

EDITION 1 - 20

# SPANNER NEWS

MARCH 2020



**THE**  
**PUNCH** BEHIND THE  
TASKFORCE FIST

Edition 1-20

31 Mar 20



### Spanner News

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



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PO Box 41 Hamilton Qld

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome Spanners, to Edition 1 of "Spanner News" for 2020.

What a start to the year: ongoing drought, recent bushfires, extensive flooding and now COVID 19. As you would know, or perhaps surmise, our serving RAEME (ARA & ARES) soldiers performed admirably in OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST – see the articles in this edition on the deployment of Queensland based units. Australians should be proud of the young men and women of our CORPS, who normally keep the "Green Machine" operational, as they quickly transposed their skills to a new environment supporting emergency services and affected communities in several states. I understand their talents were highly sort after and were sincerely appreciated – may I offer my congratulations, on behalf of the membership of the RAQ, to all those who added to the Corps reputation for outstanding service in the various fire ravaged areas.

RAQ membership continues to grow with many members choosing life subscriptions over annual membership. We are grateful for this vote of confidence in our modest association, and very pleased to see our newest sub-branch in NQ powering ahead under the NQ leadership of Brian Robb, Tank Pontifex, Doug Merry and Mick Harris. You guys deserve recognition for your recent hard work and the increasing membership of RAQ NQ – it is also terrific to see RAEME folks in NQ supporting the efforts and activities of this small band – well done again to all involved in that part of our great state!

COVID 19 has forced changes on the community which requires the RAQ to cancel all events up to 30 May 2020. We will review the situation at that time and make the necessary changes as required. We have done this to comply with Government Health requirements and to protect our most vulnerable in the community. Although COVID 19 is causing enormous disruption, I hope the worst will be over soon, but in the short term, RAQ monthly meetings will be limited to the Executive Committee only via teleconferencing. If you have RAQ business to be tabled, please forward it to the RAQ Secretary with enough detail to enable the committee to review and action the business.

In challenging times, it is important to maintain a positive outlook. Please stay in contact with friends and family and your local communities. RAQ is ready to serve our membership, so please get in touch with the executive if you need help, or are feeling overwhelmed.

### Arte et Marte

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



### RAEME Association Queensland – What we are about?

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

The goals of the RAEME Association Queensland locally are to:

- promote the Corps' identity and reputation;
- recognise and celebrate achievements of members of the Corps; and
- provide a focal point for Corps activities.

To gain RAQ membership benefits, join for \$10/year, or upgrade to Life Subscription for \$100. All proceeds support and promote the goals of the Association.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE OUR CORPS, THE RAQ AND FAMILY



**MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA.** Major General Andrew William FREEMAN, ACT, For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force as Commander 17th Brigade, Director General Land Operations, and Director Logistics - Army. Major General Freeman has made an exceptional contribution to Army and the Australian Defence Force across multiple staff and command appointments, at both the operational and strategic levels. His energetic leadership, outstanding ability to build relationships, and his drive for reform and innovation have achieved enduring results for Army. Through determination, dynamic engagement and broad vision, Major General Freeman has made a substantial and extremely positive contribution to the future of Army's logistics, health and maintenance capabilities.



**Chief of Army, LTGEN Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO (left), speaks with CAPT John Land from the Australian Army History Unit (right)**

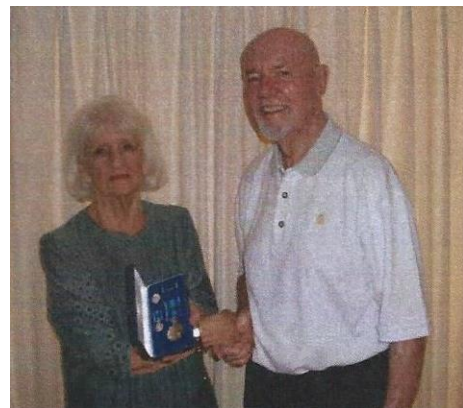
**MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE MILITARY DIVISION.** Captain John Thomas LAND, NSW, for meritorious service as the Army Conservator, Australian Army History Unit, in support of the protection of Army's heritage. Captain Land has provided specialist conservation support and training to over two hundred Army, Royal Australian Air Force and Australian War Memorial Museum staff and volunteers

needed to protect Defence heritage artefacts. His conspicuous achievements over decades of devoted service have highlighted his outstanding professionalism and his dedication to preserving Army's heritage.



**GARY SARGENT RECEIVES LOCAL LEGEND AWARD.** Local Legends awards for the Federal seat of RANKIN are presented each year to those selected from nominations submitted to the Federal Member, Dr Jim Chalmers, MP.

Gary, one of the RAQ's hardest working members over many years, was nominated by the State Member for Springwood, the Hon Mick de Brenni, MP, (pictured) for the work he undertook as Secretary of the Springwood Tri Service RSL Sub Branch, for veterans and the community. This focussed in particular on his advocacy work on behalf of ANZAC Day activities generally, and School ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services, specifically.



