



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –
QUEENSLAND**

SPANNER NEWS EDITION
4/14
15 DEC 14

CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Welcome Spanners, to the 4th and final edition of 'Spanner News' for 2014. Once again I feel proud to be a part of our magnificent team, who continually strive hard to evolve and improve the RAEME Association – Queensland and its services.

This year, 2014 has produced some exciting and memorable milestones. Our committee has been invigorated with a number of excellent and motivated new committee members. We had a wonderfully successful ANZAC Day Function that was the litmus test for the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the landing at ANZAC Cove in 2015. The function was highly acclaimed by our members, who voiced their approval of the style – and format as 'the best event yet'.

Our association cemented ties with our very own Surf Life Saving Club – the MERMAID BEACH (AEME) SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB (AEME MBSLC), which commenced operating in 1945, with AEME soldiers from Bulimba, providing a valuable service to the community. Remember that now all financial members of our association are eligible for life membership of AEME MBSLC at NO COST! This is a wonderful opportunity and the club is a great place for gatherings if you are ever on the Gold Coast. Our RAQ members are treated well and we receive all the member benefits.

In August a group of 60 or more members and guests attended the Maroochy RSL for an afternoon gathering, the first for many years on the Sunny Coast. This gathering was a wonderful success -and has given us a vision to grow into local regional areas.

Our annual All Ranks Luncheon celebrating the 72nd Birthday of RAEME, held the 30th November, was another milestone event, with three of our loyal members recognised by the Head of Corps (HOC), Brigadier Andrew Mathewson, for their outstanding contributions to the RAEME Association – Queensland (RAQ), over an extended time frame. Well Done to Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn, Peter Snowdon (DFWA Rep) and Gary Sargent (Secretary).

Last, and certainly not least, the RAEME Association Queensland appointed our 1st Honorary Life Member, R.L G. Grant AM – Ross is a tireless worker for RAQ where he carries out numerous

roles and is one of the main players in getting our association up and running, but also over the more than 15 years he has been associated with the RAQ. It is a pleasure to have Ross as a committee member – he is a gentleman and a fantastic role model. Thank you Ross, you are truly worthy of this honour. Well Done!

The RAQ is a vibrant and lively group of men and women, who have a common background – we survive by the grace of our Committee volunteering their time for the good of our members, but we all need to step up and do a bit more to keep our association moving ahead, so please get in touch with me, if you think you can contribute in any way.

I would like to thank each and every member for supporting the association in 2014 and thank the committee and sub committees for their dedication and hard work – without your efforts, we would be lost. All the best for the Christmas – sing loud and remember to cherish our way of life—See you in 2015.

Kind regards,

Jeff Maurice
Chairman
07 5476 6254
chairman@qld.raeme.org.au



FROM THE COL COMDT QLD

Greetings everyone. The festive season is well and truly upon us so no doubt many of you are now working feverishly to finish up those last minute tasks before you go on leave or posting. For those that have far to travel by road; please consider leaving yourselves a day or two to slow down and refresh, prior to departing on your trip, rather than leaving straight after "knock-off".

I attended the 2014 Corps Conference at the end of October. This year the theme of the conference was: 'RAEME – Maintaining Plan Beersheba'. Briefly, Plan Beersheba is the name of Army's modernisation plan resulting in the creation of three 'like ARA brigades' (1, 3 and 7 Brigade) rotating through a 36 month force generation cycle; with each phase (Readying, Ready and Reset) taking 12 months. Reserve units will also be impacted by Plan Beersheba. The ARES will consist of six brigades which will be paired with each pair of ARES brigades marrying up with an ARA brigade, including being on the same force generation phase.

