

SPANNER NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC

OCTOBER 2021



**TECHNICAL SUPPORT TROOP
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
SQUADRON
6th ENGINEER SUPPORT REGIMENT**



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Spanner News

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Contact Us

editor@qld.raeme.org.au

www.qld.raeme.org.au

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PO Box 64 Ormeau Qld

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RAEME Association Queensland members – welcome to our last Spanner News for 2021. The year is ending soundly for your Association, and in his Editorial, our Patron spells out the areas where the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) enjoyed success right across the wonderful state of Queensland.

For my part, I was very pleased to see our team re-instated as a result of our AGM this month, and I want to congratulate them, and the wider team across all localities, for their efforts on behalf of our membership – have a look at the stats later in this edition and I am sure you will share my pride. May I also echo the Patron, BRIG Ross Grant (Retd), by saying that we need a few younger faces stepping up, and routinely taking the place of those, who have been on the Executive a long time. To paraphrase, President Kennedy "Ask not what your (Association) can do for you; but ask what can I do for my (Association)?"

Unfortunately, our year in Queensland has been touched by tragedy with the loss of two of our colleagues, who died on exercise – our condolences go to the family and friends of WO 2 Ryan Leslie and CFN Brendon Payne, and the members of their units – it is a sad loss and a timely reminder of the profession we are or were a part of.

In this edition you will see an interesting article on one of the RAQ's very old soldiers and Association member, BRIG (Retd) Herbert "Bert" Barker, who turns 100 on 13 Dec 21. It was our plan to bring BRIG Bert to our All-Ranks Lunch at the Port Office Hotel on 28 Nov 21 for a special celebration, but as Bert lives in NSW, it is looking increasingly unlikely these plans will eventuate. However, rest assured we will celebrate his important milestone by other means, in the days leading to his birthday celebrations with his family. While sometimes we may think we live in difficult times, imagine what BRIG Bert has seen and done in his long and eventful life – on your behalf, the RAQ wishes him and his family all the best for his special day.

Finally, the RAQ wishes all our loyal members a Merry Christmas, in the emerging Covid regime in Queensland; and trust that 2022 is as enjoyable and actioned packed as this year, as we learn to live within a "Covid normal" lifestyle. Don't forget the need to accept our personal responsibilities when socialising in this new environment. The RAQ will continue to make our functions both safe and enjoyable for you, your friends and family in 2022.

Arte et Marte

Jeff Maurice
Chairman RAQ
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.

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF CORPS RAEME – BRIG JAMES ALLEN

Hello Spanners, we still find ourselves in various degrees of Covid response but there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel as the States and Federal Governments map out our “freedoms” as we reach vaccination milestones. Within Defence we are still poised to respond to civilian requests for assistance and the key messages from our hierarchy are that we need to be the more vigilant than, and set an example for, the public. I encourage you all to stay safe and continue to be cautious as more liberties are made available to us by the tiers of government.

Covid aside, it is a very busy and exciting time within the Department. The recent announcement of AUKUS and the future submarine program has obviously dominated the news, along with the need for Australia to invest more into Defence than in preceding decades. New equipment is being acquired and new technologies exploited which creates challenges for our Corps and our trades. In response, here’s a summary of some trade innovations about to be introduced:

- **ECN 034 – Technician Assistant.** A new trade created for Gap Year students looking for a STEM focused option.
- **ECN 222 – Marine Technician.** Trade being expanded to be the maintainers for the new fleet of landing craft, amphibious vessels and large watercraft.
- **ECN 235 – Material Technician.** Metalsmith upskilled in machining and advanced manufacturing (i.e., metal 3D printing).
- **ECN 444 – Aerial Delivery Technician.** Combination of the Air Dispatcher and Parachute Rigger trades.
- **ECN 013 – Artificer Land.** Consolidation of artificer ECNs to increase system agility.
- **ECN 146 – Weapons Technician.** Evolution of Fitter Armament to focus on advanced weapon systems being introduced.
- **ECN 226 – Recovery Technician.** Broader initial training to enable platform skilling through in unit experience.
- **ECN 229 – Vehicle Technician.** Current Vehicle Mechanic trade being upskilled in preparation for Hybrid/Electric Motors.
- **ECN 401 – Ammunition Technician.** Alignment of Army capability with Joint EO professionalism.
- **ECN 418 – Energy Technician.** Current Technician Electrical upskilled in alternate energy generation (i.e., solar, wind, hydrogen), with some reduction in auto-electrician training.
- **ECN 421 – Electronics Technician.** Postured to support Robotic Autonomous Systems.

Finally, I recently signed off on a Warning Order for two RAEME Corps Updates to be conducted on 11 and 12 November respectively. This is in lieu of a Corps Conference as Covid restrictions are preventative. This update will be delivered over the Defence Protected Network using Skype technology. As far as I am aware this is the first time we will be conducting a Corps ‘gathering’ using virtual technologies, another sign of the times. Unfortunately, we have had to limit numbers to ensure the technology can cope (primarily COs, OCs, ASMs and RSMs). I am certain those in attendance will pass on the key points. I look forward to returning to a more traditional Corps Conference next year when we can return to face-to-face attendance.

Arte et Marte

James Allen
BRIG
HOC



MESSAGE FROM REP COL COMDT – BRIG DAVID CREAGH AM, CSC.

I trust my short message finds all members of the Corps and their family members safe and well and looking forward to what I hope will be a near normal Christmas and New Year filled with hope.

I am penning these remarks from my work office in Canberra, a novel experience having just spent the last nine weeks in lockdown, working from home. What strange times we live in. Not surprisingly, my ability as your Representative Colonel Commandant, to represent and advocate on your behalf has been somewhat constrained. But like so many of you, I have monitored the Corps progress and news through the wonderful State-based Associations newsletters and unit activities in the Defence press.

My focus will now turn to the RAEME Corps Committee meeting, which we will conduct in the next few weeks, as despite Covid, we have much to discuss for the general betterment of the Corps.

To our current serving Corps members, on behalf of the Head of Corps Cell and the Corps Committee, thank you for your efforts in this very difficult year. Most, if not all, of us understand the tempo for many has been frenetic. Also, a big thank you to the Corps team who have enjoyed some success with securing some modest funding which will hopefully allow the Corps Committee and Colonels Commandant a little more freedom to support the Corps.

Finally, and on behalf of the Corps, may I wish BRIG (RETD) Bert Barker, a very happy 100th birthday! What a wonderful achievement for a man who is a founding member of the Corps and served faithfully for 33 years.

To one and all - a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Until we next meet.

