



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –  
QUEENSLAND**

**SPANNER NEWS EDITION**  
**1/15**  
**6 APR 15**

**CHAIRMAN’S DESK**

Spanners, welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the ‘Spanner News’ for 2015. You will see from its comprehensive content that we have a busy year of commemorations, events and other local activities to organise and attend. This is going to keep your Committee very busy – I therefore hope that you not only enjoy this edition of ‘Spanner News’; but that you avail yourselves of all the opportunities to participate in these events and enjoy the camaraderie of your RAEME friends and colleagues. As I have said many times, I am immensely proud our magnificent and hardworking team, who continually strive hard to improve the offerings of RAEME Association–Queensland (RAQ) and its support to our members.

There is much of interest in this edition of ‘Spanner News’, but may I draw your attention to two very important events to be held in the near future – our ANZAC Day March and post–march gathering at the Port Office Hotel; followed closely by a gathering at the Maroochydore RSL, organised by the Sunshine Coast Chapter. While these events are for our local members and friends, we encourage anyone who may be visiting Queensland to join us. Both events have been well attended before and I trust you take full advantage of the good food, drink and entertainment on offer to catch up with old friends, while making some new ones. **All the detail you require to get to and enjoy these events is in this edition.**

Your Executive Committee met in January and scoped out the Association’s objectives for 2015. There will be no changes to the premier events – ANZAC Day, Corps Birthday and regular support to the Spanner Club’s at Enoggera Barracks. But we will be looking at how we can lever off the newly improved RAQ website and the RAEME National Association website to promote more involvement – these are tremendous tools for keeping us all in touch, gaining new members, selling our popular produce, advertising and telling our stories. You can also use the ‘member’s only’ section and find much privileged information – but you do have to be a current financial member. Remember financial membership also provides discounted RAQ products, access to our events at discounted rates and life membership of the Mermaid Beach AEME

Surf Life Saving Club. Not a bad deal for \$10 a year of \$100 life membership.

Our Executive Committee is also keen to bring in some fresh blood and new faces. Recently we found a volunteer to replace John Parfitt, our long-serving and faithful Welfare Member. John didn’t have to twist anyone’s arm and we welcome Barry Shipway, who has kindly offered to take on this important role in the near future. We do need a new assistant Treasurer shortly and a new Communications Chair in the future, so step forward if you are interested.

Speaking of communications, we will only have three editions of ‘Spanner New’ this year. While the ‘Spanner News is full of rich content, it isn’t as timely as putting event details on the websites. We are also aware that many of you are not opening your newsletters, we are keen to understand if you would prefer to use the website and forgo the Spanner News altogether – if we have got this view wrong, then get in touch with me, or Ross Grant, the Editor, and let us know.

I trust you enjoy this important year and the many commemorations for the landing at ANZAC Cove. I also look forward to catching up with you at our many events.

Kind regards,

**Jeff Maurice**  
**Chairman**  
**07 5476 6254**  
[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



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**MESSAGE FROM THE REP COL COMDT –  
BRIG DAVE MCGAHEY CSC (RTD)**

As 2015 opens, our Corps is in for another challenging year operationally and domestically. Members of RAEME have now deployed in support of our new national commitment in Iraq and UAE and will continue to be involved in winding-down our commitment to Afghanistan. There is no doubt the challenges for RAEME of maintaining the battle-worthiness of equipment in the these harsh, hostile and remote environments will continue for some time, but as always, the Corps will rise to the occasion with our traditional ‘can do’ attitude.

Domestically the Defence Budget will come under increasing pressure as the economic headwinds for the national economy prevail. That said, members of our Corps are currently involved in some major re-equipment programs for Army that will see the rump of the A & B vehicles & bridging equipment replaced under capital equipment projects Land 121, Land 400 and Land 155 respectively. This work will permit RAEME to reset our current maintenance workload and business processes.

Restructuring of the Army will continue apace under Plan Beersheba with the movement of tanks and M113 to Townsville in 2015. The support and through life support concepts and plans for this move are currently under review by Army with a view to achieving similar business process and productivity gains already achieved under Plan PELICAN for the RAEME support to Army's aviation component.

In my own project, the Defence Logistics Transformation Program, the first and second builds of newly established logistic bases valued at \$752m, which were opened in Moorebank and Darwin respectively in the second half of 2014. It is proposed that five other new facilities will be delivered in 2015. These new facilities are located at Bandiana (Feb 15), Edinburgh (Feb 15), Amberley (Mar 15), Townsville (Jun 15) and Perth (Stirling and Palmer Barracks) (Apr 15). Also Hobart Workshops is actively under consideration for upgrades for its facilities, which will accompany the delivery of Land 121 vehicles.

For RAEME on the domestic front, we are eagerly awaiting the printing and delivery of the Corp History books. Brig Ross Grant (Rtd) is doing an excellent job of delivering this outcome for the Corps, and I must thank him and his dedicated team, as well as the many hundreds of contributors to the CHP outcomes for their work to date.