Actual tasking is yet to be determined, but not surprisingly, 'maintaining' the Army's diverse range of equipment, (including support to amphibious operations) is going to pose some major challenges

for RAEME, as some of the more complex equipments are dispersed across the three brigade locations. Some tanks have already been relocated in support of the Battalion Group in Adelaide and tanks and ASLAV will also be moving to Townsville next year, as part of the relocation of 2 Cavalry Regiment. A decision as to whether or not some tanks will be re-located to Enoggera is yet to be determined. Regardless of where the equipment will be located, or how complex these new equipments become, RAEME will be well and truly up for the challenge. These exciting times also present new posting and technical mastery opportunities. For me, the most rewarding part of the conference was the opportunity to take part in a syndicate workshop; listening to the well reasoned solutions being presented by our current and future Corps leaders – I can only say their efforts were outstanding. Not surprisingly, industry will continue to have a major role in our life; however the dynamics of the Defence/industry relationships, in maintaining Army's equipment, is set to change with a more integrated approach and Army taking back the responsibility for some 3rd line maintenance.

Closer to home, the Queensland region has again featured highly in the RAEME awards with soldiers from 3 and 7 Brigade winning the National and regional Craftsman of the Year awards:

- National Craftsman of the Year - CFN E.J. Lockie, 3rd Command Support Regiment, Townsville;
- North Queensland Craftsman of the Year - CFN B.J Corling B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, Townsville; and
- South East Queensland Craftsman of the Year – CFN J.D Ross, 106 Field Workshops, 7th Combat Service Support Battalion.

On behalf of the Head of Corps Brigadier Andrew Mathewson, congratulations to the winners; your awards were richly deserved. In addition I would also like to congratulate the recent Head of Corps commendation recipients COL Peter Snowden (Rtd), MAJ Ray Norman (Rtd) OAM, Mr Ian Hartshorn and Mr Gary Sargent for their outstanding work in support of RAEME soldiers.

Thank you also to RAMS in Oakey, 106 Fd Workshop Enoggera and the RAEME Association of Queensland for their excellent RAEME Birthday functions. Have a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Arte et Marte,

Tony Borg
COL COMDT – QLD
chairman@qld.raeme.org.au



MEMBERSHIP

The RAQ membership numbers continue to grow slowly– keep up the good work and ensure you ask the question of your RAEME mates: “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, and if there are trends, the committee can look at ways of rectify them. Of course, you must be able to articulate the benefits of membership – some are discussed below.

As reported in the last ‘Spanner News’, the new website has now opened the ‘member only’ section (all current financial members have been provided with a login). If you have any problems logging in, then get in touch with me, or the Webmaster, and we will rectify the issue for you. At this stage the ‘member only’ area gives you access to view your complete record. Once logged in you will be able to update your records. For example, if you have change telephone numbers, email or moved house, you can update the data base directly. You also have access to member discounts on merchandise and functions, the discounted prices will be displayed from within the member's only area. The committee is interested in your ideas for the ‘member only’ section of the website, so please get in touch with one of your committee members with your ideas.

Another benefit is free lifetime membership to ‘Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club’. To date we have had 28 members take up the offer, so keep the application forms coming in. To date, I have had only positive feedback, which is similar to my own experience. Quite a number are saying that they stayed for a meal when they went to collect their membership cards (available for pick up one week after you submit your application) and the food was fabulous. Another benefit of this offer is once you are a member you have access to other clubs through Clubs Queensland. Clubs Queensland has over 550 member clubs across Queensland including RSL, bowls, golf, surf lifesaving, leagues and other sporting and community clubs, check out their Website for a full list. Any questions in relation to this wonderful opportunity contact me directly.

Finally, may I again endorse the “Mates for Mates” program, in which your Association is participating, see the advertisement below.

Regards,

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



MATES 4 MATES

'The Power of Mateship'. Mates 4 Mates 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)**.

FROM RAQ SECRETARY

RAEME Association Northern Territory (RANT). In the past few months a group of likeminded former and serving RAEME people has come together and formed a RAEME Association in the Northern Territory. The RAEME Association Northern Territory (RANT) is in its fledgling stage. but has elected a strong and enthusiastic team to fill the executive positions. Assistance, advice and guidance has and is being given from both the National and State based Associations.

We wish the RANT all the very best in growing their association and if you know any serving or former RAEME people currently in the 'Top End' (both NT & WA), please let them know they now have a RAEME Association in their area.

Regards,

Gary Sargent
Secretary RAQ
Secretary@qld.raeme.org.au



RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND (RAQ) WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The RAQ acknowledges the importance of communicating with our members in a timely way in today's highly connected and dynamic world. To allow members access the full benefits of the association, we have developed the online membership portal on our new website.

