

**Edition 3-18**

27 Oct 2018



## Spanner News

Published three times per year, is the Official Newsletter of the RAEME Association Queensland Inc

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PO Box 41 Hamilton Qld

# Spanner News

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RAEME Association Queensland members – welcome to Edition 3/18 Spanner News, the last for 2018.

In the period July to October, the RAQ has undertaken three very successful gatherings on the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane, as well as a very successful AGM. It is great to see, year on year, the Sunshine Coast (SC) and Gold Coast (GC) functions making their mark and being so well supported. It is also pleasing to see the well-established CMF/RAEME Reserve function attracting more participants. My thanks go to Mike Prain and Ross Grant, Coordinators of the SC Luncheon; and Eddie Bevans and Barry Skinner, GC Lunch Coordinators, for producing two great (individual) functions; as well as to Ian Leabeater and John Parfitt, for their work with the annual CMF/RAEME Reserve function, which never seems to lose its popularity.

On 5 Sep 18, the RAQ Annual General Meeting was held at the Kedron Wavell Services Club (KWSC). Committee elections and a vote to accept/approve the new RAQ Constitution were the key outcomes, but also tabling of the Audited Financial Statement of Affairs and Auditors Report. Thank you to all committee members for your diligent and often unrecognised work. At the close of the FY 2017/2018, the RAQ is in a very “healthy” financial position and our membership numbers continue to increase strongly. I am very pleased to welcome our new committee and note that all committee positions are filled, with only an assistant vacancy carried forward. Please go the RAQ website for more details on the AGM and Reports.

“Well Done” to those who put many hours of work into the review and update of our constitution – your efforts were very much appreciated.

As we head towards the end of yet another successful year, culminating with our All Ranks Luncheon on 18 November at the Port Office Hotel, I would like to thank all our members for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our final function for 2018.

*Jeff Maurice*

**Jeff Maurice**  
**Chairman RAQ**

[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



The purpose of the RAEME Association Queensland is to promote and reinforce the spirit, reputation, image and competencies of the Corps through its past, present and future members.

The goals of the Association are to:

- Promote the Corps' identity and reputation in Queensland
- Recognise and celebrate achievements of members of the Corps in Queensland
- Provide a focal point for Corps activities in Queensland

Joining the RAQ – Membership is \$10 a year or upgrade to Life Subscription for \$100. All proceeds are used to support and promote the goals of the Association.

## FROM THE COL COMMANDANT

Greetings everyone. Off the back of a number of major exercises and operations, many of you will have received your next posting order and are preparing for the next step in your career. Now would be a good time to reflect on your achievements during the current posting, not to mention, the experiences and the friends that you have made. Take all the good lessons into your new posting - your new unit will be all the better for it. No two jobs in the Army are the same, and the diversity of your work experiences will continue to create fulfilling and highly rewarding opportunities both now and when you leave the service.

As we move towards the end of our 76th year and our next birthday, I wish to thank all members of the Corps in QLD – you have made it another memorable year for the RAQ. Since the last newsletter in July, I have attended many RAEME functions across SE QLD, including the all-important unit Spanner Club events, and the RAQ functions events on the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and in Brisbane. I wish to thank the organisers who have taken the time and effort to host all these excellent activities. Special thanks to Ross Grant and Mike Prain for the Sunshine Coast activity, ‘Beans’ Bevans and Barry Skinner for the Gold Coast function and Ian Leabeater and John Parfitt for the annual CMF/RAEME Reserve function in Brisbane.

Arte et Marte

**Tony Borg**  
**COL COMDT – QLD**

[tony.borg@defence.gov.au](mailto:tony.borg@defence.gov.au)



## HOC VISITS OUR COLONEL IN CHIEF



Pictured above: The Duke, who is Colonel-in-Chief of RAEME (centre), received Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Evans RAEME, Chief of Staff at the Australian High Commission (left) and Brigadier Andrew Freeman, HOC RAEME (right).

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh recently received Brigadier Andrew Freeman, Head of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Windsor Castle. Brigadier Freeman was on an official Visit to the UK.