**MRS LYN PARFITT – QPSM.** Former Queensland Police Chief Superintendent Ken Martin, presenting the Queensland Police Service Medal and 25-year clasp to Mrs Lyn Parfitt. Lyn, wife of our long serving RAQ member, John Parfit. Lyn served as Administrative Officer at Inala CIB, Oxley CIB, Queensland Police Academy and as Secretary to the Police Educational Advisory Council. Lyn is a member of the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Ladies Axillary and Ken is a member of our Sub-branch and a retired Police Chief Superintendent.

**OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST QUEENSLAND UNITS INVOLVEMENT.** Many Queensland based units of the ADF were involved in Operation Bushfire Assist over a three months period as part of a Joint Task Force to enhance Defence support following devastating bushfires in the South East of Australia.



**7CSSB RAEME elements providing support in Myrtleford and Bairnsdale**

ADF members, including our local Brisbane based units, worked side by side with emergency services personnel in the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) of the NSW Rural Fire Service Headquarters and alongside the Victorian Country Fire Service and Metropolitan Fire Brigades to provide best use of ADF assets.



**VM, CFN Thomas Evans from the 9th FSB, Brisbane, prepares to attach a water hose to a potable water tanker.**

Approximately 300 members of various units were positioned in the Bega Valley Shire region to provide engineering, logistics, catering, potable water and mental health support to local authorities and community.

Engineering teams also worked to assist with route clearances, creating fire breaks and the removal of trees that were at risk of falling. Combat engineers from the 5th Engineer Regiment used bulldozers to spread out burnt woodchip at the Eden Woodchip mill, enabling local

authorities and agencies to focus on the main fire at the mill.

Townsville based units from the 3rd Brigade also partnered with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to form an interoperable Engineer Support Force to work side by side with civil emergency services personnel.



**CFN Sean O'Connor from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment deployed to Omeo**

The deployment of the approximately 60 personnel from 3rd Brigade brought the contribution from Townsville troops to approximately 270.

**106 FD WKSP INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19/20.** On 4 Jan 20, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Defence Force personnel would be recalled from annual leave to assist with the bushfires that were devastating the nation. Within a week of this announcement, hundreds of Defence members deployed, including two Forward Repair Groups positioned to support both Victoria and New South Wales from Bandiana, Tumut, and Cooma respectively.



**An FRT conducting maintenance on Emergency Services vehicles within the Alpine Region**

The operating environment changed repeatedly as maintenance elements were requested to provide logistics and maintenance support to assist local farmers and fire ravaged communities. These requests sought maintenance support to repair and service vehicles, provide aid and

undertake distribution tasks of supplies and fodder. As a maintenance effect was required to support all military and emergency services vehicles, many of our elements ended up conducting tasks across large areas of Victoria for days at a time. The continuation of fires within these regions placed heavy restrictions on roads into the affected communities, which resulted in elements providing escorts for emergency personnel and civilians in and out of towns like Mallacoota.

As proud members of the ADF, our soldiers went above and beyond to assist the emergency services personnel. This was evident when they arrived at the scene of a car accident while on task. The soldiers provided medical care to the victims whilst other members controlled the traffic until the paramedics and police arrived and to control of the scene. This was only a single example of the many outstanding displays of initiative and leadership shown by members of our Army, and in particular, RAEME personnel.

Within New South Wales, logistical elements directly supported local farmers, who were not only isolated and had lost their farms, but desperately required emergency supplies of fodder to feed their surviving live-stock. Our unit's efforts over many weary days were met by gratitude and appreciation from these folks, whose properties and stock were in extremely vulnerable positions.



**One of the unit's HRV recovering an Engineer vehicle in NSW while engaging with locals**

Throughout the of the operation, in excess of 400 hours of maintenance was conducted by our personnel. We were also successful in integrating with the Joint Logistics Unit – Victoria, who conducted over 150 hours of maintenance support which primarily entailed medium to high grade repair tasks. This work was particularly beneficial when our area of operations was significantly increased.

**Spanner News**



**Members of 106 FD WKSP on Op Bushfire Assist. Image and article courtesy of MAJ Angela Langdon.**

Operation Bushfire Assist allowed our soldiers to assist many communities and individuals that were in desperate need of support. Whether that support was directed to Emergency Services personnel and State Governments, or the communities themselves, our soldiers did the Australian Army proud. They rose to the occasion and assisted in many ways making a significant impact on communities whose lives were changed forever. This was achieved with the usual esprit-de-corps and sound morale which is synonymous with our proud Corps and 106 Fd Wksp.

