



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –
QUEENSLAND**

SPANNER NEWS EDITION
2/15
31 JUL 15

CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Welcome Spanners, to the 2nd Edition of 'Spanner News' for 2015. Once again I feel proud to be a part of our magnificent team who strive hard to continue to improve the RAEME Association Queensland.

Since my last report, the RAEME Association Queensland has elevated two of our hardest working and esteemed members to Honorary Life Member, Gary Sargent and Raymond Norman OAM to join Ross Grant AM as our first three Honorary Life Members. Honorary Life Membership is the RAQ 'Highest Honour' in recognition of 'Outstanding Contribution to the RAQ over an extended period.' Congratulations to these three members, your contributions have been appreciated very much and we are indebted to each of you.

Our 100th ANZAC Day Commemoration saw in excess of 260 RAEME personnel marching behind our RAQ Banner – we were very pleased to welcome back the ASEM soldiers from Enoggera and commend them on their turn out. Our post-parade function was wonderfully organised and greatly received – my personal thanks go to Ian Hartshorn for this outstanding event. An additional vote of thanks goes to Raymond Norman, Nick Rees, and the Port Office Management and Staff for their support to a truly memorable day.

Our Association was fortunate to be invited to the first Spanner Club for 2015, held at 7 CSR, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera – the afternoon was well attended by uniformed Spanners and a small number of RAQ members. We appreciate the invitation and enjoyed the opportunity to meet those who carry the Corps today. If the Association is fortunate enough to be invited again, I would strongly recommend you make the effort to attend. Security requirements are much tighter than you may remember, but don't let that deter you – I think you will find it an eye opener and very worthwhile.

Our events in the first part of 2015 saw 73 members and guests in the 'Sunshine Coast region' gather for lunch at the Maroochy RSL, the second gathering within 12 months. Many old friendships were renewed and new ones forged. Thanks to those who attended and to the organisers – Mike Prain, Ian Hartshorn, Ross & Leonie Grant.

The RAQ has seen an upwards trend in Life Subscriber Membership, which for a one-off payment of \$100, means your membership never expires. It is a good deal, and you never have to think about annual subscriptions again. More importantly, you have access to all the benefits financial members enjoy, including discounts for all our functions and 10% discount on purchases made through the RAQ Website. In the coming months the association is planning a gathering at the AEME Surf Life Saving Club on the Gold Coast. Initial details are on the back page.

Kind regards,

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



FROM THE COL COMDT QLD

Greetings everyone. It's hard to believe the middle of the year is now upon us and ANZAC Day is well and truly behind us. For me, this year's ANZAC Day march was particularly memorable as I had the opportunity to march with an old friend for the first time in 30 years. A very special thank you goes out to the RAQ, in particular the ANZAC Day committee, who again put on a tremendous event including the post-march function at the Port Office Hotel.

The pace of RAEME operations in Queensland has been frenetic with our soldiers again deploying on operations in the Middle East and elsewhere. In addition QLD roads are starting to see their fair share of military traffic as large convoys of units start to deploy on Ex Talisman Sabre. No doubt RAEME soldiers will be in the thick of things before, during and after the exercise.

Earlier this year I informed you of the forthcoming review of land systems maintenance, known as Plan Centaur. Unfortunately I have been unable to get more information for you since I last wrote; however I can say that Brigadier McGahey (Rtd), our former Head of Corps and the current Honorary REP COL COMDT will be an important part of the study. This is great news given his long-standing association with the Corps both as tradesman and officer. I couldn't think of anyone more suitable to lead the Army's land maintenance review.

Finally, it was my pleasure to recently present our Queensland Chairman with a HOC Commendation. Jeff has done a magnificent job in his time at the helm of our Association and I congratulate him on behalf of BRIG Mathewson, for his outstanding efforts. Well done, Jeff.



Arte et Marte,

Tony Borg
COL COMDT – QLD
anthonyborg@optusnet.com.au



MEMBERSHIP

We have seen a marked increase in memberships this year; some 30 new members and approximately the same number of expired members renewing their memberships. I don't know the exact reason for this – current members asking their mates to join, the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, increase of committee notices through the new website or possibly a combination of all – so 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 am interested in learning why some of our colleagues haven't joined.

The new RAQ Website is working well and improving each day, although it appears a large number of current members are not accessing the webpage regularly? The statistics are that some 200 current members have never accessed the webpage (last visit date is recorded). I'm concerned that this could be because these members aren't receiving emails from RAQ as their contact details are incorrect? Later this year I will commence trying to contact these members to ensure we have their latest details and keep them informed of RAQ activities. You can make this task easier for me by logging into the website (www.qld.raeme.org.au) before the end of Aug 15. Whilst there, ensure your personal details are correct (Click 'Membership' then 'My Details' and update them as required. If you have problems with logging in, then please contact me, the webmaster, or another member of the committee – email us through the website 'Contact Us'. If there are reasons you do not wish to use the website please let me (or the webmaster) know, we might be able to assist you, or at least note that you won't be using the website. We will then ensure we keep in touch with you by other means.