Brigadier Freeman recently tweeted, "It was an absolute pleasure to meet His Royal Highness who has remained RAEME's Colonel in Chief having retired from official duties." Click on the image above to view more detail.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Just over 2 years ago, I took on the Treasurer's role whilst continuing as the Membership Member. This has had its advantages (I didn't have to email myself when someone paid their membership fees) however, over the last few months it became increasingly difficult to undertake both roles effectively. I was therefore delighted when Kingsley Pocock volunteered at the recent AGM to take-over the vital role of RAQ Membership Member. May I publicly thank Kingsley for his volunteering spirit and support to me and the RAQ.

After a couple of hours' hand-over, Kingsley was briefed on the system/processes, and quickly took over the reins – he is now running with his new role. Of course, "Murphy" has raised his head, and since the changeover, there has only been one membership renewal and one new membership – it has been a very quiet period for our association! So let's all get out there, chat to old and new friends/acquaintances and encourage them to join our very essential organisation and dynamic team – importantly, we need to give Kingsley something to do!

I have enjoyed my time as Membership Member (about 5 years) and wish to thank everyone who assisted me. It was a challenge transitioning the paper-based system onto the Web, but thankfully with Pete Matthews' excellent technical skills as Webmaster, it all went smoothly. Over my time, I have welcomed some 220 new members, so the association continues to grow at a healthy rate, remain financially viable and provide useful services.

**Steve Howells**

[treasurer@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:treasurer@qld.raeme.org.au)



**RAEME Corps  
Committee & Corps  
Fund**

**PROTECTED MOBILITY VEHICLE – LIGHT (PMV-L) OR HAWKEI**

**What is HAWKEI?** It is a Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light (PMVL). It is designed to replace the Land Rover. It does everything that a Land Rover did – but much better – with impressive protection systems and state of the art communications and weapons capability! While most projects introduce a Military off the Shelf or Commercial off the Shelf system, the Hawkei mission system started from a clean sheet of paper just a few years ago. The Mission System continues to evolve as the design is refined. The vehicle is designed and built in Australia at the Thales facility in Bendigo.



The mission system contains a number of cutting-edge innovations for this class of vehicle including:

**Drive line configuration:** the engine and transmission sit side by side in the engine bay (think M113) with the front of the engine facing the rear of the vehicle. Drive is transmitted via two right angle “cross drives”. This design means there is no large drive line mass under any crew position – really important in a blast event.

**Integral Computing System (ICS):** the ICS is an interface that allows the operator to access the SOTAS intercom, radios, Battle Management System, live vehicle system data and workshop manuals from one screen. In the future we aim to integrate Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFTADS), Digital Terminal Control System (DTCS) and the next generation Force Protection Electronic Counter Measures (FPECM).

**Integrated Starter Generator (ISG):** The ISG bolts directly to the rear of the engine and looks like a bell housing extension. It replaces the conventional alternator and starter motor and produces 15 kw of on-board power, with the capacity for further growth ensuring that the mission system is future proofed.

The Land 121 Phase 4 Project Office has been working hard to ensure the best possible capability is delivered to Army and Air Force, so it is undergoing a critical testing regime to ensure nothing is missed.

**WO1 Steve Luke**

**COMING EVENTS**

EVENT	DATE
106 FD WKSP 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY GALLIPOLI BARRACKS	Fri 2 November 2018
RAQ ALL RANKS LUNCHEON BRISBANE	Sun 18 November 2018
RAEME BIRTHDAY 7CSSB ENOGGERA	Fri 30 November 2018
RAEME ACFT MAINT SCHOOL ANNUAL CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER OAKEY	Fri 30 November 2018
RAEME BIRTHDAY	Sat 1 December 2018
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAISING OF 106 FD WKSP AT NUI DAT, SOUTH VIETNAM	Sat 1 December 2018

**ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SCHOOL (RAMS) RAEME BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - DARLING DOWNS.**

Make sure you book your reservation for this important event. RAMS will host the RAEME 76th Birthday celebrations on the Darling Downs with an All-Ranks Dinner at the Army Aviation Training Centre, Oakey, on Friday 30 Nov 18. Details are below and on page 11.