Arte et Marte

**David Creagh AM CSC
BRIG (Retd)
Representative Colonel Commandant**



MESSAGE FROM COL COMDT QLD – STEVE EVANS

G'day, Spanners, it appears there is light at the end of the tunnel with respect to Covid, however, I encourage everyone to remain vigilant. The statistics from other nations, who have lifted restrictions, indicate we could experience a resultant spike in cases, so stay safe.

I recently attended the funerals of CFN Payne and WO2 Leslie, both Recovery Mechanics and obviously, part of the RAEME family. Even though they were members of 2/14 Light Horse, I was proud to see the RAEME tricolour featured at both funerals in lieu of the unit colours. In particular, WO2 Leslie's coffin had a RAEME badge affixed, and all the wreaths were Blue, Yellow and Red by design. May they rest in peace, they have given us a reminder of the sense of camaraderie and family we have amongst our Corps. I reckon we have the best esprit-de-corps of any element of Defence and long may it stay that way. Let's all honour the memory of these two "Spanners" by flying the tricolour at every opportunity and remembering all our Corps brothers and sisters who are no longer with us.

Within the SE Qld fraternity we are all looking forward to the forthcoming 100th birthday of BRIG(R) Bert Barker. Bert was a founding member of the AEME, when it was formed during WWII and has a long association with the Corps and the Army. If you get the chance to chat with Bert at any stage, then do so, he is a wealth of knowledge, has a razor-sharp wit, and is always keen to learn about what is happening currently in the Corps and the Army.

We also have our Corps birthday coming up and I hope Spanner Clubs, sports competitions and other activities will celebrate the occasion all-round the country. Unfortunately, travel restrictions are still preventing me from leaving home base so I will be restricted to SE Qld. For those of you further afield, have a great time celebrating our Corps and I also wish you all the best for the forthcoming festive season.

Arte et Marte

**Steve Evans
COL COMDT – QLD**
steve.evans@defence.gov.au

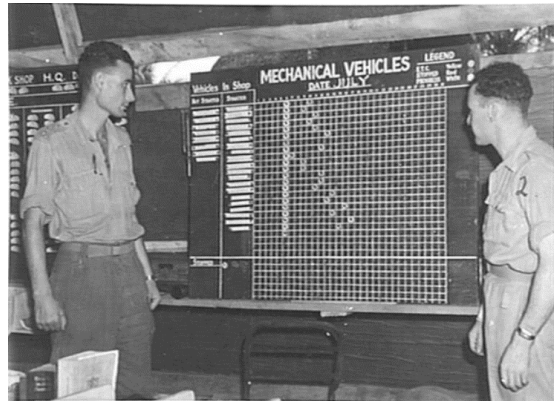


100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR AN OLD SOLDIER (VX104343, VI58035, 337556) BRIG (RETD) HERBERT "BERT" WHEATLEY BARKER – 13 DEC 21.

BRIG Herbert "Bert" W Barker (Retd) joined the Army in 1941, following completion of the second year of a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering course at Melbourne University. Although he didn't complete his degree, he had previously completed a Diploma of Mechanical Engineering, and as a result, was allocated to Australian Army Ordnance Corps (AAOC), as a Private. He then attended an Infantry Officer Training Course at Bonegilla.

Bert was commissioned in June 1942 and appointed to raise and command 320 Aust LAD attached to a major Signals unit at Balcombe, Victoria. Later, while attending an Ordnance Mechanical Engineering Wireless Course at the AAOC School, Broadmeadows, Victoria, he transferred to the newly formed AEME Corps, on 1 Dec 42. A short time later, on 13 Dec 42, he celebrated his 21st birthday.

Lieutenant, and later, Captain Barker, spent most of WW2 at Oatlands, Parramatta, then the HQ of 2 Australian Army; then the Atherton Tablelands (1943); before heading to New Britain in 1944, where he served with 1 Infantry Troops Workshops till War's end.



1 Infantry Troops Workshops Pamalmal Plantation, Jaquinot Bay, New Britain, 1944-1945. CAPT Barker and SGT Aaron review vehicle repair and maintenance.



Pamalmal Plantation Jaquinot Bay, New Britain, 1945 – the Jeep repair line.

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Post WW2, BRIG Bert continued his service in several workshops postings in Australia until 1950, when he was sent to UK to attend the Long Electronics Engineering Courses at REME Training Centre, Arborfield. He attended Army Staff College, Queenscliff, Victoria, in 1956 and was appointed CO & CI RAEME Training Centre from 1959 - 64.



LTCOL “Bert” Barker (left) handing over command of RAEME Training Centre (RTC) in 1964 to LTCOL Bruce C. Sefton.

After three years as DDEME Eastern Command, Bert was promoted to Brigadier and appointed as Chief Superintendent, Army Design Establishment (ADE), Maribyrnong, Victoria. He served for a further three years until resigning from the Army in 1974. During his time at ADE, he took part in the Rapiere trials in Darwin.

In his subsequent civilian career, BRIG Bert worked as Regional Engineering Manager for STC commencing in 1975; the Boy Scout Jamboree Executive Officer; and CEO of Australian Fire Protection Association, each for about a year before relocating from Melbourne to a warmer climate in Northern NSW in late 1977.

He served as Colonel Commandant I Military District from 1980 to 1984.



BRIG Barker, RAEME COL COMDT I MD, visiting 5 Base Wksp Bn, Oakey, in 1981 discussing aircraft repairs with CO, LTCOL Bob Millar.



BRIG Barker taking the salute on a parade celebrating the 9th Anniversary of 5 Base Wksp Bn, Oakey, 31st July 1981.

Bert married Nona in 1944 and they have three daughters, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He and Nona live in Darlington Retirement Village, Banora Point, NSW. Whilst Nona receives full time care, Bert enjoys semi-care in the same facility, and is still driving his car and routinely attends local RAQ events. Bert turns 100 on 13 Dec 21.



Recent photograph of BRIG Bert Barker (Retd) and BRIG (now MAJ GEN) Andrew Freeman AM, at the 2019 RAQ Annual Lunch, Maroochy RSL.

BRIG Bert belongs to a rare surviving cohort of servicemen, not just because many are also moving towards their 100th Birthdays, but because they are original members of AEME / RAEME, which will celebrate its 80th Birthday in December 2022. Bert is a pioneer of the Corps and through his many postings, various commands, training and staff appointments, he has made a huge contribution to the Corps, the Army and the ADF.

BRIG Bert is much admired by his peers, but also by younger members of the Corps. Most recently, he has been an inspiration to a new generation of RAEME servicemen and women (serving and retired), as an active member of RAEME Association Queensland, where he regularly attends RAQ activities and functions in and around Brisbane, and on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Congratulations, Bert, on this most important birthday.