Arte et Marte

**Dave McGahey**  
**Rep Col Comdt RAEME**



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### **FROM THE COL COMDT QLD**

**Greetings everyone and Happy New Year for 2015.** For many of you, this year has started at a hectic pace, with induction training completed, and you're well and truly settling into your job. As is almost always the case at this time of the year, many of you will have already deployed on disaster relief operations here in Australia or perhaps even overseas. For some of you, and your families, this is your first trip to Queensland, so you are also getting to know your local environment: new jobs, new schools and in some cases, new (or not) accommodation. My only piece of advice is: 'keep your families informed so that the 'big' move does not get bigger.'

My role here in Queensland, as Colonel Commandant, is to keep you informed, as best I can, of the many things going on in the Corps and also convey your views to the Head of Corps, BRIG Mathewson, and keep him apprised of what is

happening here in QLD. Much is happening in the Corps with the introduction of new vehicles and weapon systems and the re-alignment of weapons and personnel in support Plan Beersheba. Not to mention the tremendous amphibious capability (HMAS Canberra and HMAS Adelaide) starting to 'come on line'. You can all expect to see HMAS Canberra somewhere off the QLD coast as the ship and her crew undertake sea-trials this year. An exciting and highly dynamic time for everyone, including the RAEME personnel involved!

Army is not oblivious to the dramatic challenges that are/will occur over the next few years and so has commissioned a study to examine how maintenance in Army will be conducted in the future. Over the next few months you will start to hear more about Plan CENTAUR. It is very much early days so not much information is available other than a Land systems maintenance study is about to be conducted to examine many of the challenges you are dealing with on a daily basis or will deal with over the next year or so. I hope to better inform you of the details of Plan CENTAUR in later editions, so watch this space. As for Aviation, Plan PELICAN (a series of projects examining all facets of aircraft maintenance and logistics) is almost completed. For those of you working in the aviation capability, some of the results have already been implemented, with more to occur over the next few years. Whilst many of the results have proven to not be revolutionary *per say*, you will certainly see opportunities to improve your skills, leading to improved job satisfaction and equipment availability.

I still intend to take every opportunity to meet as many of you as possible and to convey the messages from our Head of Corps personally when ever possible. Certainly an exciting year with us about to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign this coming ANZAC Day and the Corps History Project coming to fruition, shortly thereafter. These events are a unique and very special time to be part of the RAEME community; and something to be cherished for many years to come.

Arte et Marte,

**Tony Borg**  
**COL COMDT – QLD**  
[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



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### **INTRODUCING THE PRESIDENT OF THE RAEME NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (RNA) – MR PHIL COPPIN BA(HONS), BEc, Dip FP.**

Phillip Coppin assumed the presidency of the RNA, succeeding Ray Norman, in November 2014. Phil has done many things in his busy and varied life and

taken many interesting steps to his recent appointment. This is his story.

Phil joined the Australian Regular Army in 1971, on his 17th birthday. The first twelve months were somewhat unsettled until I was posted to the 2nd Calvary Regiment LAD as a driver and later as a recovery mechanic. I was then posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment LAD where I quickly became adept in heavy recovery. I discharged in June 1977.

Over the next 15 years I owned and operated various businesses which eventually led me to the financial services sector while continuing important professional development and studies. Consequently I successfully completed an economics degree and then an honours degree in arts. In 1999, I was accepted into a Doctorate in Philosophy at the University of South Australia.

Two of my proudest moments were the birth of my two sons James and Thomas. James is currently at the School of Artillery in Puckapunyal training to be a Forward Observer and Thomas is now a diesel mechanic. I believe this is ironic, when you consider that the current School of Artillery is located in the old 1st Armoured Regiments lines – my old stamping grounds!

I learned of the AEME/RAEME Association, through my involvement in School Cadets, with my wife, and when I attended the first Annual General Meeting, I quickly became a member of the committee. Later I was elected as the South Australian representative to the RAEME National Association. Later still I applied for the vacant position of Vice President and the rest is history.

In terms of the RNA, I believe that the world is a changing place and these changes will continue at an ever increasing pace. Consequently, for the RAEME National Association to function and flourish as a national organisation, the association needs to make fulsome use of technology and be relevant to the needs of all of our members.

Over the remainder of my term, I would like to focus on a number of areas: including, growth of the membership in all associations nationally and regionally; continuing to improve the level of fellowship between serving and ex-serving members of RAEME; and making greater use of the RAEME Social Network, which can be accessed at [www.raeme.org.au](http://www.raeme.org.au). All these activities will assist the development of other internal networks to the benefit of all our members.

Regards,

**Phil Coppin**  
**President RNA**  
[phillipcoppin@bigpond.com](mailto:phillipcoppin@bigpond.com)



## RAQ TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to announce that Stephen Howells our Membership Manager, has also accepted the additional task of Assistant Treasurer, my thanks go to Steve for his future assistance in managing the funds of the RAQ.

The current funds held by the association stand at approx. \$40K, that being \$20K in the investment account with a return of 3.2%, stock of approx. \$8K and a further \$12K in the working account.

The RAQ is in a good position to meet its requirements to support RAEME Activities in South East Queensland for the year ahead, HOWEVER, that being said, it is still imperative to actively gain further membership and endeavour to promote, and turn over the stock we have on hand. These are the key ingredients in maintaining the viability and sustainability of our association.