Over the last couple of months the Association has attempted to contact over 100 annual members whom we have not heard from for a number of years (all those whose membership had expired). We sent details by email; to the last know address, advising that their membership had expired and how to renew membership. We had five get in touch and renew their memberships, the remainder have had their accounts archived (this just makes management of the database easier), but the accounts can easily be re-instated if their membership was renewed. A list of names of those people whose accounts have been archived has been added to the Website. Check out the list at the [following link](#):

[Archived Member List Click Here](#)

If you are still in touch with any of them, please let them know they are listed and ask if they wish to renew their membership.

Regards,

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



TREASURERS REPORT

The RAQ financial report for 2014/15 will be presented at the AGM 5th August 2015. I look forward to seeing you there and participating in this important annual event.

Recently, I attended the Reserve Forces Day Activities 2015 as the RAEME Reserve representative. The activities for Recognition of Reserve Service went well in both Ipswich and Brisbane on the weekend 4th and 5th of July. Nationally they were conducted throughout Australia on the 5th, and looking at the website for Reserve Forces Day, all went extremely well. Here are some highlights.

Ipswich Ceremony. The Principal Guest was CAPT Bob Hume RANR, who spoke about the service given by reservists in WW1, Mayor Paul Pisasale also gave a welcome address to the visitors, and provided us with his thoughts on those members of the Ipswich Community who have provided Reserve Service and continue to do so today.

Brisbane Ceremony. Once again this was a well attended ceremony held at ANZAC Square with over a hundred attendees. The Principal Guest was Mr Graham Perrett MP, Member for Moreton, who gave a well-received speech in relation to reserve service. A wide variety of guests attended from the

ADF, local politicians, the legal fraternity and Reserve Support Associations.

Both of these activities were well supported by the Amberley Brass and the National Serviceman’s Memorial Band, respectively; notably Cadets from TS Gayundah, 12 ACU Bulimba and 219 (City of Brisbane) Squadron read messages from the Governor General and Prime Minister and provided Flag Parties, for the Brisbane event.

It was good to see Ron McElwaine and Bernie Sturdy, both ex RAEME Reservists, who served at Bulimba, attending the service in ANZAC Square. I look forward to catching up with previous serving members at activities in 2016; information is available from the Reserve Forces Day Website.

Regards,

Ian Leabeater RFD
Treasurer
treasurer@raeme.qld.org.au



EVENT REPORTS

ANZAC Day. As you have no doubt read above, the 2015 ANZAC Day commemorations were not only very well attended but were also highly enjoyable and successful – I will let the pictures below tell the story of a large number of participants and the activities they enjoyed – both during the march and the post-march event at the Port Office Hotel.



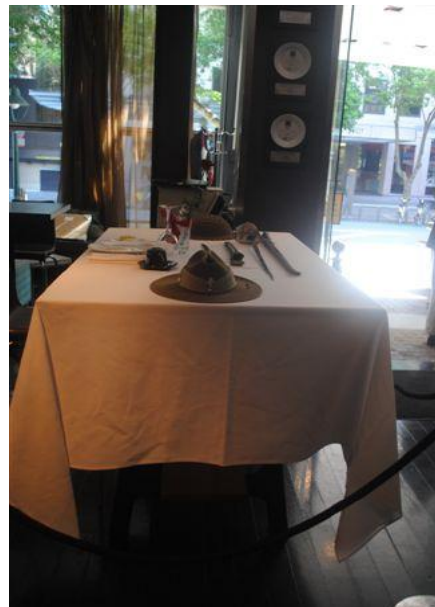
The Contingent Keeps Coming



The Young ASEME Soldiers Show us How to March



RAEME Association Contingent Lead by Chairman Jeff, Treasure Gary and Ray Norman Head-Off



In the Port Office Hotel – The Table Set as the ‘Final Toast’ in Remembrance of those Who Did not Come Home





Fred and Mrs Newby, one of Our Oldest Members and Jock and Mrs Fraser enjoying the Port Office Hotel Hospitality

RAEME Spanner Club, 5 May 2015. The 7th Combat Signal Regiment (CSR) Technical Support Troop had the honour of hosting the first Spanner Club for 2015 within its new compound at Gallipoli Barracks. Under the direction of ASM WO2 Marc Craigie, the TST prepared for the day with great enthusiasm and arranged for the usual presence of local businesses (Jaycar, Milwaukee Tools, Anaconda, Fitness First and Trade Tools) to display their wares and provide some freebies to attendees, who flooded through the gate. The Spanner Club was a great opportunity for the RAEME personnel in the area to meet up and relax over a beverage and continue a tradition that ensures RAEME has and continues to maintain an excellent level of esprit de corps.