FEATURE ARTICLE ON TECHNICAL SUPPORT TROOP, OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SQUADRON, 6th ENGINEER SUPPORT REGIMENT.



Many older readers will know little about the unit featured in this edition of Spanner News, but it plays a critical role in the life of the ADF in many ways. The 6th Engineer Support Regiment (6 ESR), largely located at Amberley, is the largest engineer unit in the Australian Defence Force. It provides Army and Defence with the force engineering capability to establish command and control within a theatre level force engineering framework that directly enables a Joint Task Force (JTF) to project, protect and sustain itself in the likely persistent threat environments of large-scale stability operations and localised high-intensity conflicts. It also provides Defence with a rapidly deployable engineer-heavy solution for Government's strategic and national requirements. Such requirements may include disaster response, short notice training and advisory missions, international engagement and nation building.

The unit's specific mission is to generate operational mobility support to deliver specialist combat support across a spectrum of operations, but naturally it is supported in turn by its own Support Squadron containing a well structured RAEME Technical Support Troop (TST). This is their short story.

Integral to 6 ESR is one of the finest workshops created since the dawn of the spanner. The workshop can also provide support to many operational units in the battle space, and when the 6 ESR is deployed on humanitarian operations – it is something all members of this premier unit are proud of.

6 ESR is a busy unit, bustling with energy and capability. This year has been no different to recent years when considering the pace and variety of operations we have undertaken. A late task in 2020 for the workshop, was the support to the humanitarian effort on OP FIJI ASSIST in December 2020.

The vehicles were sea prepped and our tradies quickly packed to support 6 ESR's niche water purification capability. SGT Scotman, LCPL Koth, CFN Ezzy and CFN Igo boarded HMAS Adelaide and set off to Fiji. Upon arrival LCPL Koth was a key player in maintaining the water purification desalination system (WPDS) and field power distribution system (PDS) deployed from HMAS Adelaide into Fiji.

For more detail see the [story at this link](#).

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The equipment, with LCPL Koth's timely support, allowed the engineers to supply the local populace with clean drinking water and electricity. Before long it was time for our tradies to return home with their stories and kava.



LCPL Koth and his bladder!

The following few months saw the workshop providing support to the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme (AACAP), preparing the equipment required by our RAE colleagues to build some much-needed housing for the remote community of Pormpuraaw, located in Far North Queensland. In May, the first elements deployed and began the long trip north. Once there, and when the workshop was properly setup, our team went about ensuring the engineers understood who the key players in this exercise were, as we quickly erected as much tri-colour paraphernalia as possible.



The unit had a busy year and as we finish the year we look forward to a well-earned break.

Jacob Fitton
LCPL
6 ESR WKSP



SN acknowledges the source of some of this material:

<https://news.defence.gov.au/international/providing-fresh-water-fijian-communities>

REPORTS ON LOCAL EVENTS

RAQ North QLD Get Together Townsville – Sat 21 Aug 21. Another great turnout in Townsville on Sat 21 August with approximately 40 Bluebells turning up to ponder world events and the bigger questions like “are VM’s the elite of all trades?”, over a quiet ale. The answers are never found although there is some varying opinions and lively discussions debated wholeheartedly by all.



L-R: Mike O'Brien, Matt Payne, Brian Robb, Rocky Hema & Paul Scarr, Tony Earwaker.



Leeroy Donovan and Fred Read enjoying the day and the debate!

Thanks goes to the staff at RSL Thuringowa, who kept us well watered and the local meat tray sales saw enough profits to provide bar snacks to feed the masses. The final event for RAQ-NQ chapter will be held on 6 Nov 21 and will be advertised through Friday Files.

All the best for the rest of the year and look for another even and action-packed year in 2022 in the North of our wonderful state.

Robert “Tank” Pontifex
RAQ NQ
north@qld.raeme.org.au



RAEME Reserve Reunion - Sunday 22 Aug 21 – Brisbane. After missing our Reunion last year because of COVID, the 2021 Reunion for all serving and ex members of RAEME (Army Reserve/CMF or Regular Army) or associated Corps, was held at the Sherwood / Indooroopilly RSLA on 22 Aug 21. Although numbers were down on previous years, some 50 members attended, with the RAEME spirit permeating the day and many old memories flowing freely – it was a great success.

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We were fortunate to again have several dedicated helpers to run the function. We appreciate their efforts organising food, manning the bar, receiving guests and arranging the entertainment – a big thank you to all our loyal helpers, especially the ladies, whose refined organisational skills ensured the function achieved its goals – connecting our loyal members with each other.

We are also thankful for the raffle donations from Westside HQ, formerly Sherwood Services Club, and Kedron Wavell RSL Sub-Branch, and to Derek Stevenson, who donated several items to the sub-branch.

The Chairman, Ian Leabeater, welcomed everybody to the function and introduced Peter Matthews, Deputy Chair of the RAQ who spoke on the many activities undertaken by the association over the last year.



Traditional Lunch of Sausage Sangas!

Some members stretched their memories trying to recognise RAEME personnel in photos, displayed on the big TV screen, of service friends and colleagues, times and events long past but not forgotten. These photos were provided by Jim Kelly and dated to the 1950-60s. Boy have we changed!

The bar-b-que was appreciated as was the delicious RAEME cake. The cake was cut by the RAQ Patron, Ross Grant, assisted by Ian Leabeater.



Good Friends Catching Up Again

Another reunion is over, and we hope everyone continues to avoid the COVID virus and be ready to socialise again next year.

John Parfitt
Convenor
iparfitt@biqpond.net.au



RAQ Sunshine Coast Annual Luncheon – Sat 11 Sep 21. This year's RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Annual Luncheon was again successful with attendance numbers being maintained despite Covid. 69 guests registered this year compared with 65 last year but sadly still down on our highs of 80-90 pre-Covid. The organisers were pleased with the resulting attendance and all the feedback has been very positive.



Wonderful setting, service and meal at the Maroochy RSL.

We were especially pleased with the feedback on the new menu, but also the ongoing and smooth-running arrangements provided by the Maroochy RSL – superb support again from all the staff.

The feedback on our guest speaker, Retired LTCOL Ron Parello, GM Dingo Defence, was also very positive – we all learned a little about what Ron's company does with its "cloud-based predictive maintenance systems", as it works with Defence in today's modern equipment environment. I know Ron also enjoyed himself and caught up with many old friends from his time in RAEME, but importantly, made several new friends amongst the younger RAEME generations in attendance.



COL COMDT singling-out one of the younger generation, Andrew O'Conner, for particular attention.