Some members will be aware that I also acted as Treasurer of the National Association that position has now transferred to the RAEME Association South Australia. I can now focus solely on the RAQ accounts in future.

Regards,

**Ian Leabeater**  
**Former treasurer RNA**



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## MEMBERSHIP

The RAQ membership numbers continue to slowly 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?". Each year we should all aim on tracking down one ex-RAEME mate and convince him or her to join RAQ – there are lots of them out there. I would be interested in hearing responses as to why they haven't joined (to date I haven't heard any), we can monitor these and if there are trends, the committee can look at ways to rectify the issue?

As reported last year, 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, please get in touch with me, or the Webmaster, and we will rectify the issue. At this stage the 'Member Only' area gives you access to your personal details and other benefits. Once logged in you will be able to update your record directly. If, for example, you have change telephone numbers, email or home addresses, it is a simple matter to update the detail. 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 looking at other uses for the 'Member Only' section so if you have any ideas please let one of your committee members know.

To date only about 50% of members appear to have opened their 'Member Only' accounts? I think this is possibly due to email addresses not being updated (so we could have half the membership without accurate email details). I'm working with the Webmaster on a way of trying to rectify this (but unfortunately my day job keeps getting in the way), so in the mean time, if you bump into any RAQ mates ask them if they know of the new 'Member Only' section of the website. If they don't, get them to send me an email at the email address below, so I can update their details?

The free lifetime membership to 'Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club' is going well. To date, we have had 40 RAQ members take up the offer, so keep the application forms coming in (available off the website or open the [PDF document](#) below this section. If you have trouble completing the form, then send me an email with the detail from the form and I will complete the rest. So far we have had nothing but positive feedback from those who have taken up the offer. This is similar to my experience; a lot of members are saying 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. Any questions in relation to this wonderful opportunity contact me directly. If you have sent me an application form and have yet to receive your membership card, then it is available for pick up from the club (they will not be sent out and are available for pick up a week after submission)

Regards,

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



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## EVENT REPORTS

**72<sup>nd</sup> RAEME Birthday Celebrations – Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS).** RAMS, celebrated the 72nd Birthday of RAEME in its own style, at Oakey, with a day of team 'sports' activities followed by a regimental dining-in night.

For the majority of trainees, this was their first formal dining-in, and appropriately it was hosted in the hangar in which most of their RAEME technical training is undertaken. An ARH, MRH and S-70 flanked the dining tables, adding a sense of seriousness and purpose to an otherwise relaxed atmosphere.



**BRIG Andrew Mathewson (L) presents COL Steve Evans with his Certificate of Appreciation.**

The formal part of the night consisted of the farewells for COL Steve Evans and MAJ Ian Johnson CSC. In his farewell speech, COL Evans spoke about the mentors he gained and the valuable advice that helped him throughout his career. The overall theme was that to become proficient in a leadership and management role, a degree of humility is required and it was useful to obtain a quality mentor. COL Evans also spoke of the high quality of the soldiers and officers in RAEME, and his passion for fishing.

Attendees also farewelled MAJ Ian Johnson CSC, a veteran of RAEME, with over 40 years service and experience. Fittingly, MAJ Johnson finished his career as a mentor to some of the newest Craftsmen in RAEME, working as the Army Liaison Officer at RAAFSTT and then as the 2IC of RAMS. The very busy night also included an address from BRIG Andrew Mathewson, Head of Corps, and the ceremonial handover of RAMS from the outgoing CO, LTCOL 'Arthur' Tsamis to the incoming, CO, LTCOL Rob Boughen.



**MAJ Ian Johnson (L) farewelled by LTCOL Arthur Tsamis & MAJ Terry Johnson (R).**

The Royal Australian Navy contingent embedded in RAMS also participated in the festivities, demonstrating some of their own dining-in night traditions, including not standing for the toast to the Queen. RAMS' senior Navy member, Chief Petty Officer Tebbit, assured the audience that it was not sign of disrespect to the Queen, but a tradition dating back to dining in restricted spaces on 19th century warships. Navy personnel would remain seated to avoid hitting their head on the deck ceiling, known in Navy speak as the 'deckhead.' Rumours that Chief Tebbit had made this up, as he was too lazy to stand, were quickly dispelled after consulting the relevant ceremonial manual.

The after dinner mess games were once again lively and RAEME themed, the most popular being the torque wrench challenge which consisted of two tests; in the first test, the competitor was required get as close as possible to a specified value in a single pull on the spanner, the goal of the second test was to achieve the maximum possible torque value. The maximum value achieved was a dubiously high 400 odd Newton metres of torque using a 30cm long spanner – so far no official response has been given to enquiries by ASADA.



### **SGT Glen Wittig Attempting the Torque Wrench Challenge.**

Overall, the dinner was conducted in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, providing a rare opportunity for all ranks to converse in a unique social setting. An opportunity particularly appreciated by the Craftsmen and junior officers that were seated next to senior members of the Corps. RAMS looks forward to celebrating the 73rd birthday in similar style in 2015.