Instructions on how to use the portal have been provided to individual financial members. If you have been provided with your personal username and password previously, please disregard this advice. It is then important that you login, view and update your details and then **change your password**. Please note RAQ does not store passwords. If you have forgotten your changed password, please follow the 'forgot your password' process on the login page

The benefits of logging in as soon as you can include the fact that we can set up 'member only' content; and if you purchase goods online, via the shop, logging in will automatically give you access to 'member only' discounted pricing. This also applies to any member events. A lot of work has been done behind the scenes to get the membership portal up and running. We do expect a small number of errors to have been made, if you have any problems logging in or have feedback please let us know.

For the next stage it would be great to have some 'member only' content, if any of the team have items they believe would suit this purpose, then feel free to provide it. In 2015, we will be looking at how we can improve the distribution of the newsletter and make better use of the new functionality, which is now available. Your committee sees a gradual shift to an all electronic version of this newsletter, provided three times per year (instead of the current four), but also being able to provide events advice and guidance in a more timely way.

Naturally, we encourage all recipients of this 'Spanner News' to become financial members of the RAQ. This way you can benefit from not only the functionality of the website, but the other financial and membership benefits mentioned on previous pages of this newsletter.

Cheers,

Peter Matthews
RAQ Webmaster
webmaster@qld.raeme.org.au



EVENT REPORTS

RAEME Birthday Celebrations – Port Office Hotel, Brisbane. The RAQ held its annual luncheon for the 72nd RAEME Birthday at the Port Office Hotel, Fix Restaurant on Sunday 30 Nov 14. Although the numbers were down a little, everybody had a great time enjoying the fantastic hospitality provided by the staff of the Fix Restaurant – they really do look after us. Their efforts complemented a great group of people, who attended, and had many

stories to tell – there was a great atmosphere in the room all afternoon.

We were honoured to have Brig David McGahey, CSC, (Rtd), the Representative Colonel Commandant for RAEME, as our guest of honour. Colonel David provided a very good summary of where the Corps currently sits, and some of the initiatives being contemplated, and as the Corps faces up to a many challenges over the next few years. Col Tony Borg, Colonel Commandant – Queensland, was also welcomed and pressed into service to present a number of awards to several very surprised Association’s committee members. These included HOC Awards to: Gary Sargent, Ian Hartshorn and Peter Snowdon for their efforts to the Association; over many years. Our chairman presented our Patron, BRIG Ross Grant AM (Rtd), with an Honorary RAQ Life Membership plaque.



BRIG McGahey (Rtd) Cutting the cake with Jeff Maurice



COL Borg Presenting Gary Sargent his Certificate



COL Borg Presenting Peter Snowdon his Certificate



COL Borg Presenting Ian Hartshorn his Certificate



WO1 Ian and Justine Baker



Jeff and Suzanne Maurice Enjoying a Well Earned Lunch



COL Tony and Alison Borg with Barry and Kay Skinner

May I congratulate the awardees on their successes and all the team who assisted me in putting the luncheon together. Keep your eyes peeled for the next luncheon in 2015 and don't forget to lock the **29 Nov 15 into your calendars**.

Regards,

Ty Bodle
RAEME Birthday Luncheon
functions@qld.raeme.org.au



RAEME Birthday Celebrations – Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera. Friday the 28th of November saw the 7th Combat Service Support Battalion play host to the RAEME Birthday celebrations for South East Queensland. RAEME personnel from all over the region came to Gallipoli Barracks to celebrate the occasion. The day began down at Alamein Oval with the traditional events starting with the Tug ‘o’ War, with each unit putting forward a team of 12, they battled it out in a best of three knockout competition. There were strong performances all around but it was 6 RAR that came away with the victory against 106 FD WKSP in the final. Following the Tug ‘o’ War was the Spanner Toss Challenge, where four members from each unit stepped up to the plate in an attempt to throw a large spanner the furthest. There were some great distances achieved by many but the event ended with LCPL Adam Ruth tossing the furthest for the 106 FD WKSP. Next came the event everyone had prepared for, the spanner cart race. All teams did an impressive job in making a cart and good teamwork was shown from all, but it was a photo finish with the 106 FD WKSP snatching the victory from OJT cell. The finish line was at the Borlace Club, where a large number of sponsors were located, who not only supported the day, but also gave all RAEME personnel a chance to interact with the civilian community, and other members of the RAEME community, helping to bolster relationships. The afternoon was made possible through the assistance of the RAEME Association of South East Queensland and the RAEME Head of Corps Fund supporting the event. The Colonel Commandant, COL Tony Borg, was in attendance to present the Craftsman of the Year award for the South East Queensland Region, to CFN Jamie Ross of 106 FD WKSP for his efforts throughout the year. A lot of work was put in from members of 7CSSB and overall the event was a great success.

