raymond G. Norman OAM
President
RAEME National Association

MATES 4 MATES

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

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

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

CORPS HISTORY

Corps History Project (CHP). Much good news to report – the book is in the hands of the publishers and will be available later this year or early next year. The other important aspect of the book’s journey is that you can log on to the RAEME National Association (RNA) website, order the book and pre-pay for it. Please note the advertisement on the last page which contains instructions for logging on, ordering and paying for the book.

Once again, I have taken the liberty of adding two more abridged excerpts from the book for your enjoyment.

Conclusion.

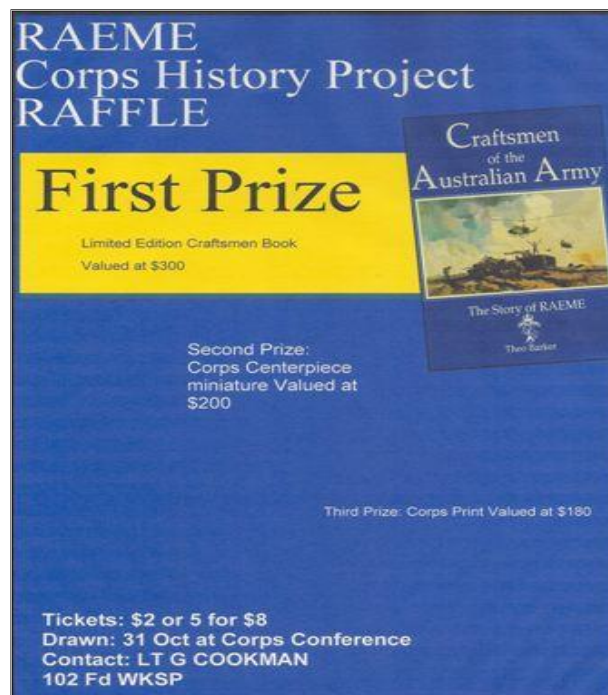
The book is with the publishers and the team is now working hard to have it printed by the end of January. Sadly we couldn't get it ready in time for the Corps Conference, at Bandiana, in late October. The current take-up rate, since the promulgation of

an email inviting people to order the book, has been very encouraging and all the limited editions have been spoken for - the new RAEME National website has been instrumental in advertising the book and allowing folks to place their orders quickly and simply. All credit to the national association and the IT team.

Kind regards,

Ross L. G. Grant
PD CHP

raemebookproject@hotmail.com



Support to Special Forces. *“With spring (March to May) in Afghanistan comes the fighting season. As the mountain snow recedes, Afghani tribesmen are once again able to move around the mountains and through the mountain passes. Traditionally the tribesmen have used the improved conditions of the fighting season to settle blood feuds and harass invading forces. In the current conflict the target of the tribesmen’s wrath has been the coalition forces and those Afghans who support them. As the 2010 fighting season developed and Taliban fighters travelled across the mountains into the Orūzgān Province, SOTG Rotation 13 arrived in country. The new rotation included Warrant Officer Class 2 Wes Lynch, ASM of the Logistic Support Squadron Workshop. The Workshop was tasked with providing first to third line maintenance support to equipment of SOTG, and recovery support. The Logistics Support Squadron consisted of a HQ, a Workshop Troop (minus), a Q store Section, a Transport Cell, a Catering detachment and medical personnel.*



Wrecker driven by Sergeant Dave Rose and Craftsman Nathan Crosley recovers an Afghan Police Hum Vee.

Logistic Support Squadron members were drawn from predominantly Special Operations Command units including; Special Air Service Regiment (SASR, 2 Commando Regiment (2 CDO), Special Operations Logistic Squadron (SOLS) and the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER). As ASM, Wes Lynch acknowledges, Rotation 13 was extremely fortunate to deploy with some very gifted tradesmen. Even so, prior to deployment, Wes had thought it unlikely that in this modern battlefield, a troop of RAEME soldiers would be independently let loose in an AO to conduct FRT tasks. The following story is witness to the fact that at least in this case, an ASM can be wrong!