**LT Shaun Warburton**

**106 Field Workshop Company / TG646.7 CSST**

**Members from @7CSSBAusArmy were deployed on #OpBushfireAssist as part of the Coy sized CSST in Victoria. Such a professional and hard-working team. We are very proud of their individual and collective efforts.**

**#ArmyInMotion #goodsoldiering**

**Other images and Articles Courtesy of Defence**

**5th AVIATION REGIMENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019-2020.**

2020 has kicked off as yet another busy year for the Regiment. On New Year's Day, personnel from the Regiment were recalled from leave at short notice to provide support to Australia's bushfire crisis – Operation Bushfire Assist. Both CH-47 Chinook and MRH-90 Taipan aircraft were tasked to join the Multinational Rotary Wing Task Group (MNRWTG) in support of the operation.

This integrated Task Group comprised of ADF personnel and assets, together with international partners from Singapore and New Zealand, to deliver critical capability to emergency services and local communities.

The MNRWTG was involved heavily throughout ACT, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Both helicopter platforms supported firefighting operations and provided humanitarian assistance to remote and isolated communities throughout the fire ravaged states. The CH-

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47 established a hub at RAAF Base East Sale, ISO JTF 646, and assisted in the delivery of stores, equipment, medical supplies and fodder for livestock in regions inaccessible by road. The MRH-90 capability established a hub based at Holsworthy Barracks and RAAF Richmond, ISO JTF 1110, and assisted in fire mapping, surveillance and search and rescue operations.

Both platforms self-deployed with an organic support team including aircrew, mission support specialists, aircraft life support fitters, ground crewman, aircraft support and maintenance teams. Two 10-man FRTs were deployed with each platform and worked to maintain the aircraft, conduct operational servicing's and sustain the high rate-of-effort demanded by the relief effort. The crews worked in 2 x 12 hour shifts during the day and night, often working with limited facilities and equipment. The hot conditions and smoke laden environment also presented challenging working conditions and associated follow on maintenance.



**CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 5 AVN REGT pick up and drop off hay to feed livestock for properties on Kangaroo Island**

Over the course of OP Bushfire Assist, the Australian CH-47F fleet flew a total of 462.4AFHRS over six airframes and transported 1314 passengers and 215,335kgs of cargo. Whilst the MRH-90, as of early February, had flown a total of 196.8AFHRS over five airframes and transported 219 passengers and 2,420kgs of cargo.



With the emergency situation over, roads reopened and utility services resumed, the deployed forces were redeployed back to the 5th Aviation Regiment to Spanner News

reconstitute ready for the next mission. The CH-47F troop returned from East Sale on 12 Feb 20, with the MRH90 troop arriving home 21 Feb 20. The Regiment's immediate priority is now resting and resetting those deployed personnel who missed their January leave, posturing to support upcoming planned activities including Exercise Croix de Sud embarked on HMAS Adelaide, and of course Army's major Exercise for the year – Ex Hamel.



**Nose of an MRH90 Taipan after a long day/night of flying around the fire zones**

**BASELINING 102 FIELD WORKSHOPS.** The 2020 posting cycle has seen our workshops capability grow with a substantial increase in manning for the Readyng Bde. A new HQ, comprising of OC MAJ Josh Simpson, ASM WO1 Jas McLinden and CSM WO2 Mark Taylor, provides the opportunity to develop the workshop to meet the challenges of the Readyng year and beyond.

The baselining of the Wksp was initiated with the first field exercise of 2020, EX CROCODILE CRAWL. Barely a month into the new year, the workshop deployed for a five-day exercise, comprising one administrative and two tactical occupations. During this field phase, soldier skills were practiced and carefully observed, helping to prepare for EX HAMEL.



**Workshop vehicles lined up for Ex Croc Crawl**

The exercise began with two days at the rifle range, to allow unit members to participate in live fire activity, and for many, give them their first exposure to the combat marksmanship continuum. Our night shoot also exposure the unit to the new Binocular Night Vision Device (BNVD) and Laser Aiming and Illumination Device (LAID) in combination.

With the continuing rollout of LAND 121, 102 Fd Wksp used EX CROC CRAWL to learn about and experiment with its latest systems. Four newly acquired 6x6 G-Wagons with General Maintenance Modules were taken on exercise, where their off-road capability, towing capacity and ability to setup and be camouflaged were tested.

To further enhance the training value, the unit's position was observed from the air, utilising UAS. The enduring effectiveness of cam-nets was confirmed, with the workshop now moving onto the question of how to integrate this with the new vehicles. The imagery from the UAS provided the workshop with the opportunity to understand the reality of camouflage and concealment in a deployed setting.



**102 Fd Wksp MI I3 AS4 ARVL and Fitters Track loaded for the trip home**

102 Fd Wksp has hit the ground running in 2020 and is excited to meet the challenges ahead. The unit is primed to tackle upcoming field phases and EX HAMEL, all part of our journey to become Army's next Ready Bde.

**LT Jake Van Den Broek, PI Comd GE PI, 102 Fd Wksp Coy**

### **THE THINGS WE DO IN RETIREMENT!**

The following story provides a hint at what some Corps members do in retirement. Ex Artificer, WO1 Charlie Harley, has spent a considerable amount of time (and money) since retiring pursuing his passion for modifying cars and creating "Hot Rods". He has recently had amazing success displaying his car at the 2020 Summernats in Canberra – this is his story.