We look forward to seeing you again on the Sunny Coast in 2022 in the Corps 80th Anniversary year – we also look

to maintaining the standard of our well-supported lunch, including finding a stimulating speaker for 2022.

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



RAQ COMING EVENTS.

The following are the final social events happening in and around Queensland for 2021. For further details on any events, please contact the RAQ Functions Officer at: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

Event	Date
RAQ NQ - Social Gathering Townsville	6 Nov 21
RAEME Birthday FNQ – Cairns TBC	27 Nov 21
RAQ All Ranks Luncheon - Brisbane	28 Nov 21
79 th RAEME Birthday Celebrations	1 Dec 21
RAEME Birthday NQ – Townsville	1 Dec 21

RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon Brisbane – 28 Nov 2021. Tickets are now on sale. An invitation is extended to all current and past members of RAEME and friends of RAEME to attend our Annual All Ranks Luncheon. This year we celebrate the 79th Anniversary of the establishment of the Corps and the luncheon provides an opportunity for all Bluebells to celebrate our achievements. Details of the day are as follows:

- **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 1700 hrs.
- **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 at own expense).
- **DRESS:** Smart Casual - Gents Tie please.
- **RSVP:** Registrations close Sunday 21 November. If you have any dietary requirements, please email the Treasurer.

Ticket	Price per Person
Financial RAQ Member or Serving Soldier or one Member/Soldier guest	\$55.00
Email Affiliates, Non-Members, or extra Guests	\$65.00

Reserve a Seat. Limited numbers to a maximum 110 tickets. RAQ Financial Members and up to one guest receive a discount of \$10 per ticket (Max \$20 per member).

We are very pleased to have LTCOL Ross Thomas CSC, CO 7CSSB as our Guest Speaker. LTCOL Thomas joined the Australian Regular Army as an Electronics Technician in 1993, (48th ET) serving in several units in the 7th Brigade where he was awarded a Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service.

He then graduated RMC in 2004, returning to RAEME and serving in a number regimental and command appointments in the 3rd Brigade, an instructional role at the Royal Military College-Duntroon, sub-unit command in Special Operations Command and a range of appointments in Army Headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas has completed several operational deployments including:

- OP ASTUTE,
- OP SLIPPER
- OP 'BRING THEM HOME'
- OP PARAPET
- OP OKRA
- OP HIGHROAD



He received a Conspicuous Service Cross in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year for his devotion to duty as the Staff Officer Grade One – Program Sustainment, in Logistics Branch, Army Headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas is currently the Commanding Officer of the 7th Combat Service Support Battalion. In this role, his main effort is to provide combat service support effects to 7th Combat Brigade, enabling manoeuvre in training and operations.

Please make up a table of RAEME friends and guests. Tables of eight to ten available or part thereof. As this is a limited event, bookings generally go very fast, so book a seat or table now! If you wish to request specific seating or arrange a group table, please email the Treasurer.

REGISTER NOW



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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CORPS' HISTORY?

Deployment to East Timor – 1999. It is now 22 years since the United Nations mandated International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) multinational peacekeeping taskforce, deployed to East Timor on 22 Sep 99. The Forces' task was to alleviate the humanitarian suffering and security crisis underway in that country. The International Force for East Timor was commanded by then Major-General Peter Cosgrove.

RAEME involvement in the East Timor operations commenced from the earliest days of INTERFET operations through UNTAET up to the withdrawal of UNMISSET forces in 2005 and redeployment in 2006. The RAEME contribution to these operations was characterised by long hours of hard work and a readiness to assist the overall force by accepting tasks that were beyond the normal RAEME role.

At the commencement of Operation WARDEN, the code name for INTERFET operations, and while the rest of the deploying force played the game of 'hurry up and wait', RAEME elements were busy ensuring all weapons, vehicles, aircraft and other equipment were operational. For this task, great benefit was gained from the presence of men such as Sergeant Rocky Hema with recent operational experience gained on other UN deployments. Rocky tells his story:

"We got back to Townsville after exercising in Shoal Water Bay Training Area (SWBTA) during late August 1999 to be told we were deploying to Timor at short notice. I was attached to 1 Troop of B Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment (3/4 Cav Regt) as part of the logistic support element for this on-line Troop. We were to further regroup with the on-line Battalion, 2 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR), for battle preparation. There was some frantic refurbishment of the vehicles and other general preparations to complete before deploying.

Two of 1 Troop's Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) were airlifted to Darwin, to form part of the air assault group to fly into Dili with C Company 2 RAR. The remainder of the troop made an early road move to Darwin while the rest of the Squadron moved by road a little later. 1 Troop's road element arrived in Darwin safely and waited its turn to be lifted across the water. We spent that time billeted in the transit compound of Robertson Barracks with the New Zealand Battalion.



In Darwin Ready to Go!

There was some post-SWBTA-exercise maintenance work still to be done on our vehicles, so we were not idle. All around us there was frantic activity as units made last minute preparations for the deployment. The air assault element had crossed the start line about two days before the rest of the troop finally sailed for East Timor.”

After securing the Dili area, INTERFET Forces pushed out into the surrounding countryside. 2 RAR Group, which included B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt, deployed along the coastal road to occupy the ancient Portuguese Fort at Balibo, close to the border with West Timor. The Battalion Group's RAEME element, including Sergeant Rocky Hema, was with them and were soon engaged in repair and maintenance tasks ensuring the force retained a peak of operational efficiency. Rocky recalls with pride the work of his team:

“Just prior to the move up to Balibo, my driver, Craftsman Geoff Boyd, became seriously ill, requiring medical evacuation back to Australia. Luckily, the ASM 2 RAR, Warrant Officer Class Two Steve Higgins, provided a replacement driver from his TST to help me out. Later, the trade was repaid with the only electrician available in our ARVL and he was able to assist 2 RAR with power and fridge maintenance. By sharing ‘tradies’ in this manner, RAEME was able to achieve extraordinary outcomes in Timor.

Our four ‘cars’ formed the basis of the Battalion Group’s AI Echelon. Being a member of the AI Echelon had its risks, not so much from the enemy, but by being isolated from the main group. Three M113s became unserviceable with engine failures with only limited second line support available from Dili. Due to the urgency of getting these vehicles back on the road, a prompt response was required.”



New power pack has arrived and is about to be installed.

Rocky continues:

“A spare engine was sent from Dili, which got one vehicle back on the road. Then we cannibalised parts from the recently removed, but defective engine to get the other two vehicles back on the road. It was one of those occasions which enabled RAEME members to demonstrate their skills as tradesmen, not just as parts-changers.