ANZAC Day 2015. Don't forget the big parade being planned for ANZAC Day 2015 – watch this space for detail of the march and after march activities at the Port Office Hotel



RAEME Birthday Static Display at 7CSSB – Do you Recognize the Vehicles?

Story and Picture Provided by:
MAJ Peter Knowles
OC 106 Fd Wksp
7 CSSB

Blamey Barracks Tattoo. RAEME bagpipers who performed in the 8/9 RAR Tattoo on 31 Oct 14 to celebrate the unit's 41st birthday. A total of 108 pipers and drummers were on parade that evening representing 2, 3, 6 and 8/9 RAR, 5/6 RVR, Queensland Police, St Andrew, Brisbane Boys College, Army Band Newcastle and Perth.



L-R: LT M Hume (3 RAR TSP Comd), WO2 N Shaw (ASM 6 RAR), LT O Sulistio (20 STA TST), CFN B Wheadon (F/A 6 RAR), SGT S Iverson (TRF Officer 5/6 RVR).

COMING EVENTS

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

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 and offers of assistance are most welcome, so contact **Frank Maloney**, on frmal@bigpond.com or 0418 728 181.



OTHER HAPENINGS

Spanner Packs. Your Association despatched another fifty two packs in early November for Afghanistan bringing the total to 3150 despatched since the RAEME Association Queensland undertook this important task.

Please advise me if you know of any RAEME soldiers that are being or are deployed to places other than to Afghanistan. We need to ensure all deployed RAEME personnel get their packs. We would also like to hear from you if you know of anyone or any organisation would like to donate items to place in the pack – they often need their contents refreshed.

Regards,

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



RAEME National Association (RNA). As most will be aware Phil Coppin from the South Australian RAEME Association has taken on the role as President of the RNA for the next two years. I have visited Phil and advised him on the current matters being undertaken by the RNA and thanked him for relieving me after so many years at the helm. His contact details and those of the committee members can be found at www.raeme.org.au.

At the same web address you will find every edition of the RAEME Craftsman, the RNA Strategic Plan and your invitation to join the RAEME Social Network. All members of the Corps past and present are invited to join the network and remain connected to your colleagues and friends. Additionally, if you go to the Shop you will be able to purchase your copy of the Corps History Book. See the invitation below:

INVITATION TO JOIN THE RAEME FAMILY

www.raeme.org.au

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Corps,

The RAEME National Association (RNA) was formed to bring the RAEME Family together including all full time serving members.

Membership is free and we invite you to join the Social Network at www.raeme.org.au (Home Page Right side widget) to become a full member of the RNA.

Head of Corps and already all RAEME Associations Nationally are members of the RNA so join the Social Network now and encourage all of your fellow RAEME mates and other RAEME staff to sign up free. You can invite other to the network by using the invite button.

The idea is for you to be able to find mates and connect with them now and in the future and enable the wider RAEME family to talk to you and others.

Newsletters and other RNA material will be sent to you via this network. You can unsubscribe at any time.

MAJ Raymond Norman OAM (Rtd)

For RNA President

As past President may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year, including your family and friends.

Regards,

Raymond G. Norman
Immediate Past President
RAEME National Association



Membership of the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club. In the last issue of the ‘Spanner News’, we advised of an initiative, which your association has developed, in collaboration with the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club – ‘**Free Life Membership**’ – of the surf club for all financial members of the RAEME Association Queensland. Your Association has been working for some time to cement a closer relationship with Mermaid Beach Club, and we feel that we now have a great opportunity for our mutual benefit, and strengthen the long historical links between our two organisations.