**LT Elliot Geddes**  
**RAMS Oakey**

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**A Busy Year for 106 Fd Wksp 7 CSSB, Gallipoli Barracks, Enogerra.** 2015 will be one of 7 CSSB busiest years to date, with 7 Brigade becoming the ready Brigade in July 2015. The Battalion has hit the ground running at the beginning of the year to ensure that everyone is ready for the exercises that 7 CSSB will be involved with throughout the first half of the year.

The Battalion has many other activities to accommodate including a number of commitments to the 100th anniversary of ANZAC day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, before the Battalion prepares itself for a busy three months of training exercises to become the online CSSB for the Army.

The first exercise will be a Battalion deployment to Shoal Water Bay Training Area to conduct platoon to company level training as well as a number of range shoots. This exercise will prepare soldiers for the rest of the year including deploying for the Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA) in May, for three weeks, preparing for Exercise TALISMAN SABRE and Exercise HAMEL for five weeks over the June – July period.

Following these exercises, the Battalion will be certified ready for any potential operational deployments that may arise and will work during the second half of 2015 to ensure that a high level of readiness and deployability is maintained by all officers and soldiers within the Battalion. The Battalion will have a Combat Service Support Team (CSST) on standby to be able to deploy at short notice if needed, with a follow on CSST in reserve to support any deployments that units within 7 Brigade may be tasked with.

2015 will also see the Army Reserve units located within the Battalion moved out of the unit to allow 7 CSSB to take up a larger complement of ARA soldiers in accordance with the new Plan Beersheba establishment. This move will grow 106 Field Workshop by over 60 personnel with other transport and Supply companies within the Battalion also growing substantially. Under plan Beersheba, 7 CSSB will also acquire a PMV squadron that will be utilised as a Brigade asset to provide protected mobility to brigade units around the battle field.

Overall 2015 is set to be a high tempo and challenging year with all members of the Battalion poised to provide close logistical support to 7

Kind regards,

Peter Knowles  
**Major**  
**Officer Commanding**  
**106 Field Workshops**

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## COMING EVENTS

### ANZAC Day Activities and Important Details.

ANZAC Day 2015 is fast approaching and planning is nearly complete. One IMPORTANT thing to remember is that the Brisbane parade, this year, kicks off at 0930. Also, the parade is much bigger due to the extra contingents marching to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Each of these contingents will be represented in period costume and equipment where possible. Please invite all of your friends and family to come along. The contingents include the following:

- BOER WAR 1899 – 1901 Banner
- King's WWI Gallipoli Banner
- WWII 1939 – 1945 Banner
- KOREA 1950 – 1953 Banner
- MALAYSIAN Emergency 1950 – 1960 Banner
- Malaya Borneo 1962 – 1966 Banner
- VIETNAM 1962 – 1972 Banner
- IRAQ 1980 Banner
- AFGHANISTAN 2001 – 2013 Banner
- PEACEKEEPERS and PEACEMAKERS 1947 Banner

You can find the complete order of march on: <http://www.anzacamarchbrisbane.com.au/>

The RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) contingent is **number 81**. It will form up in George Street somewhere near Mary Street. The contingent numbers will be displayed (in order) on nearby building walls. The RAQ banner will also be proudly displayed at the front of the contingent. The step-off time is not 'set in concrete', but will be around 1000 – 1030 hours.

**Protocols.** Please remember the March Protocols, which are designed to respect the dignity of the occasion:

- The wearing of fraudulent medals and awards is NOT permitted. Section 80B(1),(4) of the Defence Act 1903 makes it an offence for a person to wear a service decoration that they are not entitled to wear, or to falsely represent themselves as a person on whom a service decoration was conferred.
- Veterans are to wear full size medals.
- Those WW11 veterans able to march the full distance of the Parade are welcome to parade behind their Banner at the front of the parade with one carer or one person of discretionary age.

- Large groups of descendants wanting to march may only do so behind the banner 'Descendants of Veterans All Conflicts' – please check the Order of March for positioning.
- Those disbanded Units/Ships or Squadrons wishing to Parade their Banner at the front of the contingent may only do so when they have gained approval from the ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee without descendants – P O Box 45 New Farm Qld 4005.
- Pictures of deceased Veterans are NOT permitted to be carried on Parade
- Any livestock, including dogs MUST have approval from the ADCPC to enter any area of the ANZAC Day Parade – there are NO exceptions as this is a WHS requirement.
- Children being pushed in pushchairs or carried in slings are a potential OH&S risk and parents are asked to refrain from including them in the parade.
- Unit Leaders on parade are responsible for the appearance of those marching with their associations and to stipulate the need to respect the March Protocols as set down by the ADCPC.
- Closed in footwear is a requirement on parade. Those marchers that do not comply with this requirement, do so at their own risk.

**Taxi Services.** If you have need of a taxi please contact me directly and I will explain the procedure to obtain such services.

**Post March Function.** Put ANZAC Day 2015 in your calendar now. Bring your friends, bring your family, especially to the RAQ ANZAC Day Post March Function. It is without a doubt the premier RAEME function Australia-wide and again this year it will be held at the **Fix Restaurant, Port Office Hotel, 40 Edward St, Brisbane.** Separate instruction on this part of the day's activities will be provided later.

**Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn**  
**RAEME Association Queensland**  
[sunshinecoast@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:sunshinecoast@qld.raeme.org.au)  
**M 0422 670 080**

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**2015 Army Apprentice Reunion, Bulimba.** The Annual South East Qld Army Apprentice Reunion will be on again this year; however, it will be held in a new venue due to the closing of Bulimba Barracks. The new venue is the **Bulimba Bowling Club, Thynne Rd, Balmoral**. The venue has a similar aspect to Bulimba with a nice deck but overlooking the bowling greens, instead of the river, and plenty of parking.

The Club already has an association with RAEME with a couple of plaques on the wall from when the 1 Base Workshop Battalion staff bowling club was active and played against the club. The club is very happy to host us and looks forward to a long association. The reunion format will be the same as other years, so please RSVP as detailed in the flyer attached to this newsletter ASAP.

Cheers,

**Brian Daley**  
**Convenor**  
**14th MV Phone: 0412 721 761**  
**OR 07 3399 1300**



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**Sunshine Coast Gathering.** An invitation is extended to all current and past members of RAEME, and friends of RAEME, who live on the Sunshine Coast/Wide Bay area, and the surrounding region, to attend the RAEME Association–Queensland, Sunshine Coast Chapter, luncheon to be held at the Maroochy RSL on Saturday 16 May 2015.

The primary purpose of the gathering is to provide an opportunity to renew old friendships and meet newly retired ‘Bluebells’ who may have moved to SE Qld since our last activity in August 2014.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG David McGahey (Rtd), (27<sup>th</sup> VM) will be the keynote speaker and bring us up to date on what the Corps is doing at a very challenging moment in its history. I will provide an update on the progress, production and official launch of the RAEME Corps History, ‘With Skill and Fighting - Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014’. As with last year’s gathering many of the members of the project team, which assisted in the compilation of the History, will be in attendance.

**Details.** Important details to remember include:

- **Venue** – Room M4 Maroochy RSL, corner Memorial and First Avenues, Maroochy.
- **Timings** – 1230 hours on Saturday 16 May 15.
- **Dress** – Neat casual.

- **Catering** – A copy of the menu can be provided; drinks at own expense, at the bar.
- **Parking** – Available in the multi-floor car park directly opposite the RSL.
- **Cost** – \$32.50 per head.

**RSVP.** To **Mike Prain** at [commschair@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:commschair@qld.raeme.org.au) by **24 April 15** providing the following details: **Name of attendee, whom you are accompanied by and whether you or they have any specific dietary requirements - Payment**

**Payment.** May be made by cheque or direct deposit as follows:

- **Cheques** payable to RAEME Association Queensland Inc. and posted to:  
*RAEME Lunch Sunshine Coast*  
*PO Box 167*  
*Mount Ommaney*  
*QLD 4074*
- **Direct Deposit**  
*Bank – Defence Bank*  
*A/c name - RAEME Association Queensland Inc.*  
*BSB - 803205*  
*A/c No - 20682037*  
*Reference - ‘SCL’ followed by your family name*  
*Please provide confirmatory advice of payment to Mike Prain at:*  
[commschair@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:commschair@qld.raeme.org.au)

Regards,

**Ross Grant**  
**Chairman Comms Committee**



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**AAAA Reunion 2015.** The AAAA Reunion 2015, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the closure of the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme, will be held in the Albury/Wodonga area over the weekend of 23 – 25 October 2015. The Reunion events on Friday and Saturday have been centralized on the Albury CBD so that those attendees choosing accommodation in the Albury CBD will not have to drive anywhere, except to Latchford Barracks.

**Event Timings.** The format for the Reunion will be as follows:

- **Friday 23 Oct 15.** Registration and Meet and Greet Function at the Albury Entertainment Centre 3 to 8 pm.
- **Saturday 24 October 15.** AAAA Annual General Meeting at the Albury Commercial Club 9.30 to 10.30am, followed by a street march through the Albury CBD from 11am to

12 noon. Music by Army Band Kapooka, and then visits to Latchford Barracks to view ASEME trade wings and the Apprentice Banner at the Chapel between 1 and 4pm. Visitors responsible for own transport.

- **Saturday Evening 24 Oct 15.** A Reunion Dinner which will be held at the Albury Commercial Club from 6.30 for 7pm. Close 11pm. Seating by intake tables. Participants limited to 400.
- **Sunday 25 October 2015.** Memorial Service at the Apprentice Memorial Gaza Ridge Barracks from 1030 -1130 am. This will be followed by a farewell BBQ lunch at the Army Museum Gaza Ridge Barracks, to include a museum visit. 11.30 am to 2.00pm. The Reunion will conclude at 2.00pm.

**Reunion Details.** Please note the following important detail:

- **Security.** Due to the security requirements at both Latchford and Gaza Ridge Barracks, people wishing to take part in the events at these facilities will need to specifically register to attend these events. Registrations will be by an on-line registration system.
- **Reunion costs.** Costs are still being finalized. Payment will be required to confirm registration.
- **Transport.** Transport to and from Albury and accommodation will be a personal responsibility.
- **Memorabilia.** Memorabilia specific to the Reunion 2015 will also be available for order before the Reunion.
- Full details will available on AAAA web site: <http://austarmyapprentice.org/> from late April 2015.