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The M113s were predictable in that when they broke down, we generally had a good selection of parts to keep us operational for the 14 day period before replenishment. The rest of B Sqn arrived during early October to be absorbed into 2 RAR’s heavy patrol plan along the border between East and West Timor.

B Squadron’s TST shared a small, concreted area with 2 RAR’s TSP which was heavily defended by the whole complement of the two TST’s armoured vehicles. The downside of concentrating so much fire power to secure the area was a restricted workspace much to the ‘joy’ of ASM Higgins. In the end we were to be evicted from the confines of the Battalion to an area that, when the wet came, turned into a swamp.”

Luckily life in the Battalion area was short-lived for I Troop, as the AI echelon, was eventually sent out on patrol support tasks.



B Sqn location in Balibo swamp – umbrellas are useful in many circumstances.

RAEME tradesmen were justifiably proud of their achievements during Operation WARDEN. Despite the wear and tear inflicted on unit equipment by the operating conditions, and some difficulties encountered with the supply chain, RAEME detachments were able to maintain vehicle and equipment availability figures that would have been the envy of fully equipped and supported workshops back in Australia. For example, during INTERFET17, Construction Squadron (17 Const Sqn) Workshop maintained the Squadron’s vehicles and equipment at an availability rate greater than 80%.

Short Excerpt from “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014” – Max Carmichael CSM, Keirin Joyce CSC and Frank Benfield OAM.

History of Heavy Recovery Vehicle (HRV) 205 227. With the new fleet of RMMVA HX45M Recovery Vehicles being received by 3 CSSB from 2019 onwards, 102 Field Workshop commenced the disposal of its Mack HRV fleet. Last up for disposal was vehicle 205 227, however this platform was identified as having great historical significance for RAEME as it is a Pre-Production HRV.

This vehicle was provided by Mack Trucks Australia, in Brisbane, and was trialled at both Army Testing Services (ATS) Monegeetta (Compliance/Sign Off) then Recovery Platoon North Bandiana (User Trial).

Interestingly, HRV 205 227 was not actually the first HRV. The first HRV was a Concept Demonstrator and was built in Brisbane by Mr Max Evans at Rocklea Trucks and subsequently trialled from 3 Sep 2001. From these trials Defence went to Mack Australia Brisbane with good data to influence the build of all future HRVs. Mack Brisbane conducted additional design work and what is now known as the Pre-Production HRV 205 227 was delivered for further trials over the period 19th Aug – 15th Oct 2004.

On completion of the trials a total of 64 HRVs were built by Mack Brisbane with many improvements to the platform relying on data from the trials. HRV 205 227 was placed in the production line to align to the build standard of the production HRVs making a total of 65 HRVs in service with RAEME. From the original 99 Mack Holmes 750 Recovery Platforms, 65 HRV's were designed and built coming into service during 2005. Additionally, out of the 65 HRVs some were fitted with protected cabs for deployment on operations.



During 2021, 102 Field Workshops applied to retain HRV 205 227 as a Gate Guard to be placed at the entrance to the workshops. Authority to retain the vehicle was received and Recovery Platoon completed some maintenance works including changing several well-worn tyres before placing the vehicle into position. Further works are planned to the final resting place of HRV 205 227, which includes the construction of a suitable plinth, placing the platform onto axle stands to reduce the issue of flat tyres.



The plinth will be constructed from railway sleepers and back filled with suitable sized rocks to simulate the extreme terrain that the Mack HRV has spent many years providing recovery support to the Australian Army. Lastly a suitable plaque is to be placed in front of HRV 205 227 to inform future generations of RAEME and ADF of the significance of the Mack HRV fleet during its long and distinguished service.

WO2 Chris Worrall
Warrant Officer Recovery Mechanic
102 Wksp Coy 3 CSSB

RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE

Message from the National Chair/Coordinator – Ross Grant. I have now been the Coordinator of the RAEME National Network (RNN) for some eight months. I have concentrated on supporting the various associations executives around Australia and maintaining the flow of communications to and from them. I am pleased to see all associations are all busy; most have regular newsletters with interesting articles and keep their membership informed; and a lot of effort goes into organising a wide range of events and functions for their local membership. May I offer my congratulations to all Associations for their hard work.

I have been using the RNN IT communications system provided by the RAEME National (Network) Support Team (RNST). I encourage all associations to use it to best effect. Help is available from the RNST, we plan to improve its accessibility, functionality and use. I want to thank the RNST - Alex Smithers and his team of webmasters in most state locations for their great work. I also want to assure the team that we will look at funding needs, so we maintain the communication system's functionality.

Other activities, which we will steadily address in the coming months, include the following:

- **Spanner Packs.** The future of Spanner Pack has yet to be resolved. Clearly the number of RAEME personnel serving overseas has diminished significantly – Ray Norman, Spanner Pack Convenor, was not able to review the future of Spanner Packs as previously advised, due to illness in the family, but he will get to it shortly.
- **Heritage Initiatives.** You may have seen the coverage on an interesting initiative to produce a book of RAEME humour – our humour is clearly an important part of our Corps culture, heritage and reputation and needs to be preserved. Two members of the Corps, Ian Cook and Peter Shefford "Sheff", have recently moved very fast to gather stories, edit and sort them, and put them together into a book for publication. I commend their initiative and energy and look forward to seeing the book "on

the streets”. Other similar books are in prospect, and I encourage you to buy a copy of the book.

- **Roles of the RAEME Associations.** I can clearly see across Australia that the associations in their own ways take their responsibilities very seriously to:
 - promote the Corps’ identity and reputation,
 - recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps, and
 - provide a focal point for Corps activities.
 I commend the associations and encourage their membership to support all local activities.
- **Membership and Membership Transference.** I routinely receive enquiries about applying for membership, transferring membership and folks seeking lost friends. Most of these come through the “contact” button on the RNN website and through RAEME Facebook. Therefore the RNN has an important role to maintain contact with our wider Corps members who are all potential members of the RNN across the nation – and overseas! Many of those contacts are seeking to join their local state association, so I encourage readers to facilitate increased membership of all Associations. It is the only way we will grow.
- **RAEME Craftsman Magazine.** As mentioned in the previous edition of Spanner News, MAJ Steven Howells, the SO2 Corps and now Editor of the “Craftsman”, is very keen to take contributions from **ALL** State-based RAEME Associations. That request has gone out to the executive committees of all Associations, in the hope they or their members will provide articles on any subject related to RAEME – he especially wants to know what is happening in your neck of the woods. This will also encourage local RAEME people to seek membership of their local associations.
- **Funding Support.** From the many enquiries I have had recently, my advice on the availability of funding for some Corps events and activities has been well received. Just a reminder to Associations and unit members that the Corps Committee may subsidise some important Corps events, IAW Corps Instruction No 3 “RAEME Corps Fund Charter” – it is worth a read.
- **Appointment of a new COL in CHIEF Chief** – we still await the advice on a replacement COL in CHIEF RAEME with the passing of Prince Phillip.