The war fighters within SOTG were becoming very efficient at seeking out and destroying enemy fighters; using a combination of rotary wing aircraft and vehicle-mounted patrols, as the Fighting Elements (FE) pushed the Taliban deeper into 'Indian country'. An FRT deployed with all vehicle mounted patrols, initially comprised a VM and toolbox. Subsequently this grew to three tradesmen in a Workshop 'Mother Ship', an up-armoured Unimog fitted with a heavy weapon mount.

"The greatest threat to all vehicle mounted operations came from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). During Rotation 13, a number of SOTG vehicles were damaged by IEDs (one driver experienced three events) all without sustaining injuries. FRTs supporting the patrols worked tirelessly to rebuild or jury rig each vehicle to allow it to be 'A-framed' back to the Main Supply Route (MSR). Once the damaged vehicle was back on the MSR, the Workshop up-armoured Mack wrecker was deployed to do a pick-up run. This task usually comprised a four-vehicle packet, with engineer route clearance support and a signaller in the command vehicle. With the FE and the damaged vehicle, a transfer of equipment would occur to a clean vehicle in the packet and the crotch would be put onto the recovery trailer. This story is not remarkable as our

soldier/tradesmen are highly trained and cable of turning on an almost unsupported operation in a hostile environment; providing their own planning, medical, signal and fire support."



SOTG patrols were often supported by a 'Mother Ship', crewed by RAEME personnel, which carried additional weapons and equipment. Pictured above the Mother Ship, on the left, working with a Bushmaster vehicle.

RAQ MERCHANDISE SHOP

Be well dressed for the Corp Birthday Luncheon at the Fix Restaurant when you wear one of the selections of ties. You can select for stock now in:

- The original corps tie, The one that you never bought when you were at Bandiana.
- Business Tie in corps colours with single corps motif and the grey casual tie with corps badge and words Arte et Marte printed below.
- Supplies of Caps- "RAEME", "Spanner" and Artificer as shown on the website are in plentiful quantities

Due to a better buying price all ties are now selling for \$25.00 + p&h or less if financial member.

The RAEME Corp Craftsman Port for this year is hosted by 5 Avn. Regt. At this time no details on price and delivery have been released. If you are interested in obtaining a bottle or two, please email bkherb@bigpond.com, and I will let you know when it is available.

For all merchandise refer to the RAQ web site to see what is available, costing and how to purchase same.

Bruce Hermann
RAQ Merchandising
<http://www.raemeqld.org/index.php/shop>

SELF EVIDENT TRUTHS OR MILITARY SECRETS

A lot of life's problems can be explained by the application of the common sense inherent in these recently declassified "Military Secrets":

- 'A good battle plan that you act on today can be better than a perfect one tomorrow.' General George S Patton
- 'Aim towards the enemy.' Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher'
- 'When the pin is pulled, Mr Grenade is not your friend.' USMC
- 'When you're short of everything but the enemy, you're in combat.'
- 'Without ammunition, the Air Force is just an expensive flying club.' Unknown Author
- 'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.' - Paul F Crickmore (SR 71 test pilot)
- 'There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.' Sign over Squadron Ops Desk at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ
- 'Yea Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 60,000 Feet and Climbing!' Sign over SR71 Wing Ops pilot.
- 'If the wings are travelling faster than the fuselage it has to be a helicopter and therefore unsafe.' - Fixed Wing Pilot
- 'We are not retreating; we are advancing in another direction.'
- 'You don't win a war by dying for your country. You win a war by making the other son-of-a-bitch die for his.' General George S Patton

My thanks to John Parfitt for these "Pearls of Wisdom".

DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

For 20 years now we have been fighting the Federal Government for justice for our Superannuation. This year there has been some success with indexation for over 55s. The long road for justice in other areas of Super such as: Indexation for under 55s and MSBS; disability pensions; war widows; commutation end date; and life expectancy tables stretches before us. We have already started that journey. For more detail see DFWA Update No 284 Aug 2014 which is available on the DFWA website www.dfw.org.au

By "we" I mean all of us who write and petition our local members and the members of the various ex-service organisations, especially the member organisations of ADSO. One of the more active of

these is the DFWA. These are the unsung heroes of the fight and it is probably high time we paused and reflected on who these dedicated team are and give them due respect. Without their dedication none of the progress we are making would have occurred.