**Otto Aberle 21VM**  
**AAAA Events Manager**

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## **OTHER HAPENINGS**

**Spanner Packs.** Your Association is still busy keeping in touch with, and providing another 50 Spanner Packs to our brothers and sisters on deployed operations. Please advise me if you know of RAEME soldiers being, or are deployed, to places other than 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 refresh the contents of the packs.

**Raymond G. Norman**  
**Spanner Pack Coordinator**  
[rgnorman1944@gmail.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@gmail.com)



*Dear MAJ Norman,*

*Firstly I hope this finds you well and enjoying life, it is a while since I have seen you however I have been following things as closely as I could. I am the RSM Australian Forces and a sergeant major mentor.*

*There are currently five RAEME soldiers here at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy, four (2 x VM, 1 x Fitter and 1 x Radio Mech) maintaining all the equipment that keeps us alive and kicking. They are doing a great job and are a credit to both themselves and the Corps. It is a pleasure to drop in and say hello and see what is happening at the coal face, makes me feel young again, and me,*

*This is just a short note to pass on my thanks to you and all those associated with 'Operation Spanner Pack'. Over time I have read the many thank you letters from those deployed, and have enjoyed the stories of jealousy amongst others serving with RAEME – now, I too, am a lucky recipient of one of the famous 'Spanner Pack' whilst deployed.*

*Please pass on my thanks to all those who continue to give their time and labour to support RAEME deployed soldiers – their efforts make me proud to be a member of the Corps.*

*Kind regards and good health,*

*Martin Burgess*  
*RSM Australian Forces*

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## **CORPS HISTORY PROJECT**

I advised recently on the RAEME National Website, and in the last edition of the 'Spanner News' for 2014, that the final manuscript for the CHP book was with the publishers, and a number of our team were collaboratively completing the final editing process. I am happy to report the book was provided to the printers shortly thereafter.

On 2 Apr 15, I was advised that two pallet loads of books have been despatched from China to Australia – the expected delivery date at the HOC Cell Bandiana is now around 30 Apr 15. Given this firm time-line, I have recommended to the HOC, BRIG Andrew Mathewson that the project team will continue:

- with the on-line sales process over the next few months, and subsequently encourage our community to continue purchasing the book on-line; and
- for his HOC team to plan for the commencement of book distribution soon after the books are available at Bandiana/Bonegilla, in early May 2015.



Our other good news is that BRIG Mathewson, has negotiated, with assistance from COL Tom Reynolds the COL COMDT – NSW/ACT, for the national book launch to occur on **15 Jul 15** at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra. This launch will include a number of activities, including the changing of the guard, a ‘Last Post Ceremony’, to celebrate the life of a soldier, who died on active service, and a wreath-laying.

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.

As usual, I have provided a small sample of the book’s content. This story is told by a unique officer in our Corps, Major Carolyn Breeden, who was inextricably linked with the work of bringing into service out newest helicopters over a significant period of time. I hope you find this excerpt from **Chapter 16 Technical Solutions and Procurement**, both interesting and stimulating.

***Flying High.*** ‘Two of Army’s recent and more prominent acquisition projects are Air 87 and Air 9000 Phases 2, 4 and 6. Under project Air 87 Army sought to acquire an Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) capability, while under Air 9000 a Multi Role Helicopter (MRH) capability was required. Again RAEME played a significant role in both these projects. One member of the Corps who played a prominent role in both projects was Major Carolyn Breeden. During 2001, Major Breeden was posted to the Air 87 project in Canberra where she took part in the Tender Evaluation and Contract Negotiation phases of the project. Then in 2002, she was selected as a member of the test crew for the project’s activities in France and for the next four years she lived and worked in France as the project’s resident Flight Test Engineer (FTE).

Major Breeden was then posted to the Air 9000 project, remaining overseas to conduct engineering and flight test activities on the MRH90. She returned to Australia during 2008 to work on the MRH90, with duties focused on flight and engineering issues across production acceptance, acquisition and sustainment. Major Breeden’s work during 2011-12 focused on capability impacts of identified deficiencies.

The Resident Project Team in France (RPT-F) was established during 2002 in Marignane at the Eurocopter site, following the Tiger ARH’s selection as the preferred solution under Project Air 87. The team comprised Army, RAAF and civilian personnel and included piloting, instructional, logistic, quality, configuration, finance and administration personnel.