In the lead up to Christmas my team and I rushed to finish the car off, focussing on minor details judges look for. Chris (owner of BMV Engineering) and I, had to build a fully enclosed sealed trailer to take my Chevy street car to Canberra - this took 2 weeks full-on work, with only a short break for Christmas Day.



New Year's Day saw me, my son in-law, Luke, and Tyler, my auto electrician head for Canberra completing a straight daylight drive to Canberra in 14 hours from Brisbane. Much of the way was thick with bushfire smoke, sometimes sufficiently thick to restrict visibility of oncoming traffic to some 20 meters.

On arrival in Canberra, Day 1, we unloaded the Chevy and did a couple of jobs that could not be finished before departure and reloaded the trailer for the move to Summernats location. Here we met the 10 other competitive cars in a high-security pavilion at a secret location for an unveiling. We unloaded and prepared for the unveiling ceremony, setting up for the display, cleaning the car, preliminary judging, etc. After a big day, we finished at 10:30 pm.



The picture above shows the terrific response from the public, to our car on Day 2, at the unveiling. Many interviews followed from Street Machine Magazine, Summernats, Meguiars and other media – it was another big day.



**Further work to prepare the car**

Day 3 saw us involved in many interviews before the awards ceremony started at 3pm. The team achieved the following results:

- Elite Body Style Awards - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Top Body Work,
- Elite Body Style Awards – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Top Undercarriage/Driveline,
- Elite Body Style Awards – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Top Standard Paint,
- Elite Body Style Awards – Winner – Top Pro Touring, and
- then we were judged for the Elite Awards – winning Top Elite vehicle.

We ended the day on a high, but Day 4, saw the car judged by the people on site for the PPG Paint awards. All 10 finalists were called on stage in alphabetical order and awarded a medallion, shirt, cap etc and then they announced our team as the overall winner - **Supreme Entrant Awards – Winner - PPG Supreme Entrant.**

We had a massive time at Summernats. We achieved well beyond our expectation, for first-timers and came away with 6 top trophies out of approximately 2223 entrants – a truly amazing result.



As a result of our Summernats success, we have been invited to the Motorex in Melbourne between 16 – 17 May 2020. If you are in town we would really like to catch-up with our southern mates and later at the Red Centre Nats in Alice Springs.

**Charley Harley**  
**Ex-WOI Art Veh**

### COMING EVENTS

**As we go to press, the emerging situation for all events organised by the RAQ is a little uncertain as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, ANZAC Day has been cancelled across Australia, and RAQ is not able to offer an alternative event.**

**RSL Queensland President RSL Queensland President Tony Ferris is calling on members to**

Spanner News

**honour the service of our Defence forces, past and present, by standing at the end of their driveways for a minute's silence this ANZAC Day. Please watch the following video clip: [WATCH VIDEO:](#)**

EVENT	DATE
SE QLD ARMY APPRENTICES REUNION - BULIMBA	6 JUN 20
RAQ NQ TINY MOUNTAIN BREWERY TOWNSVILLE	4 JUL 20
RAEME GOLD COAST LUNCH - MERMAID BEACH (AEME) SLSC	18 JUL 20
RAEME CMF/RESERVE REUNION - INDOOROPILLY / SHERWOOD RSL SUB BRANCH	<b>CANCELLED AS AT 5 APR 20</b>
SUNSHINE COAST LUNCH - MAROOCHY RSL	12 SEP 20
183 RECCE FLIGHT REUNION MOOLOOLABA SLSC	22-21 OCT 20
ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOC REUNION – MAROOCHY RSL	23-25 OCT 20
ALL RANKS LUNCHEON – BRISBANE	29 NOV 20

The RAQ Events Team has published the above event chart, while acknowledging that many events are already cancelled and others may follow – keep abreast of our annual program on the RAQ Friday Files.

**GOLD COAST 2020 EVENT – EARLY NOTIFICATION.** This email simply provides a heads-up for this year's RAEME Gold Coast Lunch. It will be at the Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC club on **Saturday 18 Jul 20** – please put the date in your calendar, but be aware of the potential impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We will provide more detail in May, June and July including any potential impacts from the evolving pandemic. I will seek confirmation of your attendance in May/June.

Also, please be aware that the Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Life Saving Club is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 2020 and will be holding a special event. More on that later.

Regards,  
Eddie "Beans" Bevans



**NORTH QUEENSLAND FUNCTIONS.** RAQ NQ Branch has an event planned for **4 Jul 20** at Tiny Mountain Brewery. At this time, the RAQ NQ Executive is still

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planning to go ahead with the activity, but this could change depending on the evolving Covid-19 pandemic.

The Executive was very pleased with the last event at the Kirwan Tavern, where some 50 local RAEME folks turned up on 22 Feb 20. We are very pleased at the support we are receiving for our new Sub-Branch in NQ.