Heading up the DFWA Head Office team is David Jamison who has led the DFWA for some seven years now. Since the formation of ADSO three years ago David's workload has increased, often at great expense to his personal and family life. Aably assisting David in Canberra is the Executive Director Alf Jaugietis and Treasurer Paul Jones.

Up here in sunny Queensland, the Queensland Branch local blokes are President Rob Shortridge, Secretary Rod Brittain and Treasurer/Senior Advocate Wally Buldo. All dedicated and hardworking people looking after your interests.

The following is an example of individual efforts by some who are beaver away on their own to right the remaining wrongs with our Super system.

A number of papers have been presented by one of our members to Cathy McGowan on issues about DFRDB. Cathy is the Independent Federal Member for Indi, which is down Albury way. As a result of this, Cathy and Andrew Wilkie MP had a meeting and the following ensued:

" Mr Wilkie moved an amendment- that all words after "that" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words... " the House calls on the Government: (1) to expand the scope of the bill to include all recipients of the DFRB and DFRDB schemes, regardless of age..." The amendment was put and lost with support only coming from Mr Wilkie, Ms. McGowan, Mr. Bandt and Mr. Katter.

No surprises there!

Briefing papers were also presented to Ms McGowan on:

- Commutation.
- Non-Commuting member and the penalty paid in unfair indexation.
- Spouses Benefits and the impact of number 2 above.
- Indexation for those under 55 years.
- Historical Rates of DFRDB and Service Pensions.

You can see that we can all make a contribution in our fight for justice in the many anomalies with DFRDB/DFRB/MSBS. So if you have any grievance with your own circumstances in any of these, get the pen out and write to your local

member. The political affiliation doesn't matter, if your local member cares about his constituents, he / she will normally ask a question at least. The more of us who do this the more questions will be asked, but it all starts with us.

Now the Commercial. DFWA needs your support. They exist purely to protect the welfare of Regular and Reserve soldiers, whether still serving or retired, and they need your help to do so. www.dfwa.org.au/branches/qld is the DFWA Website. Please visit and have a browse. If you are not yet a member please consider joining.

Regards,



Peter Snowdon
DFWA Rep
pm.snowdon@bigpond.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Many of you are aware of the relationship we have with the Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Life Saving Club and the enduring strength of that relationship. Well, thanks to our current Executive Committee, that relationship has been boosted recently, and as you can see from the Chariman's Desk, we have been offered a valuable gift of Life Membership for all financial members of the RAEME Association Queensland. . This means you can obtain benefits when using the club facilities and will always be welcomed.

These relationships, with providers of many services, help grown our events calendar and allow us to offer good quality venues and events. The Port Office Hotel is another example of the community and business support we obtain and which we can pass onto our membership. The recent gathering at the Maroochy RSL is another. We are very grateful for these relationships and trust you, our readership, takes advantage of them and encourage other members to use them also.

On the recent gathering at the Maroochy RSL, I must say I was really chuffed at the numbers of people who turned up, and I was even more pleased to catch up with many, whom I hadn't seen for many years – this encourages us to look for another opportunity in the near future to host a gathering.

This brings me to another important but related point, in the life of our association – we need fresh blood. We have recently been given a boost by a number of younger men and women stepping up to the mark to refresh our ranks, but we still need one or two more willing workers. In particular, we

desperately need an assistant to John Parfitt as a welfare officer to keep track of and coordinate the vales and sick reports. I could also do with some assistance in the compilation of this newsletter. Please ask yourself whether you can give a little bit of time to supplement the team and ease the burden which falls on a small group.

One other important point, don't forget to have your say to our Association Web Master, Peter Mathews. He'd like your suggestions for improving the new website which is now operating – what functionality do you want to connect better with the Associations and its activities, advertise and or sell products??

Speaking of burdens, I am taking a small break to 'refresh' before our book is published – two months will allow me to get ready for a round of launches and ensure the new books are distributed sensibly and in a timely manner on my return. I trust you are all looking forward to the book's publication as much as I am.

Regards,

Ross Grant
Chairman Comms Committee
commschair@raemeqld.org



\$25 OFF
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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 November 2013 – 31 October 2014 and must be used by 31 January 2015*

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RAEME ALL RANKS CORPS BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Sunday 30th November 2014

Venue: FIX Restaurant, Brisbane CBD (Port Office Hotel)
Comer Edward and Margaret Streets.