All you have to do is complete the attached form imbedded in the PDF icon below, and return it to RAEME Association Queensland membership@qld.raeme.org.au. After some minor administrative processing, you will be able to pick up your card at the surf club at your convenience.

You must be a current financial member of the RAEME Association Queensland, by doing so you will receive the following:

- **Discounted drinks when you present your membership card at the bar,**
- **access to member’s only discounts,**
- **accrual of points on purchases when you present your card to staff,**
- **reciprocal entry into all surf clubs on the coast.**

In addition, birthday vouchers will be sent to your home address redeemable for a free meal and drink and other discount offers. Members will also receive emails keeping them up to date on current specials, draws and functions.

All Membership Cards can be collected from the Surf Club at 172 Hedges Ave, Mermaid Beach, Qld 4218, remember you will be notified when your card is ready for collection. We encourage you to take up this opportunity and make the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club the place to visit when on the Gold Coast, **Click on the icon below and print off an application form.**



RAEME application.pdf



Regards,

Gary Sargent
Secretary
RAEME Association Queensland Inc
secretary@qld.raeme.org.au



CORPS HISTORY PROJECT

In the last issue of our Spanner News, I provided an update on the progress of the Corps’ new memoir, “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014”. The key advice from that edition was:

- the final version of the Corps History manuscript was ‘with the publishers’; and
- the team was working hard to have the book printed by the end of November, in time for the Corps Conference, at Bandiana from 30 Oct 14’.

Update. I can now report that we didn’t meet that deadline because of the need to undertake additional proof-reading, which has added delay to the publication schedule by about two month. In addition, the layout work has taken longer than planned as we acquired more photographs from the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to balance the stories.

Where are we today? I am pleased to report that:

- the book’s layout work has now been completed, final proof-reading has been undertaken and all minor amendments have now been incorporated;
- the author, Max Carmichael, and I, worked with the publisher on 18 Nov 14 to complete the final editing, which corrected statements of fact, syntax, punctuation and the captions of some photos and text; and
- I returned to the publishers on 1 Dec 14 and authorised the despatch of the final proofed manuscript to the printers. I expect the book to be printed and returned to Bandiana HOC Cell, by late February, for distribution to those who have placed orders.

More advice will be forthcoming, but I encourage you all to continue monitoring the new RAEME National Association Website and RAEME Face book. <http://www.raeme.org.au/> . If you wish to place an order, please go to the ‘shop’ tab on the website and follow the prompts.

Book Cover. I have placed the book’s cover photo below for your information. This photo resulted from a competition, which was won by WO2 Nick Shaw, currently the ASM of 6 RAR Tech Spt Tp –

Warrant Officer Shaw was presented with his cheque for \$500 at the RAEME Birthday celebrations at Enoggera, by the COL COMDT, COL Tony Borg on 28 Nov 14.



The photograph shows an ASLAV fitters vehicle from Reconstruction Task Force Three (RTF-3) providing support and over watch during an operation in the Bellucci Valley, Uruzgan Afghanistan in November 2007. The vehicle crew, mainly from 2/14 LHR, were SGT Nick Shaw (crew commander and a Fitter Armourer), CFN Mark Hazelwood (driver and a Vehicle Mechanic), CFN Andy Powlesland and WO1 Ian Aitken (rear shooter, and an Electronic Technician and Vehicle Mechanic respectively).

Best Story. The best story award was won by WO Ian Baker, ASM of 6 Engr Regt, and describes his experiences as part of the Security Detachment – Baghdad – a short excerpt from the book is provided below.

‘SECURITY DETACHMENT - BAGHDAD

As the ‘Coalition of the Willing’ advanced through Iraq, the Australian Government decided to place an ambassador in Baghdad to open political and trade avenues between the two countries. To protect the Ambassador and consulate staff a Security Detachment (SECDET) was established. SECDET was also tasked to support other Australian Forces within 200 km of Baghdad, such as training teams to the north. An integral part of SECDET was a small RAEME workshop section. Warrant Officer Ian Baker recalls with pride the achievements of that section:

Initially the SECDET detachment was located outside of the US constructed ‘Green Zone’. However as the security situation in Baghdad degraded, resulting in numerous small arms attacks and bombings aimed at SECDET, the mission was

relocated into the reinforced Green Zone. SECDET’s new location was known as ‘The Cove’ in honour of the first ANZACs at the ANZAC Cove. The RAEME section quickly established its presence and commenced work.