- Friday 30 November 2018
- RSVP 31 Oct 2018 - WO2 Brett Mesken
- [Brett.Mesken@defence.gov.au](mailto:Brett.Mesken@defence.gov.au)
- Ph. 07 4577 7404



You are cordially invited to join the staff and students of the  
**Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School**  
 at the  
**Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**  
**76th Birthday All Ranks Dinner**  
 to be held at the Army Aviation Training Centre, Oakey  
 on  
**Friday 30 November 2018**  
 at 6.00pm for 6.30pm



RSVP: 31 October 2018  
 Warrant Officer Class Two Brett Mesken  
 Email: [brett.mesken@defence.gov.au](mailto:brett.mesken@defence.gov.au)  
 Phone: (07) 4577 7404

Military  
 Order 6B White Jacket or 6D Mess Dress  
 or 6C Senior Ranks Mess Dress  
 2F General Duty Dress or Navy Equivalent  
 Civilian  
 Evening Dress- Black Tie w/ Medals



**LTCOL Brett Nelsen  
CO/CI RAMS**

## RAQ SE QLD ALL-RANKS LUNCHEON.

A personal Invitation is extended to all our members, their families and Friends of the Corp to our 2018 Finale event – the SE QLD RAEME All Ranks 76th Corps Birthday Luncheon.

This event celebrates our Corps birthday and closes out the year in magnificent style at the renowned Port Office Hotel, one of Brisbane's finest award-winning restaurants. The RAQ will provide a subsidy of \$10 per financial member and \$10 subsidy for one guest (per financial member).

### PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE TO SUNDAY 18 NOV 2018

**VENUE:** Port Office Dining Room, Brisbane CBD (Port Office Hotel) Corner Edward and Margaret Streets.

**TIMINGS:** 1130 hrs pre-luncheon gathering for 1230 hrs start, finishing at 1700hrs.

#### COST:

- Discounted financial RAQ member or serving soldier \$55.00 per person. Also applies for up to one guest @ \$55.00 per person
- Non-member rate is \$65.00 per person.

**MEAL:** Entree, Main (3 way alternate drop), desert (cake) tea and coffee.

**DRINKS:** Drink package included for the first hour once seated (after the first hour drinks are own expense).

**FREE GIFTS:** Every Guest attending will receive the following items: 1 x 75th Stubbie Cooler, 1 x 75th Bottle Opener & 1 x 75th Pen (Total value of gifts = \$11.50)

**DRESS:** Smart Casual - Gents Tie please.

**RSVP:** Sunday 11th November 2018.

**How to Book:** Simply book online by [clicking this link](#). You can pay using PayPal or EFT. If you are making up a table, please advise us who you will be sitting with and we will endeavour to accommodate this for you. Tables usually seat either 8 or 10. Please [email the secretary](#).

Yours Sincerely

*Jeff Maurice*

Jeff Maurice  
Chairman RAQ  
[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



## CORPS HAPPENINGS

**RAEME Corps Conference.** The annual RAEME Corps Conference was held in Randwick Barracks, Sydney, from 23 to 25 Oct 2018. A full report will be forthcoming for the next edition of Spanner News, but readers should be aware that this very important conference involved a large number of Corps' members discussing seven topics critical to the modernisation of Army maintenance capability and assimilating the impact of new technologies. These discussions will provide the official Corps position informing Army's acquisition, sustainment, recruitment, trade development, technical and military training and career management for many years to come.

**Topic One** will review how the Corps can use the technical and trade knowledge of our personnel to influence the Employment Category Review within a rapidly modernising Army and its system of equipment maintenance.

**Topic Two** will develop potential solutions to the maintenance of system or systems, and other integrated capabilities, including the use of OEMs and contractors, intellectual property concerns, and the training required to support new maintenance systems.

**Topic Three** builds a Corps position on Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) and Repair (BDR). BDA/R is governed under the TRAMM-L and DEFLOGMAN, but they focus on who can authorise it – the CDF – and how it is governed when it is authorised.

**Topic Four** examines the fundamental relationship in a workshop – that of the Workshop Commander and the Artificer Sergeant Major and the tendency for the junior workshop commanders to be seen more as platoon commanders and administrators vs technical managers.

**Topic Five** is a proposal for a system to provide technical advice on trade matters taking into account Army's modernisation and strategic environment. A single POC for all technical trade matters will provide consistent advice aligned with Army's requirements.