Bruce Hermann and Gary Sargent, Both Members of the RAEME Assoc – Qld, Selling RAEME Memorabilia

In all, approximately 250 RAEME personnel attended the event, coming from all the units across Gallipoli Barracks. Members of the RAEME Association QLD were also in attendance and established a memorabilia stall with all the usual RAEME paraphernalia for guests to buy. The presence of the RAEME Association QLD was appreciated due to the importance of Association in supporting both current and previously serving

RAEME personnel. The Spanner Club was organised to coincide with a visit from the RAEME Deputy Head of Corps LTCOL Colin Blyth, the RAEME Corps RSM WO1 Craig Webb and the RAEME SO2 Corps MAJ John Halstead. The DHOC spent the day touring the base in order to gain an insight into the RAEME capability in SE QLD.



CFN Bevan Cowdell receiving his LCPL Stripes fro the CO 7 CSR, LTCOL Darcy Rawlinson

The Commanding Officer of 7 CSR, LTCOL Darcy Rawlinson, took the opportunity, with a large RAEME gathering, to promote CFN Bevan Cowdell to the rank of Lance Corporal, together with COI/CI ASEME, LTCOL Colin Blyth, to personally present him with his promotion documentation. The event also saw the unveiling of the 7 CSR TST Workshop Colours, which was funded by the 7 CSR RTF, the RAEME Association and the members of the TST. These Colours will become a piece of RAEME memorabilia and be carried by a member of 7 CSR TST at special occasions.



A Large Crowd Enjoying the Afternoon

There were several popular raffles for cooked chooks as well as other items contributed by local businesses. The event concluded after several hours and by all accounts was a deemed a successful event.

7 CSR TST would like to extend its thanks to the RAEME Association of QLD for the provision of 'seed funding' to finance the event. Without this contribution the event may not have been possible.

Written by CPL Garry May

KNOWLEDGE BUBBLE!

An interesting innovation in ration packs – what you should know about them for future reference!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ3_o7F7mqY

RAEMUS ROVER Supporting Mates 4 Mates.

The RAEMUS Rover Race Team (RRRT) has slowly evolved over the past 2 years, following the re-birthing of the old Puckapunyal Wksp Coy based race car, into a current CAMS compliant active off road race car. The development goes further in that the RRRT is now running a team of three cars. RAEMUS Rover now consists of the original old girl from the 1970's and 1980's, and now includes another Land Rover with a Series 3 body covering a slightly warm LS1 engine complemented by full race spec transmission, plus a Pro-Late class 'Off Road' buggy powered by an mildly angry alloy V8.

The team is based around a group of current and ex-serving RAEME members, who work tirelessly to provide an active and beneficial challenging activity for injured and ill veterans from the RSL's Mates4Mates organisation. This year the team has nine 'Mates' from Mates4Mates to help through-out the 2015 season, which include events within the South East Queensland area, plus a key activity – the Finke Desert Rally in Alice Springs.

The RAEMUS team relies heavily on the training knowledge and experience gained within the Corps in developing trade training for the 'Mates' across all trade disciplines. This training supports the veterans, who are seeking either a life-changing experience, or to gain confidence and experience working on cars, so they can be applied to a hobby of their own.

Other work the team undertakes is to provide an attractive activity for those, who are absorbed in extended periods of rehabilitation or therapy and are seeking a break or respite. The team doesn't wrap our 'Mates' in cotton wool, nor do we identify them in other way other than being a team member. The good old RAEME Wksp banter is very much alive and encouraged. Less than perfect trade efforts are accommodated in a supportive and corrective manner.

The team's most recent activity at Willowbank Motor sport precinct saw the team featured on

Channel 9 news nationally on 11 April. Look at the link below and you will see the Corps "tri-colour" in front of the car on most shots. As the team has expanded it has raised the challenge of now finding a new home for the expanded team and its equipment. Currently talks are in progress to secure a shed at the Willowbank facility. If any of the brotherhood and sisterhood know of a possible gold coin donation home the team could move into please let us know.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9_ZaQNg_18&feature=youtu.be

If anyone is having a tough time and need support of any kind just call Mates4Mates on 1300 4 62837, they are a great bunch, who have many arrows to their bow, and may be able to assist you.