**Attendees at the first NQ event for 2020 at the Kirwan Tavern**

Regards,

**Brian Robb**  
Chairman NQ Sub-Committee  
[north@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:north@qld.raeme.org.au)



**SOUTH QUEENSLAND EVENTS – EARLY NOTIFICATION.** Readers are advised that this year's RAQ, Sunshine Coast Chapter, Annual Luncheon is to be held at the Maroochy RSL on Saturday **12 Sep 20**. It is early days; however, we have obtained the services of another fine guest speaker, LTCOL Colin Lingo, CO 7 CSSB. This Brisbane based unit has 106 Fd Wksp in its complement and as you will have read elsewhere in this edition, Colin's sub-units were deeply involved recently in support to OP Bushfire Assist in NSW and Victoria.

I have asked the COL COMDT QLD, COL Steve Evans (Retd) to host the lunch. Once again, we will be supported by the Maroochy RSL which looks after our every need.

Further details confirming the format, menu, cost and timings will be promulgated in the coming months, Covid-19 permitting! Note the date, **12 Sep 20**, in your diary, and we look forward to seeing you on the Sunny Coast.

Arte et Marte

**Ross Grant & Mike Prain**  
RAQ Sunshine Coast Chap



**ARMY APPRENTICES ANNUAL BRISBANE REUNION.** Emerging Covid-19 circumstances permitting, the Annual South East Qld Apprentices' Reunion will be held on Saturday **6 Jun 20** at the Bulimba Bowls Club, Quinn St, (off Thynne Rd) Bulimba. The event is open to all apprentices, their families and AAS staff. It will commence at 11am and finish at 4pm, interspersed with the traditional "Sausage Sizzle", but feel free to bring

your own food. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for your use. Drinks will be available at the bar.

Contact Brian Daley Mob: 0412721761 or by email at [bjdaley14@gmail.com](mailto:bjdaley14@gmail.com)

**Brian Daley**  
Army Apprentices Reunion Convenor



**183 RECCE FLIGHT REUNION MOOLOOLABA 20-21 OCT 20.** 183 (Independent) Recce Flight was a unit of the Australian Army based at Lae Airport from 1968 to 1976. The Flight and its workshop provided support to the PNG Defence Force, other units of the Australian Army operating in the Territory of PNG, over that period.

The reunion is being coordinated by Dave Williams, who is seeking input and/or photographs from anyone who had close contact with 183 Recce Flight and its workshop during its operations in TPNG. Dave can be contacted by email [daveandmaxine@bigpond.com](mailto:daveandmaxine@bigpond.com) or mobile 0427 529 195.



**A Local Standing Guard on Sioux AI-642**

## CORPS ACTIVITIES, HISTORY & MEMORIES

In 1990 a civil war erupted between two Rwandan ethnic groups, the Tutsi and the Hutu and continued for three years. The warring groups agreed to a power-sharing arrangement and a joint government was formed. To assist in the peace process, the UN deployed a small military observer (UNMO) group that late in 1993 was replaced with a larger organization, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). However, during the early months of 1994 the peace process began to break down.

In the next three months up to 800,000 people, almost 10% of the Rwandan population were brutally murdered; and almost two million people became refugees. UNAMIR was unable to stop the genocide.

This force was tasked to “contribute to the security and protection of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in Rwanda”, including, where possible, the establishment of “secure humanitarian areas”. The Australian Government agreed to contribute a medical team to provide support for UNAMIR II personnel and as a secondary role, to provide humanitarian relief to the Rwandans.

Supporting the medical team was an Infantry Company group, four Armoured Personnel Carriers and a Logistic Support Company. The Australian contingent was provided over two rotations, each serving for six months. During the UNAMIR II deployments, RAEME soldiers served in a variety of roles in support of the main mission. Not all RAEME members who deployed did so as RAEME tradesman. 2 Cavalry Regiment (2 Cav Regt) in Darwin provided a Technician Electrical and two Combat First Aiders licensed to drive 6 x 6 Land Rovers. CFN Terry Jones, a Recovery Mechanic at 2 Cav Regt, volunteered for one of these positions. It was his first overseas deployment and a life changing experience – this is part of his story.

“Our primary role was to provide medical and health support to the deployed force. However, our secondary role was to provide medical and health support to the local population. In this role we treated people from both sides of the conflict. Our rationale was: if they were hurt we would look after them. The Australian hospital was next door to the Rwandan Hospital. Entering the Rwandan Hospital was like stepping back in time, into the 1800s. In contrast, when you walked into the deployed Australian hospital it was much the same as entering a hospital in Australia. The equipment was modern, the wards clean and staff presented an air of busy professionalism. Whenever possible we helped out in the Rwandan Hospital where most injuries treated were traumatic, including a lot of missing limbs consequent to mine-related blasts.”