**Topic Six** will provide a Regimental Pathway for Craftsmen that provides detailed guidance on becoming an RSM. Just as the Corps has officers that choose between command and technical professions, so too Craftsmen have choice between a trade and a leadership career.

**Topic Seven** addresses the issue of diversity (education and trade backgrounds, prior service and employment etc) within the Corps. How can the Corps assist Army's recruiting efforts to attract potential soldiers and officers? Is this primarily a matter for recruiting?

It is only through thorough research and wide-ranging discussion that the Corps will develop robust ideas and doctrine for maintenance modernisation.

**Perri Hobbs MAJ**  
**SO2 Corps - RAEME | HOC Cell**  
[perri.hobbs@defence.gov.au](mailto:perri.hobbs@defence.gov.au)



### RAEME ARES/CMF REUNION 2018.

The 2018 Reunion was another great success with 67 people attending the annual event. Many friendships were renewed one being that of ex “boss” of I Base Wksp Electrical Section Keith Poole. Having seen the Reunion Flyer in Friday Files he thought that although he had been in the regular Army, and the Reunion was primarily for CMF and Res he decided he knew a lot of Res RAEME members and decided to attend - it is good to see ARA colleagues. By coincidence another attendee was Trevor Kerlin, who flew from Cairns for the event. Keith and Trevor had known each other for many years both through the Army and TAFE system where Trevor worked as a technical teacher. The two had a lot of memories to talk over. Keith remained a stayer until the last as he talked to many ex “sparkies” no doubt about ohms and amps, etc.

During the raffle draw, one of the prizes being a DVD of the Prince Philip Banner Parade, John Parfitt spoke of the significance of this event in the history of RAEME. A show of hands revealed many members had attended the ceremony in 1986. John then advised that one of the members attending had a very important role in the procedures, that was Chip Gorman (below) who was the senior Major on parade and as such had the task of un-sheathing the Banner.



Chip related an antidote about the problem encountered on the day of the presentation when he spent a long time extricating a stuck Banner from the zip and the resultant panning of the camera away from the key players for quite some time. His talk was well received and brought a lot

of laughs. This difficult situation on the day was later emphasised when excerpts of the parade were shown to attendees. Chip’s wife Judy also attended and was the lucky winner of the main prize the coveted RAEME cane.

Long standing supporters of the Reunion, Fred and Corrine Newby again attended. Fred having served in WW2 was the oldest member present and had the honour of cutting the cake. Fred had been a regular attendee at RAEME Association Meeting until his recent health issues.

The Honorary Colonel Commandant, Tony Borg, spoke on the role of Army Reserve members in present campaigns overseas and their assimilation into the Army system. The Chairman of the RAEME Association brought along his father, an ex “tankie”, who enjoyed the day.

Several ex Recovery Mechanics always attend and have a very close bond with their own adaptation of the RAEME flag. They, and other members, were particularly interested in a diorama of a WWI recovery operation involving a German A7V Sturmpanzerwagen better known as the Mephisto, which was the actual name of one of these tanks. Mephisto has been on display at the Queensland Museum for many years.

Members were also entertained viewing several audio-visual presentations including a slide show of photos of reunions dating from 2003 to 2017, The Banner Parade, excerpts from the 2018 Trooping the Colour and the Marching out Parade of the grandson of John and Geneve Hague. Their grandson recently joined the Regular Army and has been posted to the Infantry Corps.

The Chairman of the Reunion Committee, Ian Leabeater, spoke on the need for younger members to step forward and take the reins from the present Committee, whom as he explained, are not getting any younger and the need for new “blood” to keep our function viable. Well another Reunion is concluded and we look forward to next year’s event.



**John Parfitt**  
**RAEME Reserve Reunion**

### RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND LUNCH, MERMAID BEACH (AEME) SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB, GOLD COAST.

On Saturday the 18th August, the 3rd annual lunch / get together for local serving and ex-serving RAEME people, was held at the historic Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Life Saving Club.

Typically, it was a perfect Gold Coast winter’s day with attendees, comfortably ensconced on the front veranda

of the club overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean. With good company, great food and superb bar service, the very supportive Surf Club management is to be congratulated for going out of its way to accommodate our popular lunch.