Timings: 1130 hrs pre luncheon gathering for 1200 hrs.

Cost: RAQ Financial Members and partners,
Serving Soldiers and partners, \$60 per person
Others Guests and partners, \$70 per person

Meal: Four courses, silver service.

Drinks: Some drinks included

Dress: Smart Casual: Gents Tie please.

RSVP: 31st October 2014. Payment must accompany your reservation to secure the booking.

To Book: [click on this link](#) or go to www.qld.raeme.org.au/events

Please make up a table of RAEME friends and guests. Tables of eight to ten available or part thereof. **Limited seats of 120.** Bookings generally go very fast so book a seat or a table now!

To join RAQ is only \$10 per year or \$100 for a life subscription, which will save \$20 per couple on this function.

Go to <http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/membership> and follow the instructions to join.

Online registration is preferred, for manual payments contact the functions member.

A word from the Project Director

Here is an exciting opportunity for all members of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps (RAEME), both past and present; the many friends of the Corps; and the general public to obtain a contemporary memoir of the Corps for your bookshelves and enjoyment.

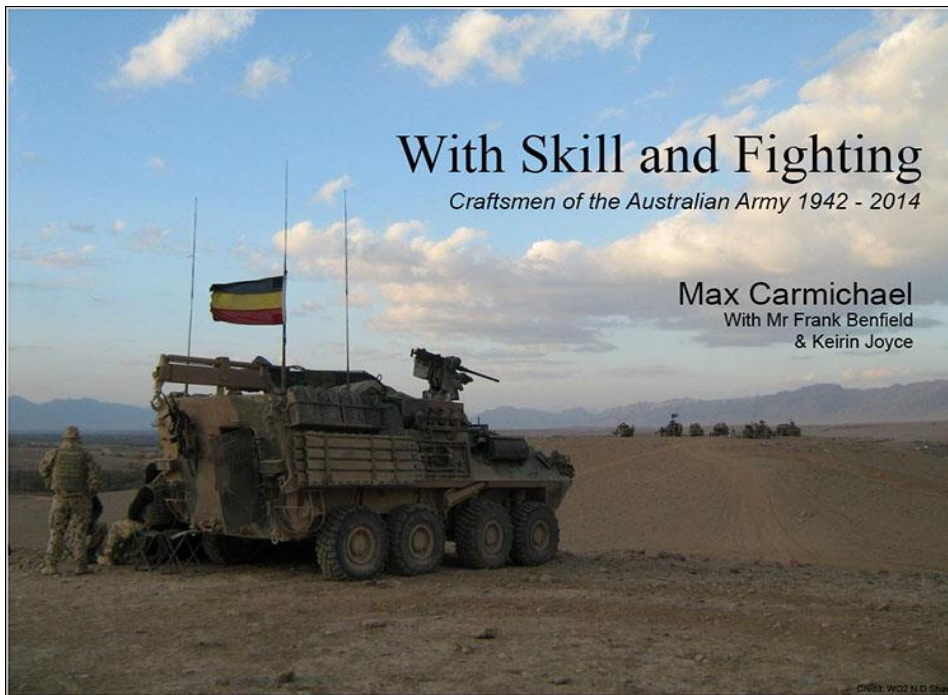
A small group of dedicated volunteers has put together a fine memoir that celebrates the Corps achievements, largely from 1942 to 2014, as it enters its seventy-third year of service to the Australian Defence Forces. Since 1942, when AEME came into being, the Corps has made a major contribution in many theatres of war, peace-keeping operations, warlike operations around the world.

The hope is that the stories that have been compiled from members of the Corps contained therein will inspire all members of RAEME to emulate the proud traditions and maintain those attributes, both soldierly and technical, that will ensure our well earned reputation will continue to grow.

These stories are also important to the general Australian community who know little about the 'back room boys' of the Army and their contribution to the Army's war-fighting ability through the effective management of maritime, land and aerospace equipment in war and peace.

You are invited to buy the book and enjoy an enthralling memoir of the Corps - I am sure you will finish the book with a sense of pride in the men and women of RAEME.

BRIG Ross L.G. Grant AM (Rtd)
Project Director



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