*The flight test crew provided input into specification definition and system modification when test results were unsatisfactory. The FTE had a technical bias; while the test pilot was more operationally focussed; however together they provided a complementary skill set. An FTE covers most engineering streams to some degree, providing a link between the operators and engineers and contributing to contractual compliance and qualification/certification. As the FTE for the team, my job was to work with the test pilot designing and conducting tests and then reporting on findings to ensure the systems were operating as required by the approved functional and performance specifications and they were meeting the operating intent. In the MRH90 I primarily occupied the jump seat, behind and between the pilots.*

*As a Tiger ARH FTE, I occupied the rear station, usually the Battle Captain’s position, with the pilot in the front and slightly below. I operated the systems under test, including firing weapons using the sighting systems. I spent four years with ARH in France and those years were the most challenging and rewarding years of my career to date. Of the many challenges faced, firing the 30 mm nose-mounted gun for the first time was one of the most demanding test flights, due to the time constraints and developmental nature of the program.*

*There was no work-up flight or prior simulation; and from the very first shots fired the results were being recorded, telemetered and analysed. Of course we faced other challenges. Firing the Hellfire at night was also a very demanding test flight as we had some anomalies during the flight and when ready to fire the missile we had just enough fuel to complete the run and get back to the airfield. After the long flight, my attention was distracted as the missile left the launcher and appeared in the sight. My targeting drifted slightly as a result, but the Hellfire struck the target, accurately hitting the aiming point, providing a lethal demonstration of its capability, despite my inattention.*



While we have focussed on many stories with an operational edge, we have also tried to show the wide span of activities in which the Corps has been involved over the last 70 odd years. It is breathtaking! Thank you once again for your faith in the book and your patience.

Kind regards,

**Ross Grant**  
**PD CHP**  
[raemebookproject@hotmail.com](mailto:raemebookproject@hotmail.com)



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## HONOURS AND AWARDS

The RAEME Association Queensland Inc congratulates our Colonel-in-Chief His Royal Highness Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh and our Head of Corps Brigadier Andrew Mathewson on being recognised in the Australia Day Honours list 2015.

**Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division – Brigadier Andrew John MATHEWSON, ACT.** For exceptional service in delivering aviation capability as the Project Director, Multi-Role Helicopter and Director General, Army Aviation Systems. Through his resolute leadership and keen strategic foresight, Brigadier Mathewson has achieved an outstanding result in providing support for Black Hawk, Chinook, Tiger and Shadow operations both in Australia and overseas, and negotiating an agreement that has revitalised the Multi-Role Helicopter program. Brigadier Mathewson's performance has been in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

**RAEME Association Queensland**

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## VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- Dennis James **Dawes**, 9th Intake Rad Mech, passed away peacefully in Port Pirie on 6 Apr 14, from cancer.
- Wayne **Vicary** 38th Intake Veh Mech, passed away 18 Feb 15, from complications of heart surgery.
- Ron (Scrubby) **Dyne**, 17th Intake Veh Mech passed away at home in Gympie on 20 Feb 15, after a hard fought battle with cancer.
- Adrian **Graham** (Craftsman) passed away on a night out with mates in Darwin.
- Roy **Dotter** – No further detail available.

- Leslie John **Prendergast**, Tech Storeman, died as a result of injuries in a car crash en route to Kingaroy in Queensland.
- Ron **Kern** (Art Elec) passed away on 4 Mar 15 and his funeral was held in Henty NSW.
- Austin (Aussie) John **Hogan** OAM, passed away at St Andrews Hospital on the 13 Mar 15 at the age of 87 years.
- John **McWhinney**, 10th Intake Blacksmith passed away in palliative care on 16 Mar 15.
- Sidney (Sid) Harold **Cheeseman** AM, 4th Intake Electronic Tradesman, passed away at the Westmead Hospital Sydney following complications from a gall bladder operation. Sid was the author of the book 'From Boy to Soldier', which dealt with the early years of the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe.
- Blair (Chesty) **Bond** 9th Intake Veh Mech, passed away peacefully in hospital 31 Mar 15.

## SICK LIST

The following member is battling a serious illness:

- Ron **Perry**, 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Veh Mech, is in a nursing home suffering from Vascular Dementia. If you would like to send a card or phone his wife Margaret, the address is 25/1 Mervyn Thomas Drive, Hope Island, Qld, 4212, phone 07 55301169, all contact should be through Margaret please.
- Mal **Campbell**, 22nd intake Elec Fit, has advised the RAQ he has terminal Leukaemia and only has a few months to live.

Regards,

**John Parfitt**  
**Welfare Officer**  
**RAEME Association Qld**  
[welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)



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## DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

**DFWA Matters - So Far This Year.** 2015 is not shaping up to be a very successful year for DFWA. Our first effort was a personal letter from our President, David Jamison, to the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, detailing matters the Association would like the Government to address. These included the:

- recent budget initiative to reduce the indexation of Veterans' and War Widows Pensions and the veterans' Disability Pensions to the pre-2007 formula of CPI only;

- initial ADF pay determination (since increased from 1.5% to 2% but still below a pay rise as such); and
- proposed increases to Defence charges for married quarter rent, uniform and rations that are more than the recent salary increases.

Unfortunately, the reply from the Prime Minister was less than encouraging. It was essentially the 'paid political announcement' of the need to get the budget under control and reduce the deficit. However, on a positive note, the Government will not proceed with the increase in Defence charges for housing and rations, and there will be further meetings to discuss Veterans' mental health issues, the next one scheduled for 24th March 2015.

The following is an extract from the March 2015 Issue of Hotline, the Queensland Branch companion Newsletter to the March Issue of Camaraderie.