46 guests, including wives and partners turned-up, and the organisers of the lunch were pleased with the support we received on the day, making it on par with the previous two years – so interest in our modest but important event is not waning. Most people who attended were from the Gold Coast region, however we also had people from further afield, with a number from north of Brisbane including Ross Grant and Mike Prain down from the Sunshine Coast, Graeme Clement down from Caboolture way and Colonel Tony Borg, the Colonel Commandant - Queensland, and Bruce Herrmann and his wife, attended from Brisbane.



Each year we seem to have a new face or two turn up and this year was no exception with Bob Little and Dave "Speedy" Manfield (both 17th Intake Appy classmates) attending. Both caught up with many like-minded friends from their former Army aviation and Appy days.



Once again, we were privileged to have BRIG Bert Barker in attendance. BRIG Bert is an original member of the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME) when it formed in 1942, and stayed on in the Army, post WW2, retiring in 1973. During WW2 BRIG Bert serving in Rabaul in New Guinea, and without detailing his career

too much, he had a posting as CO of RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana. Post retirement, he was appointed Colonel Commandant-Queensland in the 1980s, and at 96, he is an extremely interesting man to talk to, especially given his long links with the Corps.

We look forward to the next event around August 2019.

**Ed (Beans) Bevans  
& Barry Skinner  
Convenors  
RAQ Gold Coast**



## OPERATION SPANNER PACK

In an attempt to keep everyone updated on the Spanner Pack program, may I advise that a further sixty "Spanner Packs" were dispatched to our men and women on operations in October.

We know that our colleagues, family and friends on operations really value this program, which is fast approaching 9000 kg mark, for packages dispatched over the life of Operation Spanner Pack program managed by the RAQ on behalf of the RAEME National Network (RNN).

Once again, the RAQ has received several letters of thanks in the last three months, but the following letter from Captain Samuel Wassef, HQJTF633 J4 Maintenance, illustrates just how much our deployed troops value the packs and the support of the RNN:

*"Dear Ray,*

*HEADQUARTERS JOINT TASK FORCE 633*

*I am very much enjoying the contents of my parcel that was provided as part of "Operation Spanner Pack"!*

*From me personally, it is an absolute delight to finally receive this as a deployed RAEME member overseas. I joined in 2006 and this is my first operational deployment – long awaited, and I'm so glad to finally get this experience. It is a great milestone for me in my career and a massive highlight to fulfil the role of J4 Maintenance, having overall responsibility for maintenance of land materiel in the Middle East Region. Sounds a bit weird saying that! But it goes without saying that I'm working closely with WO1 Aaron Writer here in HQJTF633 and am well supported by a great bunch of men and women across all the Task Groups.*

*From me as the J4 Maintenance, I am delighted to know that you and the team at the RAEME Associations provide for all RAEME personnel deployed to the Middle East. I remember when I was a subbie, and you came to Enoggera and explained this as part of your job in the RAEME Association. It's crazy to see it from the other end and be a recipient some 10 or so years later. The morale boost it brings to the team over here is great. Aaron and I personally took the packs down to the*

ASM of the FSE workshop here in AMAB and they were all very appreciative. You'll be pleased to know that the tri-colour and RAEME badge is plastered right across the Middle East and the boys and girls are proudly flying the flag everywhere!

Please find enclosed some photos of RAEME personnel based in the Middle East. We hope this can be added to your collection and shown to the people that put these care packages together. We also hope that this can show how appreciative we all are!

Once again, thanks for all your support from the RAEME Association, and on behalf of all RAEME personnel currently deployed to the Middle East Region, please pass on my thanks to all involved."



**CAPT Wassef and WO1 Writer**



**Task Group Taj VII  
Workshops  
May - November 18**



### Members of Taj Group Taj VII Workshops

For all readers, please note we need your help to make the packages useful and meaningful, so if you can donate items or money, please visit the shop on the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Website at [www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) where you will find a "make a donation" tag.

Our next dispatch will be in February 2019.



**Raymond Norman  
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator**

### VALE

It is with deep regret that we advise of the following:

- **Dilger**, Mick (23rdVM) passed away 30 Jul 18 at the Mackay Base Hospital
- **Budgen**, Willian (Bill), late of Birkdale, passed away peacefully 24 Jul 18, aged 91 years.