If you have any ideas to improve membership, or connectivity of our various association, please feel free to get in touch with me at the address below.

Arte et Marte

Ross L G Grant AM
CHAIR RNN
rnn.chair@raeme.org.au



Spanner News

SPANNER PACK – MORE HISTORY AND A RESPONSE FROM THE AREA OF OPERATIONS

RAEME Comfort Care Packs and Operation Spanner Pack to October 2021. In early 2007, the RAEME Association New South Wales (RANSW) commenced a comfort care pack program for RAEME men and women on operations. Mr Fred Jolly and Mr Clyde Cook managed and coordinated this early program on behalf of then President and Committee of RANSW. During this period approximately three hundred packs were dispatched to RAEME members on operations.

In November 2007, the President RANSW, Mr Brendan Robertson, wrote to other state and territory RAEME Associations requesting assistance with this program and RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) agreed to take over the management and coordination of the program.

“Operation Spanner Pack” was created by the RAQ, and the program was then managed and coordinated by RAQ until 2011, at which time, the RAEME National Association (RNA) now the RAEME National Network (RNN), was formed. The President of the RNA negotiated with RAQ to take over management of “Spanner Pack”, as it became known, as well as the coordination function, to remain with RAQ. In 2016, RAQ once again for various reasons assumed the management and coordination of “Spanner Pack”.

Many former and serving members of the Corps have assisted in the packing and distribution of these packs over the years, and all who have participated are delighted that our serving men and women get a significant lift in their morale, and a break of the daily operational routine, because of the content of the packs, but also knowing their Corps members (old and new) care about them while on operations.

We have been grateful for the support of many organisations and individuals over the years who have funded the program and worked hard to ensure the package arrived in the right hands, in a timely way. Examples include the following:

- The RAEME Corps Committee,
- All RAEME Regional Associations,
- Individual RAEME and on-RAEME members, and
- Several Defence Contractors - Nationally.

Spanner Packs have contained items such as magazines, grocery items, toiletries, RAEME memorabilia and merchandise, and mini solar charging panels, traditional Australian biscuits and sweets to name a few. We are always looking for new and popular items to put in the pack and appreciate feedback on their contents, particularly from younger soldiers.

Donations to Spanner Pack can be made by visiting www.qld.raeme.org.au the “SHOP” page and the donation field.

RAEME Association Queensland Inc 12

A further 30 Spanner Packs were dispatched to our soldiers on operations in July 2021. This now brings the total number of packs despatched, since Op Spanner Pack was formed in 2008, to 4782 packs (approx 9.5 Ton). They have been dispatched to RAEME members in Iraq, Afghanistan, Middle East, Solomon's and Timor including embedded RAEME and non-RAEME personnel.

The program will continue while there are RAEME personnel serving overseas in operational areas, but as mentioned, the future of Spanner Pack Program has yet to be decided. The way ahead will be discussed shortly within the Executive of the RAQ, and across the RNN.

As a result of the July despatch, I have received the following response from CPL Yuki Masaoka (RAAF), who is attached to the MEOMS, HQ Joint Task Force 633:

“Good afternoon, Sir,

Thank you very much for the Spanner Pack. I received it a few days ago and I really appreciate your thoughtful gift.

My name is Yuki Masaoka and I work for RAAF as a Ground Support Equipment Technician. I work as a Section NCO and look after ground support equipment, which relate to Air Force equipment. Our ground support equipment includes generators, forklifts, air conditioners and aircraft loaders.

This is my first deployment and there are many things to absorb, but I am learning a lot bit by bit every day. Especially, when we work under Joint Task arrangements, and work very closely with Army. This is a great opportunity for me to understand bigger organisations.

I work with some of the ARMY VM guys, who I went through ALTC Vehicle Training Wing (VTW) with, and they were kind enough to share their Spanner Packs with me. It is good to work with them having left ALTC many years ago.

I am proud to be included in RAEME family. Your gift reminded us that even though we work in different organisations at home, when the task is on over here, we work together.

Again, thank you so very much for your support.

Corporal (E5) Yuki Masaoka

MEOMS

Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 | Middle East Region.”

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 where you will find a “make a donation” tag.

Arte et Marte

Major R.G. Norman OAM (Retd)
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator
RNN@qld.raeme.org.au



VALE

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

- **Seys, Hank** (Dennis) passed away on 23 Jul 21. Hank served his country for 38 years in many roles over the period 1958 to 1996. Funeral service was held 30 Jul 21.
- **Bony, CPL Rene Robert “Bob”** (Retd) passed away on 29 Jul 21, aged 76 years. Rene’s Funeral was held at Brown Family Funeral Chapel, Beaudesert on 9 Aug 21. He served with 4th Fd Regt LAD from 12 Mar 70 to 11 Mar 71 in SVN.
- **Perkins, Noel** (17th VM) passed away suddenly while fishing north of Townsville on 16 Aug 21. Apart from AAS, Noel served with 1 APC SQN LAD May 66 – Jan 67 and A Sqn 3 CAV LAD Jan 67 to Apr 67 in SVN. He later served in the QLD Water Police. A memorial service was held at the Taylors Beach Caravan Park QLD.
- **Binning, LCPL Walter Harcourt “Wally”** (Retd) passed away in mid-August. Wally served in RAAC in SVN from 16 Apr 66 to 25 Apr 67. Funeral service held at the Mt Gravatt Cemetery on 24 Aug 21.
- **Leslie, WO2 Ryan Leslie**, passed away on 30 Aug 21, aged 40, as the result of a vehicle accident while on exercise. Ryan had served for 22 years and two months, and at the time of his death, he was serving with 2/14 Light Horse Regiment in Enoggera. WO2 Leslie also deployed to East Timor and the Solomon Islands, this was his second posting to 2/14 LHR.
- **Payne, CFN Brendon Payne** passed away as the result of a vehicle accident on 30 Aug 21 aged 29. Brendon joined the Army in March 2020 and had served for one year and five months. He was posted to 2/14 Light Horse Regiment at Enoggera, in June 2021, his first posting after training.
- **Clulow, CFN Lachlan**, aged 19, was tragically killed in a car accident on 11 Sep 21. Lachlan enlisted 11 May 20 following in his father’s footsteps at Bonegilla as a fitter and armourer and served 16 months.
- **Grant-Thomson, AM, RFD, Professor John**, passed away on 13 Sep 21 aged 82. John was an RAAMC reservist, biomedical engineer, senior lecturer with the Darling Downs Institute of Education and later head of electrical engineering at USQ. He greatly influenced teaching and learning at DDIAE and USQ of RAEME Artificers’ Aircraft training in the 1970s to 1990s. He also designed and developed a self-contained mobile intensive-care retrieval facility for Army, first used on the Rwanda operation and later by mining companies.