The RRRT (RSL QLD is our major sponsor) and is always looking for new members, who have the time to participate in a very active and rewarding project. To keep up to date on what the team is doing, look for the team on Facebook, or email us at raemusrover@gmail.com. **Late news**, both our cars (878 & 879) recently competed in the QLD Short Course Championship round at Esk and we were placed 2nd and 3rd in class at the event, with "Mates" in both cars acting as navigators. We are looking at bringing the buggy to the next **Spanner Club meeting in August**.

Regards,

Ian Baker
Team Manager
tiffy-os@hotmail.com



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)**.

Army Apprentices Annual Reunion Bulimba 2015. The 2015 16th annual reunion was a great success, at a new venue, the Bulimba Bowls Club on Thynne Rd, Balmoral. This venue is near to the former Bulimba Barracks camp with a similar atmosphere and better facilities. The change of venue became necessary due to the fact that the Bulimba Barracks is currently up for sale.

Hughie, the weather God, gave us a glorious day with up to 200 people attending – probably our best attendance in recent years! It was glorious to see the Apprentice Flag proudly flying over the venue throughout the day



Brian Daley 14th VM with Felix Mitchell, 17th VM, with the AAS Flag in the background.

Most intakes were well represented with the earliest being the 9th Intake’s Peter Snowden, F&T, Brian Windsor, MV, and Rolly Pritchard, Plumber. From there most intakes were represented up to Darren Walker, 35th F&T and Dan Frawley 42nd MV being our most junior member. Doug Croft and Pauline Schaffer-Smith from the AAS staff were also welcome guests. It is hoped that with our new venue, numbers will continue to increase each year, as we find mates we never thought we would see again. For those of the 13th Intake, Dalzeil, who has been missing for many years, was in attendance.

The BBQ was very popular with the organisers missing out on a sausage! Those who won one of the 12 raffle prizes were very happy with Apprentices School badge labelled bottles of port. An attempt was made to take intake photographs, but with much talking, catching up and colourful 'warries' flowing freely, it was hard to interrupt the attendees, so not many were taken.



14th Intake Attendees – Brian Daley, Dave Haxton, Alf Richardson, Phil (Doc) Livingstone and Bob King

The Bulimba Bowls Club is happy to renew their relationship with the Army, as in the past, members from Bulimba Barracks competed in bowls competitions against the club, and it looks forward to supporting Army Apprentices with our functions in the future. All being well, the Queensland Apprentice Reunion will take place at the same time and same place next year.



Wives and Partners on the Day



Husbands and Mates on the Day



Frank Maloney Presents Brian Daley with an Australian Army Apprentices Association Award for his Long and Dedicated Work to the Annual Gatherings at Bulimba

Sunshine Coast Gathering – 16 May 15. An invitation was extended to all current and past members of RAEME, and friends of RAEME, who live on the Sunshine Coast / Wide Bay area, or the surrounding region, including Brisbane, to attend a RAEME Gathering at the Maroochy RSL on 16 May 15.

The prime purpose of the gathering was to provide an opportunity for those of us, lucky enough to live in this wonderful region, to renew old friendships and meet newly retired ‘Bluebells’, who may have moved to SE Qld since our last activity in August 2014. The gathering also provided an opportunity to formalise the local chapter and consolidate our membership within the goals of the RAEME Association Queensland in a very convivial venue.



RAQ Chairman, Jeff Maurice and his wife Susan with REP COL COMDT BRIG David McGahey and his wife Sue

The Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG David McGahey (Rtd), was our keynote speaker and brought us up to date on what the Corps is doing at a very challenging moment in its history. He explained that our Corps is being subjected to scrutiny like never before and he is participating in a review of the Corps about to get underway. I provided a brief update on the progress, production and official launch of the RAEME Corps History, ‘With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014’.



A group of Retired Senior Statesmen of the Corps – COL Peter Snowdon, LTCOL Les Edis, LTCOL Pat Fergusson, LTCOL John Bensley and LTCOL John Wilson.



Some of Our Loyal wives – Kay Bevans, Marilyn Fraser, Lorelle Rues and Sue Hoare





Other well known attendees – L to R, Gary Sargent, Rocky Hoare, ‘Beans’ Bevans, Peter Rues and Bob Fraser



The Oldest and Youngest Attendees, Retired WO2 Bill Budgen and CAPT Glenn Ellis (RAEME) Defence Force Recruiting, Maroochydore.