A Common Occurrence – RAEME SECDET Team Repairing an ASLAV at 0300 Hours

Early rotations were required to conduct road runs as far north as Taji in support of the Australian Training Team. These runs took the SECDET teams along some of the most bombed and attacked roads in the world; and they were always supported by an ASLAV Fitters vehicle. Teams tasked with a run operated in full body armour. Inside the vehicles, temperatures regularly reached above 50 degrees air temperature, made all the crews work exceptionally hard for hours on end. Reaching the destination brought welcome relief and rest for all except the RAEME detachment who immediately began work on the cars after the Red Zone run had finished.

While some vehicle temperatures inside were measured at up to 66 degrees, outside hull temperature was measured during one summer at 79 degrees, hot enough to cook eggs on. Working with gloves on was common, and while the gloves were uncomfortable they prevented the hands from being burnt on the vehicle’s hulls. Where possible, night work routines were utilised. As most attacks occurred at night this practice meant the tradesmen were awake when the rockets and small arms fire started and were able to take cover more easily than if they were half asleep. Repair tasks were often exposed to small arms fire cracking metres overhead and occasionally landing within the repair task area. Close

rocket and mortar attacks merely suspended the repair task for a short period if at all, as most teams kept working through the attacks, taking the very RAEME approach of 'get stuffed I'm busy'.

The essential work performed by the SECDet RAEME detachment was the corps quintessential small FRT doing great stuff in tough and dangerous conditions.'

Conclusion. We have waited a long time for this book and I admire your patience. Those of us, who have read it from cover to cover, are equally patient, but more importantly, confident we have great stories to tell about the Corps and its members. These stories will not only be appealing, but rightfully promote the reputation of the Corps.

Kind regards,

Ross Grant
PD CHP
raemebookproject@hotmail.com



VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- Darryle **Wheelhouse** 33rd Electrical Fitter passed away 31 Aug 14 after a hard fought battle against cancer.
- Gordon **Sandilands** passed away 12 Sep 14. Gordon was a well known and respected RAEME officer.
- Wayne Ramon **Gerhardt** passed away 14 Sep 14 from cancer.
- Ed **Trickett** passed away on 6 Aug 14. Many will remember Ed as the sheet metal worker at 5 Base Workshops.
- Michael **Studeman** passed away on the 19 Sep 14. Michael served at Mob Siding Wksp and at RAEME Trg Centre in the 80's.
- Gary **Van Stam**, 24th Intake, passed away 3 Oct 14, and served at 3 Base Wksp, 1 Armd Regt Tech Spt, 1 Tpt Sqn Wksp.
- Michael 'Squeaky' Stephen **Jordan** 3rd Intake VM, passed away 5 Oct 14.
- Gary **Matters** passed away 28 Oct 14. Gary was a Vehicle Mechanic in the 70's then worked in the TAFE system until retirement.
- Roger Glen **Parsons**, 19th VM, passed away on 10 Aug 14. Roger served two tours in Vietnam with 102 and 106 Field Workshop during the period 1967 to 1969.
- Gary Trevor **Woods**, 9th VM, who passed away on 15 Nov 2014, from heart complications.

- LTCOL Ernie **McCart** (Rtd) passed away on 18 Nov 14. No other detail available at this time.

SICK LIST

The following member is battling a serious illness:

- LTCOL Ron (Scrubby) **Dyne** (Rtd) – being treated for various cancers.