### WELFARE

- **Larard**, Peter (18<sup>th</sup> VM) is gravely ill with Alzheimer's disease according to an email from his eldest daughter, Kerri. She advises, "Peter's situation has declined rapidly over the last month. He struggles to speak, is unable to walk, sit, stand or move about without the assistance of two carers. He has a life expectancy of 6 months but may not see Christmas."
- **Davies**, "Digger" Raymond (18<sup>th</sup> VM) has recently been unwell but is recovering.

Please remember to contact me if you hear of one of our RAEME family is unwell or in distress.



**Barry Shipway  
Welfare Officer  
[welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)**

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In the next few editions of Spanner News, the RAQ is going to encourage you to keep abreast of changes to the management of your health and wellbeing as a result of recently announced changes to the Medicare, 'My Gov' and DVA websites. One of the first things the websites invite you to do is create an account, which is relatively simple, if you follow the advice proffered on the relevant website. It can also be linked to your Medicare and DVA websites where you will find increasing amounts of treatment detail and health history. If you haven't been to these sites recently, or at all, do yourself a favour, and have a look.

You may not wish to participate in this government initiative, but there may be advantages to the management of your health and wellbeing, so consider your needs carefully. You will no doubt have seen advertising like the following of recent times making it clear that: "This year, you will get a My Health Record unless you tell us you don't want one. If you don't want a My Health Record, visit [www.MyHealthRecord.gov.au](http://www.MyHealthRecord.gov.au) or call 1800 723 471 by 15 November 2018 to opt out."

It is your choice, but may we suggest you look at the following sites and gain an understanding of what is on offer:

<https://myrecord.ehealth.gov.au/portal/landing>

<https://www.dva.gov.au>

To familiarise yourself with some of the information on these sites have a read of the following documents:

[Discharge Planning Resource Guide](#)

[Health and Wellbeing – Rehabilitation](#)

## QUEENSLAND MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Queensland Mental Health Week is an annual event that aims to increase awareness and interest in positive mental health and wellbeing across the state. World Mental Health Day is held during the week on 10 October.



**Pictured Above: RAQ Life Subscriber and RAEMUS Rover Racing Director Ian Baker talking about the program on Channel 7. Click on the image to view more.**

As part of Queensland Mental Health Week, RAEMUS Rover' is inviting current and past members of the Australian Defence Force and the Queensland Police Service to join us at RAEMUS Rover Park to have a healthy day of conversation with fellow veterans and officers, receive some great information and tools from our mindfulness team and most importantly, a chance to enjoy the unique experience that comes in the passenger seat of an off-road racer as it hurtles around our dedicated 2.2km bush track at high speed.

## REVISED ADF TRANSITION SEMINAR FORMAT LAUNCHED – MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL

ADF members and their families transitioning from the permanent Australian Defence Force (ADF) will have access to a more tailored approach to manage the transition process thanks to a refresh of the way support is delivered

Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester announced on 10<sup>th</sup> October the format of the ADF

Member and Family Transition Seminars has been revised to better meet the needs of those leaving the permanent ADF.

“We have responded to feedback from ADF members and their families to ensure the seminars are family friendly with an emphasis on early engagement,” Mr Chester said.

The seminars are now a one-day expo-style format, so attendees can tailor their experience according to their own needs.

Concurrent information sessions will be held covering topics such as health, finance and career planning with representation from state and territory governments and ex-service organisations.

“The new seminar format and enhanced online content provides flexibility for families who have other commitments or are based interstate at the time. Family members who cannot make it to the session that the member is attending can still register to attend on another date or location, or access the information online at any time,” Mr Chester said.

The first one-day model ADF Member and Family Transition Seminar is being held today at Melbourne Park Function Centre, Rod Laver Arena.

More information on ADF Transition, including the range of information and support provided at each ADF Member and Family Transition Seminar is available at:

[www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Transition](http://www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Transition)

## DFWA INFORMATION

For several years now, DFWA has been fostering the development of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO), as a means of bringing together the numerous voices of the veteran community – mainly to speak with one voice to our elected parliamentarians, government departments and the media. ADSO now comprises about 20 defence service organisations, including the Australian Army Apprentices Association. While complete unanimity is a bit of a pipe-dream, on many issues a united approach has been possible, such as the campaign for an Australian Military Covenant which now has all-party support in Parliament.