The gathering was very successful and there was no rush to finish the proceedings. May I offer my thanks to the team, Mike Prain, Ian Hartshorn, Mick Liddlelow and Ray Norman who organised the day

Regards

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



HONOURS AND AWARDS

Queens’ Birthday Honour List 2015. A number of RAEME personnel across Australia have been recognised in the recent Queens Birthday Honours as follows:

- **CSC. LTCOL Paul Bassett** – for outstanding achievement as Defence Materiel Organisation Liaison Officer, HQJOC, and Acting Director Military Operations and Liaison in support of operational capability.
- **CSC. LTCOL Dave Phillips** – for outstanding achievement as CO/CI of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.
- **CSM. COL Jeremy King** – for meritorious achievement as Deputy Commander of the Australian Contingent for Operation Asian and Force HQ Chief of Logistics for the UN Mission in South Sudan.
- **CSM. MAJ Richard Moyses** – for meritorious achievement Detachment Commander and SO2 CA, Career Advisory Group-Central, in the Directorate of Reserve Officer Career Management-Army.
- **CSM. WO1 Aaron Writer** – meritorious achievement as Assistant Maintenance Manager of JLU(N) in providing logistic support to operations and units in the northern region

Lifetime of Service – MAJ Jack Balsillie MBE (Rtd). About 60 people attended a function in Bendigo, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of enlistment, of one of the elder statesmen of the Corps, in the Australian Defence Force, as one of the first 100 Army ‘workshop apprentices’. This was the ‘apprentice’ scheme which preceded the formation of the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in 1948. During WW2, ‘workshop apprentices’ provided the Army and AEME with a very good source of technicians, who largely went on to make a major contribution to the fledgling Corps for many years. Congratulations go to Jack on a distinguished military and post-military career in local politics, which at one stage saw him elected mayor of Bendigo.



ANNIVERSARY: Major Jack Balsillie marked the 70th anniversary of his enlistment as an army apprentice with a lunch at Bendigo District RSL. **Picture: BRENDAN MCCARTHY**

COMING EVENTS

AAAA Reunion 2015 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the closure of the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme. 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 Friday and Saturday events 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.

The format for the Reunion will be as follows:

- **Friday 23 October 2015.** 3 to 8pm. Registration and 'Meet and Greet' Function at the Albury Entertainment Centre.
- **Saturday 24 October 2015.**
 - 9.30 to 10.30am. AAAA Annual General Meeting at the Albury Commercial Club.
 - 11am to 12 noon. Albury CBD street march. Music by Army Band Kapooka.
 - 1 to 4pm. Visits to Latchford Barracks to view ASEME trade wings and Apprentice Banner at the Chapel. Visitors responsible for own transport.
 - 6.30 to 11pm. Reunion Dinner at the Albury Commercial Club. Seating by intake tables. Participants limited to 400.
- **Sunday 25 October 2015.**
 - 10.30 to 11.30am. Memorial Service at the Apprentice Memorial Gaza Ridge Barracks.
 - 11.30am to 2.00pm. Farewell BBQ lunch at the Army Museum Gaza Ridge Barracks, including museum visit.
 - 2pm. Conclusion of Reunion.

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. Now open by an on-line registration system and will close on 9 October 2015.

Costs. Please note the following:

- Delegate Registration to include all events - \$170.00 per person,
- AAAA Member Delegate Registration to include all events - \$145.00 per person,
- Saturday Reunion Dinner only attendees - \$75.00 per person

Transport to and from Albury and accommodation will be a personal responsibility.

Reunion Information Sheet and registration details are available on AAAA web site at:

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/wp-content/uploads/150506-Reunion-Information-Sheet.pdf>

Registrations are proceeding very well, and intending Reunion participants are encouraged not to leave their registration until the last minute to avoid disappointment.

Otto Aberle 21VM
Events Manager
AAAA

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Spanner Packs. Your Association despatched another fifty packs to Afghanistan in early June. This brings the total number to 3223 despatched since the RAEME Association Queensland undertook this important task. Another consignment will be prepared in late August.

We have received our latest response from some of our young soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan – please see below:

Sir,

I and the rest of the Qargha Afghanistan workshop would like to say thanks for our Spanner Packs. We were delighted to receive them recently and know that fellow Corp members, past/present back in Australia are thinking of us during this nearly completed, deployment.

I have attached the following photo of our workshop members with the RAEME flag. The members are; LCPL COMINS (Armourer) (1RAR), CFN YOUNG ('Boffin') (1RAR), CFN SIMMS (Vech Mech) (1RAR) and CFN DJOKIC (Vech Mech) (1RAR).



Due to this deployment coming to an end and the RAEME members being replaced could four more Spanner Packs be sent for the new comers?

S.M. Comins LCPL
Kabul

More satisfied customers. Please advise me if you know of any other RAEME soldiers 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, which would like to donate items to place in the packs – they often need their contents refreshed.