*'The Military will be in the news a lot this year with both the centenary of Anzac and the operations in the Middle East. It is hoped the Australian public in general will come to appreciate the sacrifices that members of the Australian Armed Forces and their families made, and are making, when serving their country. There are also articles on a proposed Military Covenant and differentiating the ADF from police and other emergency services. If you have not read them, I would commend these articles to you.'*

**Can DVA help you?** Many people perceive that if they do not have operational or qualifying service they are not entitled to any help from DVA. This perception is far from the truth. As well as any serving or ex-serving members being able to access VVCS, DVA will also assist in the treatment of a number of conditions such as Cancer, PTSD, Alcohol and Substance Use disorder.

Eligibility extends to those who have had more than three year's continuous full time service from 7 Dec 1972. In these circumstances, DVA provides for treatment only, not compensation. A medical condition needs to be accepted as related to military service to be eligible for compensation. DVA Factsheet HSV109 Non-Liability Health Care provides more detail.

Whilst these benefits may not be all that relevant for those currently serving, it is nevertheless very important knowledge for members after discharge. The limited general awareness of these DVA provisions is a concern. A link to the document is at: <http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/documents/HSV109%20Non-Liability%20Care.htm>

If you feel you may have a claim you could submit one direct to DVA. However it is strongly

recommended that you use the services of an advocate or pension officer, such as offered by DFWA's, Wally Buldo, to ensure that all of the boxes are ticked and ensure a smoother progress of your claim. Wally can be contacted through the DVA Qld website at:

<http://www.dfw.org.au/branches/qld>

While you are on the DFWA website, please take time to browse through the many informative sections listed on the header. You might seriously consider becoming a member, just click on the Membership Section. Remember DFWA exists purely to help you and there is strength in numbers.

Regards,

**Peter Snowden**  
DFWA Rep  
[welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)



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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This year has started with renewed 'vim and vigour', with three well attended general monthly meetings, our forthcoming, but all important ANZAC Day commemoration, closely followed by the Sunshine Coast Gathering on 16 May 15. Your executive committee is not only leading from the front, but establishing a busy pace for 2015 and seeking your involvement in the activities we organise.

ANZAC Day remains the pre-eminent event for the year. Ernie Hartshorn has provided important detail in this edition of Spanner News. The effort that goes into creating the whole atmosphere is a credit to the organisers, the Port Office management and staff, and of course, and the many attendees who number in their hundreds – as I said previously, let's make a special effort in 2015 and see if we can break a record for attendance.

The transfer of national responsibilities from Ray Norman to Phil Coppin went smoothly late last year, and Phil has a clear vision on what he'd like to achieve during his tenure as the President of the RNA. Ray now has time to devote himself to his favourite cause, the preparation and despatch of Spanner Packs to our brothers and sisters serving overseas. The continuing work by the RNA on behalf of the associations across Australia, in concert with the various webmasters, continues apace; but now focuses on providing improved functionality, in particular, administrative services to assist the associations maintain its documentation and records – this is your association becoming more professional in the way it manages its resources.

Finally may I encourage all readers to consider attending the next gathering on the Sunshine Coast in May. We look forward to your attendance and support – numbers are growing steadily.

Regards,

**Ross Grant**  
**Chairman Comms Committee**  
[commschair@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:commschair@qld.raeme.org.au)



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	<p><b>RAEME Corps Committee                  and Corps Fund</b></p>
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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.

[racq.com/batteries](http://racq.com/batteries)  
 call 13 1905



**Faces in the Crowd – the other Ross Grant (Drac) and his Twin Brother Russell Celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

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**Important Notice From RAQ Merchandising**

If you haven't ordered your RAEME tie or cap to wear on future ANZAC Day Parades, you will have an opportunity to purchase these items and other products at the after-march function at the Port Office Hotel Fix Restaurant. The Corps Port will also be on display and for sale.

**Bruce Hermann  
 Merchandising RAQ**



# Army Apprentices School

## *Annual Reunion*

### South East Queensland

CELEBRATING 67 YEARS OF the ARMY APPRENTICES SCHEME

**1948 to 2015**

**DATE:** Sunday, 7th June 2015 (Queens's Birthday weekend)

**NEW VENUE:** Bulimba Bowls Club (Note new venue!!!)  
**Thynne Rd (Access off Quinn St,) Balmoral Brisbane**

**TIME:** 1100 - 1600

**DRESS:** Casual

**CATERING:** There will be a "Sausage Sizzle" at lunch, but feel free to bring your own, if you wish. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for use. Drinks will be available at the bar.

**ATTENDANCE:** The reunion is open to Ex-Apprentices, their families, ex-members of staff and any other personnel who were associated with Apprentices and wish to renew old friendships.  
If you know of any Ex-Apprentices who may not be aware of the reunion taking place could you please make an effort to pass this information on, also if you have access to any means of advertising the reunion, please feel free to do just that.

**RSVP TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:**

**Brian Daley 14<sup>th</sup> MV**  
**1 Michael Street**  
**Bulimba QLD 4171**  
**Tel: (07) 3399 1300 or MOBILE 0412 721 761**  
**Email: [bjdaley@hotmail.net](mailto:bjdaley@hotmail.net)**