**Land Rover being recovered after plunging over a cliff**

“Gunshot wounds were also common and there were a lot of automobile accidents. I recall one patient presenting with a lacerated neck after he had punched out through a

**Spanner News**

windscreen. We also treated Australian casualties. One accident involved a Land Rover 4 x 4 with a couple of blokes in the back which went straight over a cliff, luckily, they all lived, but not without injury. The most seriously injured was the Medic who had been riding in the back. A rifle barrel punctured his thigh and pushed up to the bayonet attachment. Other injuries included head wounds and a dislocated shoulder. I was on resuscitation that day and it was a pretty intense.”

“During our tour, the RPA murdered at least 4,000 people and injured a further 600 at Kibeho Refugee Camp. The RPA knew all about our rules of engagement, and while killing refugees, they had taunted the UN Forces which included Australians. In addition, the RPA forces had heavy weapons while the UN Forces only had small arms. There is no doubt had the UN troops tried to intervene in the slaughter they would have all died.”

“I went out to Kibeho about five days after the killing to help move about 500 survivors away to a safer area. The RPA were still there putting pressure on our troops to shift the people, or they would finish the job. We managed to get them all out before that happened.”

**Terry Jones enlisted in to the ARA on 25 August 1987. After recruit training at Kapooka he was allocated to RAEME as a Storeman Tech Gen, later changing trade to Recovery Mechanic. Terry’s postings include: 8/9 RAR, 2 Cav Regt, 1 Armd Regt, 1 JSU, 7 CSSB, ALTC, and SCMA. He was later posted to DMO as WO1, Senior Technical Advisor Recovery Platforms and Lifting, Recovery and Tie-down Equipment. Terry has twice deployed on overseas operations, first in 1995 to Rwanda, and second in 1999 to East Timor. During 2002 he was selected for Exercise Long Look, spending four and a half months with 1 Bn REME in Germany.**



**OPERATION SPANNER PACK.** In recent months, we have received the following letter of thanks from BRIG Ed Smeaton and his team in Afghanistan. They were appreciative of the RNA for the latest distribution of Spanner Packs, of which he and his team were beneficiaries.

Sadly, the Spanner Packs’ team, who were preparing to pack another 75 Spanner Packs, had to curtail its activities, owing indirectly to the current pandemic, but specifically, because the normal source of items for the packs, has not

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been able to provide most of our needs. Therefore the RAQ will not be sending any more packs until the supply chain can provide the necessary “goodies” which are popular with our troops on operations.

We will rectify the situation as soon as we can and apologise for the current situation. For readers, who may wish to assist, please note we do need your help, 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.

### Arte et Marte

**Raymond Norman**  
**RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator**  
[RNN@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:RNN@qld.raeme.org.au)



**L to R: MAJ Cam Willett, MAJ Pete Knowles, CFN Ben Meres, CPL Cameron Irwin, CFN Corey Ryan, BRIG Ed Smeaton, LTCOL Will Viggers**



HEADQUARTERS RESOLUTE SUPPORT  
 COMBINED SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND-AFGHANISTAN  
 KABUL, AFGHANISTAN  
 APO, AE 09320

Major Raymond Norman, OAM (Retd)  
 RAEME Association Queensland  
 Post Office Box 41  
 Hamilton, QLD 4007

Dear Raymond,

Thank you for the thoughtful care packages provided to RAEME Corps Members on Op HIGHROAD. The Aussie treats, shapes, lollies etc and Corps paraphernalia was much appreciated and is now proudly on display in accommodation and work-spaces around the theatre. The hand-made cards were also a nice personal touch and have been used by our Craftsmen and RAEME Officers to send messages home to loved ones.

Please find attached a photo of RAEME Corps members based on Hamid Karzai International Air-base with some articles from the packs on display. The temperatures here are sitting well below zero throughout the day and you can see that it is sunny yet the snow if not melting on the ground. That said our thoughts remain with our Families, Friends and Corps brethren, who are currently battling fires, and serving our nation at home in a way that make us very proud.

The names of pers in the photo from Left to Right are:

MAJ Cam Willett  
 MAJ Pete Knowles  
 CFN Ben Meres  
 CPL Cameron Irwin  
 CFN Corey Ryan  
 BRIG Ed Smeaton  
 LTCOL Will Viggers

Kind Thanks,

*EJ Smeaton*  
 EJ Smeaton  
 Brigadier  
 Australia Senior National Representative  
 Deputy Branch Head Operational Sustainment  
 Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan  
 AFPO 19 - OP HIGHROAD  
[ed.smeaton@mil.defence.gov.au](mailto:ed.smeaton@mil.defence.gov.au)

*Ray, wonderful support that brings out the esprit de corps in the Bluebell community. My third spanner pack across three deployments. Thank you!*