Regards,

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

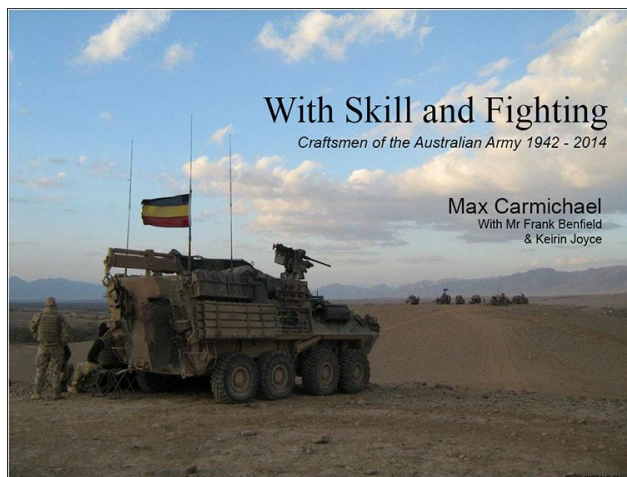


CORPS HISTORY

Corps History Project (CHP) – ‘With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014’. At last I can report that the books have arrived at the Head of Corps Cell, Bonegilla, where our small team of volunteers has commenced distribution to those people who pre-ordered the book. Indeed, as I write this report, all the Limited Editions have been distributed, and some 400 Hard Cover versions, are on their way. This activity has created a renewed surge of interest in the book and orders are flooding in again. For those now interested in ordering a book, there are no more Limited Editions available – only around 1000 Hard Cover versions – therefore you are invited to purchase the book by going to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on ‘Shop and then click on the **photo of the book** cover. Then follow the instructions shown on the screen for payment, including sending a payment of \$80.00 to:

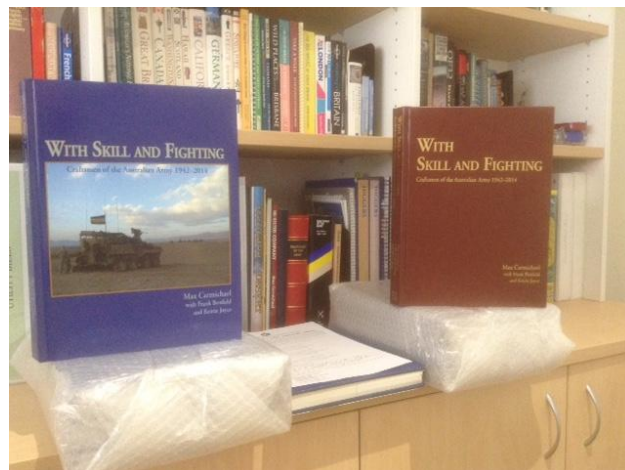
RAEME Corps Fund, Defence Bank BSB: 803205
Acct 20509705

Once payment is made, send an email to
RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au and
William.myers@defence.gov.au with **proof of**
payment, point of contact details and a **Delivery**
Address.



The Team at the HOC Cell will dispatch your book(s) within 28 working days weeks upon confirmation of payment.

Background to the Book. The book has been compiled by members of the Corps, and it is hoped the stories will inspire other members of RAEME to emulate, maintain and grow the proud traditions, both soldierly and technical, of a still young but vibrant Corps. It is also hoped that the stories will ensure our strong reputation continues to grow.



Acknowledgement. To say this book has been a considerable collaboration is an understatement. A small army of volunteers, supporters, contributors, sponsors, enthusiasts, together with a dedicated project team has been responsible for all stories in this book over a significant period. The team has worked tirelessly to organise and manage our work to: coordinate, compile, draft, and re-draft the stories; liaise with contributors; and proof read the stories to get them printed, published and distributed. The fact the book is now published and available is a testimony to the things RAEME does best – work well in teams and see the job through to a successful conclusion.

Those deserving of special acknowledgment are the members of the Corps History Project Team. They have stuck with me through the five-year journey and have never flinched in the face of the obstacles, or let their ‘day jobs’ get in the way of good outcomes.

Secondly, may I publicly thank some individuals without detracting from the extended team’s efforts: my deputy, Chris Mead, for his willingness to tackle anything that confronted us. His hard work and inclusive management style; working closely with the editor, Max Carmichael, the assistant editors, Frank Benfield, and Major Keirin Joyce, ensuring the momentum was maintained and only the best stories were included in the book. I’d also like to thank my story and repository manager and all-round ideas man, WO1 Paul Gibbs; his side-kick and story-chaser, WO1 Nick Rees; for their work to

encourage contributors to provide stories and photographs, and store them safely, including the ones which didn't make it into the book. Paul also developed the ordering and payment process with the Head of Corps Team making their lives comparatively easy and ensuring purchasers could order the books simply.