- **Muir, Ken, WOI (Retd)** passed peacefully in his sleep on 25 Sep 21 in the presence of his family. A life well lived and a man much loved.
- **Tinkler, AM, COL (Retd) Maxwell Bruce**, passed away on 26 Sep 21 in Canberra aged 91. Max served in many command, staff, training, technical and operational appointments in RAEME over a 30-year period of service. He served in SVN as OC 102 Fd Wksp from Mar 68 to Feb 69. He was awarded an AM in the Queen's Birthday Honours for "service to the Australian Army in the field of equipment maintenance" in 1983.
- **Connolly, Aaron Cpl (34th VM)** passed away on 29 Sep 21 in Mundoolun, QLD, from an aggressive brain cancer. Aaron served for 12 years in a number of locations including Bulimba Barracks in the 80's and early 90's. After taking discharge, Aaron joined the RAAF as a Dog Handler, and RAAF Military Policeman, with postings to Amberley and Sydney.
- **Bird, Major Stephen "Birdy" (ex-REME)** tragically passed away on 8 Oct 21. He was posted to the National HQ of Australian Army Cadets as the SO2 OPS. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

WELFARE

RAQ has not been advised of any welfare cases this last quarter. **As a reminder**, please advise me of any brethren and sisters in distress, or who have passed, with pertinent and accurate detail in a timely way. Email me at the address below with details of welfare matters in Queensland.

Barry Shipway
Welfare Officer

welfare@qld.raeme.org.au



DFWA AND DVA MATTERS IN SUMMARY

Although a charity, DFWA is seeking to influence government in many areas on the needs of veterans; however, the Association is non-partisan, and does not advocate for a particular party, but with an election looming, we are finalising key policy objectives which will be put to all political parties, inviting them to state their position. We will then publicise their responses to the ADF, Defence and veteran communities.

There are many areas where government and bureaucratic action is required. We need to reduce the many to a few, about five or six. We need a short list and to prioritise the issues. Criteria includes considerations for the greatest good, for greatest number and bearing in mind what is realistically possible.

Likely Policy Objectives to be Put to the Political Parties:

1. **Improve DVA Claims Processing Timeframes.** In the last 3 years, MRCA claims resolution times have increased from about 5 months to over a year. The performance indicator (PI) for processing is 90 days. DVA has identified "action required by the veteran" as primary cause of delays, so we believe DVA should:

- commit to reaching the PI time of 90 days before the end of 2023;
- grant provisional acceptance of all claims not resolved within 6 months with no clawback on review; and
- develop and resource schemes that reduce the likelihood, impact, and length of "veteran caused delays" on claims.

2. **Improve DVA Claims Decision Transparency.** MRCA payments are frequently reviewed and reduced after DVA discover errors in previous DVA calculations. Information provided to veterans by DVA Delegates is insufficient for veterans to assess correctness of both initial determinations and any subsequent reviews. We believe DVA should:

- provide full information in a standardised form, agreed by ESO representatives, to allow veterans to assess correctness of the decision; and
- agree that absence of the required information from DVA invalidates any DVA decision which was not beneficial to the veteran.

3. **Improve Access to Specialist Medical Treatment.** Waiting times to see specialist medical practitioners, especially mental health providers, have increased unacceptably as many practitioners now refuse or limit services to DVA, due to lower fees being paid by other entities such as Open Arms and NDIS, and the resource cost of DVA bureaucratic overheads. We believe DVA should:

- not need to rely on the good-will of health care providers, or to pay privately, to receive treatment for accepted conditions; and
- remove disincentives for providers to treat veterans, including remediating the Repatriation Medical Fee Schedule reduction, resulting from the RMFS / Medicare freeze and reduce administrative overheads.

4. **DFRDB Commutation.** We believe DVA should adjust the:

- 1962 life expectancy tables used to calculate reductions to DFRDB Superannuation pensions when a member commutes part of the pension, reduce the pension by a greater amount than if current life expectancy tables were used; and
- government should apply up-to-date life tables for calculating reductions to pensions for all current and new DFRDB superannuants; and
- rectify the financial injustices caused by the application of out-dated life tables to existing superannuants.

5. **Fair Indexation for all Military Superannuation Defined Benefit Pensions.** The

Defence Force Retirement Benefits Fair Indexation Act (2014) for DFRB and DFRDB changed the indexation of superannuation pensions for those over 55, from the CPI to the better of the CPI and at least 27.7% of the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings.

The government should also extend the provisions of Act to include all DFRB, DFRDB, Military Super and ADF Cover pensions, including pensions paid to under 55-year-old superannuants, invalidity benefit pension recipients, and reversionary benefit pension recipients.

6. **Hearing Services.** DVA is using the Hearing Services Australia Program exclusively to provide basic hearing appliances, often requiring veterans to make significant co-payments to provide appliances meeting lifestyle needs. Audiologists are often reluctant to go through the DVA bureaucratic hoops to gain DVA approval for higher capability aids. We believe DVA should assume full and direct administration of the provision of hearing services to gold card and white card (accepted hearing condition) holders, including development and application of criteria and guidelines to assist veterans and audiologists to identify the appliances meeting the veteran's lifestyle needs.

7. **Inclusion of 'No-Disadvantage' Provision in the Military Covenant.** The Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act should be amended to include a provision that the Commonwealth acknowledges current and former ADF members, and their families, will not be disadvantaged relative to any other section of the Australian community in access to government funded services.

8. **Continue Action on Recommendations from the Productivity Commission Report (June 2019).** There are still over 30 recommendations made in the Report that have not been addressed by DVA. Working Groups established with ESO have also ceased working since the initiation of the National Commissioner and now Royal Commission into Veteran and Defence Death by Suicide. The Productivity Commission of Inquiry was set up to specifically address issues identified by the earlier inquiry into veteran suicide. Delay in action to address already known issues is not acceptable. The government has indicated that the matters cannot be delayed. We believe government should address all outstanding recommendations from the PC Report as matter of urgency.