Regards,

John Parfitt
Welfare Officer
RAEME Association Qld
welfare@qld.raeme.org.au



DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

Defence Force Remuneration. Once again, Defence servicemen and women are being treated shabbily. I refer to the recent pay 'rise' brokered on behalf of all servicemen by the Chief of the Defence Force. The Chief has agreed to accept a 4.5% pay increase over three years. That equates to a 1.5% increase per year. That is about 50% of the current CPI of 3%. But the CPI has been officially recognised by both the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Government as not being a real indication of the cost of living increases. The result can only be that the wages of the Defence Force will be effectively decreased. The servicemen will also have to give up 6 days Annual Recreational Leave and some other entitlements, such as Extra Recreational Leave and have increased periods to earn Higher Duties Allowance. See DFWA update No 285 at the link below for further detail including the names of politicians concerned about the situation:

http://www.dfw.org.au/publications/update-1/DFWAOct2014Update285.pdf/at_download/file

Disability Pensions. As stated above, the CPI is not a suitable indexation method for the consideration of the cost of living. Bearing in mind that we fought for 20 years to break away from the CPI as means of indexation of Defence Super, how can the Government now decide to revert to the CPI as the indexation for our Disabled Military members who have given so much of themselves (and their families) to our Nation?

Pressure on Local Federal Member. I am absolutely stunned by such decisions and every Australian should pound on the door of their local Federal Member and press for the government to reverse these decisions. I have already done so, and I encourage everyone, serving and retired, to write/email their local Federal Member. Just a

simple objection about the unfairness will do; the numbers may make a difference. I do ask you to be clear, concise and, above all, polite. You may also care to write a letter to the Editor of your local newspaper.

DFWA Update No 284. This update details a number of points not covered in the October update, including:

- The budget impacts on Veterans' Disability Pension.
- Indexation, access to employer contributions and Maximum Benefit Limits.
- Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS), in particular the new ADF Superannuation Scheme.
- ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangements (WRA).

The link to DFWA Update No 284 is below:

<http://www.dfwa.org.au/publications/update-1/284UpdateAugust2014.pdf/view>

Other Budget Outcomes.

- Axing the three-month backdating of Veterans Disability Pension claims – a long standing benefit acknowledging the unique nature of military service;
- Axing the Seniors Supplement of Gold Card holders who do not receive income support - this amounts to \$876.20 annually;
- Withdrawing the Government's share of an agreement with the States to fund Service Pensioner's Concessions for travel, electricity, phone and council rates;
- Withdrawing the provision to not count as income Military Superannuation when applying for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card; and
- Withdrawing indexation on the Clean Energy Supplement added to Veterans Affairs pensions and payments causing it to quickly lose real value over time.

Membership. DFWA needs your support. We exist purely to protect the welfare of Regular and Reserve soldiers, whether serving or retired, and we need your help. Go to our website to browse or better still consider joining up:

www.dfwa.org/branches/qld

The fight for better conditions for all Defence matters is being waged by the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) of which DFWA is one of the senior partners. Visit www.standto.org to see the full gambit of their activities.

Regards,

Peter Snowdon
DFWA Rep
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is the final Spanner News for 2014 – what a year! Where does one start in considering the many activities the Association has sponsored, undertaken or assisted with – too many to list here! However, I'd like to pick out a few highlights.

For me, ANZAC Day remains the pre-eminent event for the year. The parade is well attended, the post-march bonhomie, drinks and food is wonderful and the whole atmosphere is a credit to the organisers and the many attendees who number in their hundreds – let's make a special effort in 2015 and see if we can break a record for attendance.

The second event is the RAEME Corps Birthday, celebrations at the ever reliable Fix Restaurant in the Port Office Hotel. Well done to Ty Bodle for his first attempt at convening this important event. His supportive team also deserve a special vote of thanks for another great day

I also believe the work undertaken, but continuing, by the RAEME National Association to work with all the associations across Australia and their webmasters to build the current RNA Web Site deserves special mention – what an achievement after all these years. The work of the team, under Ray Norman, Immediate Past President; Richard Legge, who servers, advice and technical expertise is offered freely and generously; the national webmaster, Dean Ellis, who has been battling away with Ray for many years on the system; and all the association webmasters, who have contributed a great deal of time to get us to where we are today. Your efforts have been exemplary and have set a new standard for collaboration – well done team! F

Finally may I thank all the folks involved in organising the gathering on the Sunshine Coast in August for your support and attendance – we look forward to another one in 2015 possibly when the Corps history is ready for distribution.