### VALE

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

- **Collins, Don** CAPT (Retd) (1st VM) passed away 6 Sep 19 in South Australia. No further detail available.
- **Douset, Ray** CAPT (Retd) passed away as a result of a vehicle accident 29 Oct 19, south of Bundaberg. Originally allotted to RAEME, and trained as a Radar Tech, he graduated as an Army pilot in June 1977.
- **Powell, Robert James**, late Aust Inf Corps and RAEME, passed away peacefully at home, 31 Oct 19, in the care of his family, aged 72 years.
- **MACLEAN, Allan** LTCOL (Retd) passed away peacefully at South West Healthcare, Warrnambool on 10 Nov 19, aged 92.
- **Zander, Neil**, (20th Elec Fit) passed away on 25 Nov 19 after a long illness. Funeral held at Chapel of Centenary Memorial Gardens, on 29 Nov 19.
- **Dockray, Neville**, passed away on 30 Nov 19 and buried at Laidley Cemetery on 5 Dec 19.
- **Curnow, Frank Stuart** COL (Retd) passed away 15 Dec 19, after a short illness. Stu as he was known, served in SVN with 161 Recce Flt Wksp from 2 Dec 67 to 3 Dec 73 and later as CO 5 Base Wksp Bn from Jan 73 to Jan 75 at Oakey.
- **Chapman, Stephen William** passed away Dec 19. Steve served in SVN with 17 Const Sqn Wksp as a Fitter Armament.
- **Whalley, Kim** passed away after a battle with cancer. Kym served in East Timor. No further detail provided.
- **Frawley, Vincent Patrick (Kelly)** passed away on 19 Feb 20 surrounded by family. He was diagnosed with bacteria in his blood 14 Feb 20 and admitted to Hospital. Despite some improvement, he failed to recover.

- **Wallace**, Stephen John, Vietnam Veteran passed away peacefully 10 Feb 20 in Hamilton surrounded by family.
- **Phelps**, Shane (27<sup>th</sup> VM) passed away in Townsville on 18 Feb 20.
- **Lee**, Alfred John James “Ajj”, MAJ (Retd), (6<sup>th</sup> Elec) passed away 2 Mar 20. His last posting was OC Adelaide Workshop Company, Warradale, SA.
- **Eacott**, Ray WO1 (Retd) passed away at his Brisbane home. Previously Ray served in 1st Division Supply Transport Workshop - 23 Apr 1968 to 16 Apr 1969.
- **Lindeblad**, Pete John, passed away 11 Mar 20, served at 1 Base Wksp Bn and 104 Fd Wksp. His funeral was held on 20 Mar 20.
- **Blake**, Barry passed away 19 Mar 20 in Brisbane following treatment for heart, lung and brain cancer complications. His funeral was held at Pinaroo Cemetery, Albany Creek, 3 Apr 20.

## WELFARE

RAQ has been advised of the following:

- **Homer**, Edward James, “Ed”, MAJ (Retd), (15<sup>th</sup> Plumber) is now home recovering in Agnes Waters after being treated for cancer in Wesley Hospital, Brisbane.
- **Drummond**, Ron, ex 102 Fd Wksp SVN, has been in hospital for heart surgery, but experienced complications, in February. Now home and recovering on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Gaffney**, Ross has been battling an infection which has attacked his spine, resulting in emergency surgery. After 6 days in intensive care a month in hospital, Ross is now home on the slow road to recovery.
- **Benfield**, Frank (18<sup>th</sup> VM), ex-161 Recce Flt SVN, ex-183 Recce Flt PNG diagnosed with a brain tumour, but recently underwent a neurosurgical biopsy, the aim of which is to determine a course of treatment.
- **Reus**, Pieter, “Fred” WO1 (19<sup>th</sup> F&T) ex-161 Recce Flt SVN, ex-183 Recce Flt PNG diagnosed with bladder cancer in Mar 20 and will undergo surgery on the Sunshine Coast 14 Apr 20.

Please advise me of any brethren and sisters in distress accurately and in a timely way. I can only properly advise our membership on welfare matters if you supply accurate and timely information. So please email me at the following address with detail of welfare matters in Queensland: [welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)

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



## VETERAN CARD

As an outcome of the Australian Defence Veteran’s Covenant the Prime Minister and the Minister of Veterans’ Affairs jointly announced in November 2019 the introduction of the Veteran Card. The card is available to all serving and ex-service personnel as a practical demonstration of the respect and recognition of their service. Eligibility for the card is straight forward; if you have served in the Defence force on full time service for more than a day, and that includes Reservists, you’re eligible. Receipt of the card will provide access to more than 10,000 offers from 500 businesses (and growing), both over the counter and online. Partnering businesses have formed the Australian Partners of Defence, APOD, and individual companies will provide discounts from 2.2 to 40% on production of the Veteran Card. Specific information on the discounts available can be found on [www.APOD.com.au](http://www.APOD.com.au)



The Veteran Card will, overtime, replace the current DVA health cards retaining the colour coding. Thus, if you have qualified for a DVA White card, your Veteran card will be similarly coloured, so too with a Gold card. It’s pretty easy to get the Veteran Card; logon to My Service at <https://www.dva.gov.au/my-service/#/> if you haven’t got an account you will need to apply on line, and then, once the account is set up (it might take a day or so) go to the DVA portal and follow the prompts to apply for your copy of the covenant, a lapel pin, and the Veteran Card.