In the last year, the RSL (National) has joined with ADSO in calling for Terms of Reference of the Haynes' Royal Commission into financial entities to be changed so that the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC), the minder of all military superannuation schemes, is included. We believe CSC should be subjected to the same scrutiny as the managers of super schemes of all other Australians. Given the horror stories and the head-rolling consequences that have come from the recent RC so far, there is clearly a lot of house clearing required in



that area. ADSO, together with lot of help from veteran groups, have provided many examples of wrong-doing. The current Test Case litigation at the AAT concerning taxation of Invalidity Benefits mentioned in the last Spanner News, is a direct result of wrongful actions by CSC. Claims of there being adequate scrutiny already in place, do not stand up when the public record is examined. For example, not one question was directed at CSC in Senate Estimates Hearing last year when there were a record number of complaints.

Apart from joint media releases, and an open letter to the PM, there has been extensive lobbying going on concurrently. Lobbying means writing letters to, emailing, meeting with, social media (ising), discussing, etc, the issues with MPs, Senators, Ministers, departmental personnel, media, (ranging from the ABC to Alan Jones) et al. A lot of time is spent on this together with research and producing papers to back up our claims. All done by volunteers. Since July, DFVAQ has met with several MPs and Qld Senators, spoken with the Minister for Veteran Affairs, the ex and new PM, the Leader of the Opposition and had a lengthy meeting in our office at Victoria Barracks with the Shadow Minister for Veteran Affairs. For the latter, we were joined by the RSL(Qld), Veteran Clawback representative and ADSO national spokesman, together with a DFVAQ member double-hatting as the Commonwealth public service union rep.

Keep an eye out for further activity in this area over the next few months. We are also preparing for veteran policy priorities to be pushed at the coming election.

**John Lewis**  
**President DFVA(Qld)**  
[Johnlowis2@gmail.com](mailto:Johnlowis2@gmail.com)



### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Another busy year is wrapping up – more importantly, I should say your association is taking a break after another busy but successful year for our Association but looking forward to 2019.

There is much for the RAQ to be pleased with this year. All our events have been well attended despite many other important activities around Australia vying for our members' time:

- our membership levels have increased to record levels;
- our association has been able to subsidize all events to make them attractive, enabling as many people as possible to attend;

- we have despatched 60 more Spanner Packs to our Corps members serving on operations overseas, fulfilling the RNN's requirements;
- our constitution has been reviewed, endorsed and promulgated to all;
- and most importantly, our executive has been refreshed with many enthusiastic new faces.

As patron, may I offer my congratulations to our old executive for their drive and hard work and welcome the new folks. Well done all!

You will notice a slightly different, but much improved format of Spanner News – my thanks goes to Pete Mathews for his modernising work and the new 'look'. In addition, we are trying to improve some of the articles and need your suggestions. We have added a little more information of Health, wellbeing and what is happening for ex-serviceman and women, as well as current serving folks, who may be looking for assistance to improve their quality of life – let us know if we are hitting the mark?

In the next edition, I look forward to featuring outcomes from the very recent (23-25 Oct 18) RAEME Corps Conference – Corps conferences are very important to the Corps' development together with Plan Centaur initiatives, ensuring the Corps continues to deliver the sort of support required by our many operational and capability acquisition and sustainment customers. I also look forward to providing some material on a major outcome from Plan Centaur, in particular, some detail of the newly prepared "Land Force Maintenance Strategy", which was also discussed at the Corps Conference.

Ours is a modern Corps and must grasp the leadership roles offered in the management of capability development, firstly, staying abreast of the drivers of change – new technologies, new acquisitions entering service, improved sustainment practices; and secondly, ensuring we can enhance the Corps' contemporary work behaviours, business practices and modern warfighting techniques. If we don't stay on top of all these issues we run the risk of becoming irrelevant – I have enough faith in the Corps' open mindedness and sense of responsibility to know that is a very unlikely eventuality!

May I wish all members of the RAQ and members of RAEME units in Queensland the compliments of the season and Happy New Year.

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



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