John Lewis
President
Defence Force Welfare Association



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As Patron of the RAQ, I presented my report to the AGM on 6 Oct 21. I thought I'd repeat it here because many of the points I made are relative to our associations' membership across Queensland. I was pleased to point out to members attending the AGM, that the RAQ

Executive has again undertaken sterling work throughout 2020-2021, despite Covid restrictions. I was equally pleased at the way our RAQ membership responded across Queensland, with strong attendance at all activities and events. I congratulated the respective executives, the many organisers and thanked our loyal membership for their support.

I also congratulated the many chapters and sub-associations of the RAQ in Brisbane, North Queensland (Townsville and Cairns), on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, and in our newest locality, Toowoomba, for their efforts and many recent successes. Regardless of how one measures success over 2021, the following list illustrates the health of our current Association:

- Increasing membership, mostly in SE QLD, Townsville and Toowoomba – a total of 65 new members since 1 Oct 20 till 30 Sep 21, consisting of 24 Annual Subscribers, 41 Life Subscribers and 8 upgrades from Annual to Life Subscriber for a total membership of the RAQ of 623.
- Large number of events and functions which the various sub-branches and chapters have conducted this year – some 15-17 functions involving ARA units, ARES organisations across Queensland.
- Establishment and consolidation of two new sub-associations in Toowoomba and Townsville respectively, with further prospects in central QLD in 2022.
- Ongoing and substantive collaboration between each of the sub-associations to subsidise events and make them financially viable and encourage attendance.
- Timely reconnection with the Corps Committee through our supportive RAEME Colonel's Commandants, led by BRIG (Retd) Dave Creagh, the Representative Colonel Commandant, and our own COL COMDT-QLD, COL Steve Evans.
- Provision of support to our wider RAEME family across QLD in difficult times, citing the recent sad loss of two colleagues killed in a training accident in north Queensland.
- Our ability to routinely attend the funerals and honour the service of members of who have passed this year and support families despite restrictions.
- Celebrating various key members of the Corps who have received awards or passed noteworthy milestones.
- Significantly improved financial situation of the RAQ due largely to increased membership, record sales of RAEME memorabilia and utility items and sound husbandry of our resources.
- Finally, I complimented the RAQ Executive on the work they do on behalf of the RNN managing the RAEME National IT network and website, finances and routine administration, but most of all, maintaining the flow of Spanner Packs to our colleagues and friends

serving overseas on operations. All in all, a wonderfully productive year for the RAQ.

I went on to say I was also encouraged by the huge support the RAQ has received from local ARA and ARES RAEME units, especially on ANZAC Day, and their important contribution to “Spanner News”, together with the very timely RAQ “Friday Files”, our most popular media platform. I am very grateful to all our “contributors” over the last 12 months, who have made the editors’ work easy.

Of course, none of our communications work can be done as well as it is, without substantial help from the RAEME National (IT) Support Team (RNST), part of the RAEME National Network, which has built and maintains a very effective IT network, with tailored Association webpages – I especially mentioned the huge effort of Richard Legge, Alex Smithers, Adrian Butcher, Morgan Cornelius, Glen Hay, Dean Ellis and Lyell Wedd – but I warned we will have additional costs to manage shortly.

As a result of the AGM, the current executive has been re-instated completely – this loyal band deserves many accolades. However, please remember that we always need fresh faces amongst our volunteers to pursue our many good works. So, there is the Chairman’s plea, come and join us and contribute – on behalf of your comrades – the main secret to our success has been an ability to refresh the executive routinely and work hard with little direction

By way of explanation, our feature article for this edition, which was to highlight 2/14 QMI/LHR Support Sqn and Tech Spt Tp, has been put on hold, owing to the sad loss of two-unit members in August. We have deferred the article until 2022, but I am very thankful for the article I received from one of our lesser-known units in SE QLD, the TST from the 6th Engineer Support Regiment.

Much has been said about our old soldier, BRIG (Retd) Herbert “Bert” Barker, who turns 100 on 13 Dec 21. But I’d like to echo the COL COMDT’s comments about getting to know BRIG Bert - talking with Bert about his life’s experiences in the Corps is an illuminating experience – it is wonderful to still have a direct link with the early days of the Corps through Bert, and realise in his lifetime, how four-generations of the Corps have earned their spurs. I know he is very proud of the member of the Corps. One way or another, we will celebrate his 100th birthday.

I trust everyone has a decent break at Christmas and can enjoy the company of family and friends as we work out of Covid restrictions into a “new normal”.

Arte et Marte

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



Spanner News



Latest RAQ Merchandise

Now that COVID restrictions have improved again, it's time to get out and about. For those golfers amongst you, why not keep cool on the course wearing an Association polo shirt along with a Corps cap, and whether it is hot or raining, a large umbrella in Corps colours – you colleagues will be envious.

All these items and many others are available through the RAQ website at:
<https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/shop> then go to the “Shop” section and select whatever you fancy.



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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 Scott Collard** and the acting SO2 Corps Heritage, **WO1 Reinhold Dekrell**, are managing sales.

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 and add the CC address of **WO1 Dekrell**,
reinhold.dekrell@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.

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.

\$25 OFF*

RACQ Batteries

*\$25 rebate on the purchase of any RACQ battery. Discount off RRP. Rebate is valid for QLD RAEME ASSC members only. Rebate is for the battery only. Redemption is to RACQ Batteries PO Box 4 Springwood QLD 4127. Member must post this voucher and a copy of the tax invoice from either RACQ or the RACQ Battery stockist clearly indicating the name of the supplier, battery part number, your name, address and ASSC member number only. A cheque will be posted to the address supplied. Voucher is valid for batteries purchased 1 May 2021 - 30 April 2022 and must be used by 30 June 2022.

13 1905 > racq.com

RACQ

All Ranks Dinner RAMS - Fri 26 November 2021 – Oakey

The RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) will be hosting an all ranks mixed dinner as a RAEME Corps function on the evening of Friday 26th November 2021. The dinner will be a memorable occasion bringing together members of the Corps and their families, both past and present, to mark the RAEME 79-year anniversary.

Importantly, this year's theme will celebrate the life of RAEME Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Location RAMS Hangar (C07). The Banner will be present for the dinner and a local live band has been organised.

- Friday 26 November 2021 5:30 PM - 12:00 AM
- RAMS Hangar (C07) Orr Road, Oakey QLD 4401
- Cost \$70 per person
- Dress
- Officer and SNCO – Mess Dress
- Other Ranks – 2F or Black tie
- Civilians – Black Tie
- Capacity - This is a ticketed COVID safe event and limited to 175 pers.
- Organiser - SGT Marc Crouch
marc.crouch@defence.gov.au

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE CLICK THE LINK:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BUSEJ>