The former President of the RAEME National Association, Raymond Norman, also deserves a special mention for the Association's full hearted support of the project, keeping the regional RAEME Associations Australia-wide in the network and developing the RAEME National Association's new website. This difficult but complementary project was developed in harmony with his wide-spread and supportive national webmasters – this was truly a team effort on its own.

Also worthy of mention are the two Heads of Corps Cell staff officers, Majors Graham Anderson and John Halstead, and now Bill Myers, who over a long time have supported the volunteers in so many ways, but usually behind the scenes. Our other quiet achievers were our fundraising adviser and ideas man, Richard Kluckhohn; our COL COMDT ACT/NSW, Colonel Tom Reynolds and his excellent liaison work with the Australian War Memorial; the REP COL COMDT RAEME, Brigadier Dave McGahey (Rtd), and his team of Colonels Commandants across Australia. Several serving officers, who should be acknowledged for their support over time, include the Commanding Officers and Deputy Heads of Corps of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Rotary Wing Aircraft

Thirdly, may I thank the many contributors who were encouraged, or volunteered, to write their stories – without them there would be no book. It was somewhat of a relief the slow tide of stories turned in to a flood, and where at one stage we were suffering from too few, we later ended up struggling to decide on the best – we had plenty to choose from.

Equally there would be no book without the financial and moral support of the RAEME Corps Committee; the RAEME National Association and the State and Territory Associations – Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory; Tasmania, a small number of private donors; the Department of Veterans Affairs through a grant under the banner of 'Saluting their Service'; and our wonderful sponsors listed in the front of the book.

The lead editor and author, Max Carmichael, deserves very special mention. He has laboured mightily to draw together the many thousands of pages of stories we received from a wide group of

like minded people and turn them into a coherent book. Some stories were received on the back of the proverbial 'fag packet', others were books in themselves. Most contributors ignored the writing instructions and waxed lyrical about their experiences, so Max had the unenviable job of trimming them to fit. Additional pruning was also undertaken by the team as a group in March 2014, at the Maroochydore RSL premises, but the most comprehensive edit was undertaken by Max's loyal supporters, Frank Benfield and Major Joyce, to produce a manuscript that could be presented to the publishers and printers for costing and eventual publication.

I am also indebted to the regional RAEME associations for assisting with the launch of the books, as well as the Australian War Memorial for the main event to be held on 9 Sep 15 at the AWM.

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 L. G. Grant
PD CHP
raemebookproject@hotmail.com



WARNING ORDER – RAQ Gold Coast Gathering and Luncheon!

A RAEME Gathering will be held at the Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Life saving Club Date on Saturday 26 Sep 15 commencing at 12:00 hours and going until 1500 hours. More information will be provided shortly but put the date in your diary. BRIG Ross Grant will speak about the new Corps history and some copies will be available for purchase – first come first served basis. Watch our website at:

www.qld.raeme.org.au

VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- **Anderson**, David John 'Duke', 8th Intake, passed away in Hobart on 15 May 2015, from a heart attack in Hobart.
- **Gibbs**, Joyce, the wife of ex WO1 Sammy Gibbs (Art Armt) passed away on 9 Jun 15 in Wodonga.

SICK LIST

The following members are in hospital or recovering from illness:

- **Snowdon**, Peter, - Mater for tests and antibiotics.
- **Stevenson**, Derek just returned from hospital after a suspected Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA).
- **Grant**, Ross (Drac) Leonard 16thVM in hospital for a short while for prostate surgery.

Regards,

Barry Shipway
Welfare Officer
RAEME Association Qld
webadmin@qld.raeme.org.au



DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

What's been happening? It has been a very quiet reporting period. DFWA is still working on all items previously reported such as widows' pensions and disability pensions, but there has been no significant response from Government. Clearly, if you read the papers, they are preoccupied with 'more pressing matters'!

A DFWA member recently presented a paper to his local member on the dreadful situation where pension recipients are short-changed with our DFRDB pensions post commutation. Recipients may have sustained significant financial losses, which may continue for some time. This situation relates directly to the calculation of reduced pension after commuting, related to the Whole of Life tables of, put succinctly, when you are expected to die. These present tables were assessed in 1964 or thereabouts. Over the years, life expectancy has extended dramatically. In short, recipients will now be expected to draw on a reducing pension until death. To expect recipients to make ends meet, including potentially some with mortgages, when the drawing power of their pensions is reducing, is unacceptable and very disappointing. The government must understand that this very vulnerable group in the community will need assistance. As more information on progress on this comes to hand, I will publish it

Important Notice. Are you a CURRENT or FORMER DEFENCE MEMBER who RESIDED in CANBERRA in the 1970s or 1980s? Please be aware that on 1 July 2015 the ACT Government Asbestos Response Taskforce released a register of residential addresses in the ACT affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation (also known as Mr Fluffy insulation).