<https://recognition.dva.gov.au/veteran-card>



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We are only three months into 2020 and so much has happened internationally, nationally and locally all of which is testing our nation's resolve. It has also been a busy start to the year for many of our Queensland based RAEME units, and I suspect there will be many more demands placed on them over the coming months. The stories of their work so far, in support of the agencies fighting the bushfires, fill us with pride – RAEME officers and soldiers doing their bit in a variety of jobs, but all displaying their professional, technical and personal talents. Well done!

Our NQ sub-branch has also set a cracking pace holding its first event in February, with much work being done behind the scenes in several other locations. On the Gold Coast, we are assisting the Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Lifesaving Club prepare for its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Sep 20. In addition, MAJ Peter Pile, from RAMS, Oakey, was quietly preparing for, and ready to run, the first meeting of the fledgling RAQ Darling Downs Chapter/Sub-branch, on the week ending 21 Mar 20, but sadly this was cancelled, again owing to Covid-19. And finally, we have been asked to assist MAJ Rob Sawford set up a lunch in Cairns for “Bluebells” serving or living in FNQ. This event in a few months' time will elicit more members for RAQ NQ – we hope our remaining events shown on page 8 go ahead in spite of the emerging Covid-19 disruption.

Despite all our work to prepare for a great year of RAQ events and activities, the pandemic has caused much disappointment, not the least for our wonderful Spanner Pack team. The key thing is to focus on our friends and families for the short-term, and once the emergency has passed, we can then drive on to the next stage of the RAQ's activities for 2020 – full of hope!

I should make mention the **unofficial** use of the new I06 Fd Wksp logo in this edition of Spanner News – it is an excellent way to advertise the good work done by this fine unit and is sure to stimulate interest in other RAEME units and sub-units!!

What a start to the year – we are truly blessed with enthusiastic volunteers, who wish to celebrate our Corps' achievements and are getting on with business. Wherever you reside, please support these good men and women as they put together their functions. Unfortunately our wonderful ANZAC Day events are cancelled for 2020, but we should now look forward to 2021!

Keep up the good work, and if we can help get in touch with any of the RAQ executive.

**Ross Grant**

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



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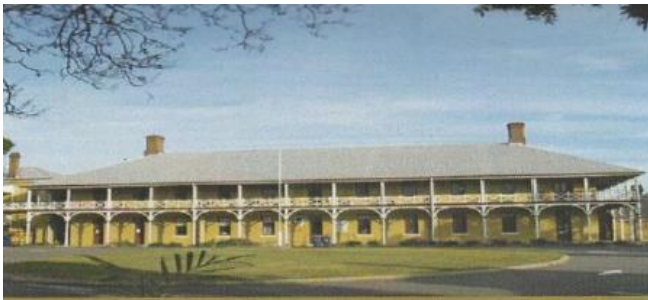
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### **“WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING: CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1942-2014”.**

For those yet to buy the Corps memoir, here is detail on how to obtain a copy. It may also be a great Christmas gift for someone who has served in the Corps. The Corps RSM, WO1 Richard Colefax, and the acting SO2 Corps Heritage, WO1 Reinhold Dekrell, are managing sales, so the best way to secure a copy is to go to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on “Shop” and then click on the photo of the book’s cover.

*To purchase a book, you will need to make a deposit of \$40.00 by electronic transfer to the following account:*

**RAEME Corps Fund**

**BSB – 833205**

**Acct – 20509705**

*Once payment is made, please send an email to:*

[RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au) and add the CC address of WO1 Dekrell, [reinhold.dekrell1@defence.gov.au](mailto:reinhold.dekrell1@defence.gov.au), together with proof of payment (a scanned receipt of deposit), point of contact details and an up to date delivery address. The HOC Cell will distribute the book upon confirmation of payment.’

**Note:** In the electronic transfer and proof of payment reference field, please include your surname and phone number. Please retain a copy of the deposit transaction, or ask your bank for a receipt, and then send a scanned copy to: [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au).

In the email, please ensure you include your name, delivery address and contact phone number. Should you have any queries, please contact the HOC Cell directly on (02) 6055 2274, prior to ordering. Books should be despatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.

### **ANNOUNCING A NEW RAQ PRODUCT – A MUST HAVE RAEME UMBRELLA**



The umbrellas are made from 190T High quality showerproof fabric, Ultra strong frame, "grip" wood look handle, full fiberglass frame. Size: 75cm (30") canopy with eight ribs and eight Panels. Two Panels are Blue, Yellow & Red with Emblem on each Black Panel. Total length is 100cm. Please note: the colours will be different shades on the actual fabric, matching as close as possible to our Tri-Colour.

Pricing as follows:

\$30.00 each OR

\$27.00 each - for RAQ Financial Members through the online shop. Click on the image above to view the details.

Numbers are strictly limited.