My final comments in this newsletter are to do with the Corps history book. The last run down to the finish line for this project has been tortuous – I never expected the editing process would be so laborious, but it has. So, again, I ask those of you who have ordered a copy, to wait a little longer. I am now quietly confident that we will have a book available

for distribution in late February, and that it will be a good read.

May I also wish all a Happy Christmas and that 2015 is a great year for you and yours.

Regards,

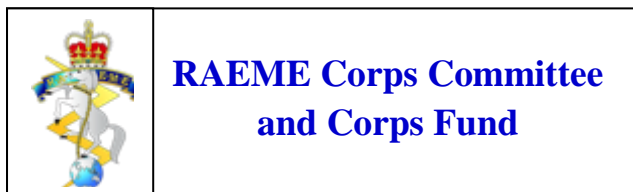
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LATE NEWS: Did you know that Brian Daley our Association's Apprentice Association representative, was recently made a Life Member of the Australian Army Apprentices Association at their recent AGM. Brian is the 1st and only Life Member. Congratulations to Brian on this unique achievement!



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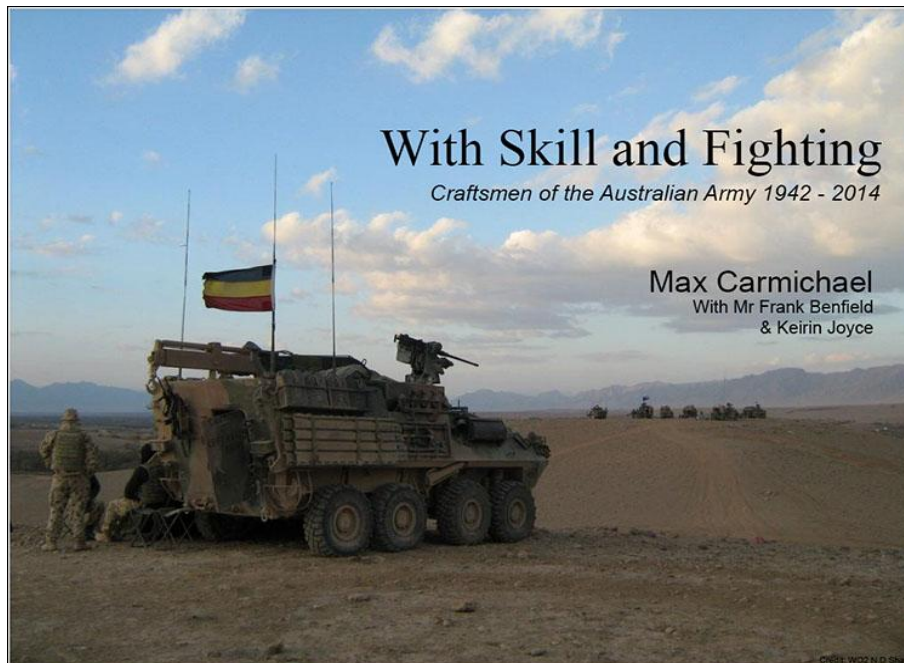


The new Corps History entitled ‘With Skill and Fighting – Craftsman of the Australian Army 1942 – 2014’ is selling well. Indeed all of the limited edition copies are now sold. However the opportunity still exists to buy the hard cover version, the cover of which is depicted below in the award winning photograph.

While there have been some delays in finalising the editing work, it is expected that the book will be available in late February 2015. This means it will be available at a convenient time and as part of the Corps celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

The stories and memoirs contained in the book provide a rich source of events, activities, operations and training exercise in which members of our Corps have been involved for the last 73 years. It also contains some stories prior to 1942 to assist younger members of the Corps and the general public understand the rich heritage of the Corps. These stories are particularly interesting to those, who aspire to serve in the Corps, as well as the general Australian community, who know little about the ‘back room boys’ of the army and their contribution to the Army’s war fighting capability. This book enhances the reputation of the Corps and all who have served.

You are invited to buy the book and enjoy this enthralling memoir of RAEME by going to <http://www.raeme.org.au/> and following the prompts.



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