If you think you may have been exposed to asbestos as a result of your employment and housing with Defence call 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) and ask to be put through to the Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme (DAEES), or visit: <http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/Asbestos/>.

For more information regarding the ACT Government Asbestos Response Taskforce please visit <http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/>. A list of affected houses is available on the ACT Taskforce's website at:

<http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/the-list>.

Regards,

Peter Snowdon
DFWA Rep
pm.snowdon@bigpond.com



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The publication of the book 'With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014' has occupied my life for a considerable period, but lately as the project team worked feverishly to receive the books from the printer and commence distribution, things got very busy. The book is now being distributed, and I hope those of you who have acquired the book, or are about to, are rewarded for your patience with a 'good read'. The team is pretty proud of the result and the stories we were able to fit in, but it is also clear to many of us that there are still many more stories to be told about the Corps and its members – that is a task for the next team of volunteers!

This brings to 'front of mind' the need for new volunteers to constantly refresh our ranks regardless of the task, importantly to take on projects like the history book, but also within our RAEME organisations. Our team has put in some hard yards over the last six years and I am exceptionally proud of them largely because they stayed together as team right to the end. In September, at the official launch of the book at the Australian War Memorial, I will be in a position, in front of a large group of the Corps and the invited guests, to thank them publicly.

I am always amazed by the amount of work our volunteers undertake, despite their 'day jobs' sometimes getting in the way, but one of our strengths as a Corps is that we share the load so if anyone is in danger of being over loaded, many put their hands up to help. This is what occurred with the book and our experience as an Association is no different. Indeed the RAQ can be very proud of the part it played in the book, as much as the many events and activities it organises for you as members.

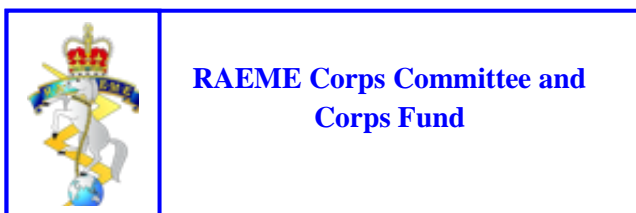
On the launch, shortly we will be advised of the detail of this important event. From the invitation below, it is the intention of the Head of Corps, BRIG Andrew Mathewson, to invite a large number of folks to attend, including those members of the Corps, who are attending the Corps Seminar, which happens to fall at that time; together with other members of the Corps – past and present – on a first ‘come first served basis’. Sadly the venue can only accommodate around 150 attendees. As the official launch will be heralded by a ‘Last Post Ceremony’, that part of the evening is open to all. I look forward to seeing many of you at the launch.

Regards,

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



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RACQ

**Invitation to the National Book Launch of
 ‘With Skill and Fighting - Craftsmen of the
 Australian army 1942-2014’**

RAEME Corps Seminar 2015:

- Serving & Corps Committee members only
- At Russell Offices, R1 Theatre
- On 9 September 2015, 1100-1600

RSVP essential as limited attendance - responses to:
philip.buckland@defence.gov.au by Monday 31 August 2015

RAEME Corps History Book Launch:

- Serving & non-serving members welcome at the Australian War Memorial, on 9 Sep 15, commencing at:
 - 1655 Last Post Ceremony
 - 1700 Laying of wreaths
 - 1715 Canapés & refreshments
 - 1730 Head of Corps RAEME:
 - Welcome
 - Guest speaker
 - Sponsor Presentations

RSVP essential as **limited attendance** - responses to:
philip.buckland@defence.gov.au by Monday 31 August 2015



RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Date: Sunday, 23 August 2015

Venue: Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSLA Sub Branch, 2 Clewley Street, CORINDA - Next to Corinda railway station.



Time: 1100 – 1600.

Casual. Cost: \$5/ person.

Catering: Bar-B-Que. Try the delicious beef burgers.

Great raffles including the books

ANZAC Treasures

and

With Skill and Fighting

Drinks at bar prices

Bring your photos and swap yarns

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

If you know of anyone interested in attending who may not be aware of the function could you make an effort to pass on this information. If you have email access could you please advise me for distribution of future notices.

RSVP 16 Aug 2015 **Please respond for catering purposes to:** John Parfitt Tel: 33761778 Email: jparfitt@bigpond.com 17 Elinga St Jindalee, QLD, 4074