

EDITION 2-22

# SPANNER NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC

JULY 2022



Featuring:  
2nd COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENT  
LOG SPT SQN TST



*'Ubique'*



Edition 2-22

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### Spanner News

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

Front Cover: CH-47 (C SQN, 5 AVN) completes recovery of JD450J back to HMAS Canberra



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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome Spanners, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Spanner News for 2022. I am very pleased to report RAQ members have been treated to, and have enthusiastically supported, a large number of association functions across the regions already this year. It has also been heartening to see the NQ Group hold several gatherings, while the fledgling Darling Downs association has held two successful lunches this year. The Gold Coast Lunch, RAEME Reserve Reunion and Sunshine Coast Luncheons are drawing closer – please support these important regional events.

ANZAC Day is always a favourite day for Spanners to gather and enjoy each other's company and reminisce of other times together. Special thanks to Brigadier Todd Ashurst, DSM, for leading the RAQ in the Brisbane ANZAC March in Brisbane. The weather was abysmal but that didn't stop over 120 RAEME personnel marching behind the RAQ Banner and Brigadier Ashurst. The post-march gathering at the Port Office Hotel was once again very well supported and all in attendance had a great time. ANZAC Day March in Townsville was also very well supported with over 100 marchers joining others at Flynn's Hotel – it was the place to be in NQ on another memorable ANZAC Day.

The secret of a strong association is ensuring fresh faces and new ideas are regularly brought onto the RAQ Committee. Our Association has some 600+ members, and in SEP / OCT this year, Biennial Committee Elections are due and all Executive Committee positions will be vacated. RAQ Secretary, Gary Sargent, will be stepping down after many years of excellent work. On behalf of the RAQ, I extend our heart-felt thanks to Gary, for such a sustained contribution. I have also decided to step down after 10 years as Chairman – it's time for me to hand the baton to another committed and experienced member, who will lead our Association into the future.

I urge you to consider stepping up and investing some of your time, skill and experience in the RAQ as a committee member. Most of the committee work fulltime jobs, yet they find the time to play their part in the life of the RAQ. Ask yourself, "What part can I play in the life of the RAQ" – there is a place for you.

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 (RAQ) 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

Fellow Spanners, as snow settles on the hills around Canberra, and as the end of the financial year engulfs us, I have watched with pride as our Corps thrives and excels at adapting to the ever-changing dynamics of our day to day work. This adaptation also includes responding to a change of Government, rapid re-adaptation to national and international travel requirements, and the impacts of regional flood events in many places. Most of us seem to be coping to various Covid situations. Despite all this disruption, I've been exceptionally pleased to see our Corps members striving tirelessly to accomplish some incredible personal, organisational, and strategic outcomes.

In May, I was fortunate to visit ASEME, where I witnessed firsthand the bright future of our critical recovery trade as the Basic Recovery Course conducted field training in Yackandandah State Forest. I also enjoyed a productive meeting with the other logistic Heads of Corps and attended the Logistic Officers Basic Course dinner-in-night. During this trip I was able to congratulate two outstanding Corps members on some noteworthy personal achievements:

- CAPT Wayne Dooley's thirty-six years of service to the Army and the Corps; and
- LT Lily McIvor's Honours project through UNSW. Her paper was chosen as one of ten (selected from 750 submissions) by the International Federation of Automatic Control. She will present the paper at the Manufacturing Modelling, Management and Control Conference held in Nantes, France in June this Year.

Both officers have done the Corps and themselves proud in different ways.

Another remarkable individual achievement is the 50 years (that's not a typo) of service within RAEME by CAPT John Land. CAPT Land's milestone was celebrated and acknowledged during a Dining-In night at Singleton in June by the NSW Corps Commandant, COL Andy Adams – see the article on page 18 of this edition.

Also in June, I was thrilled to welcome the seven newest RAEME officers into the Corps. Attendance at the lanyard presentation in Canberra by the majority of the RAEME HoC cell and other long-serving local RAEME officers showcased our Corps famous Esprit de Corps and openness, when welcoming new Corps members. But it was the confidence I have in the future of our Corps that stood out, as I can see it is in exceptional hands with the calibre of our new members.

For the second half of this year I hope to be able to travel further, and engage with Corps members in the pre-pandemic fashion, in person. Whilst currently tentative, my aim is to visit Townsville later this year, to meet with the RAEME members of the 5th Aviation Regiment and

the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. I'd like to acknowledge the organisational achievements of the RAEME members of all units in NQ, especially those who contributed to the success of the recent Flood Assist Operations, Exercise Sea Explorer, and Exercise Vigilant Scimitar.

Finally I'd like to acknowledge some of the strategic objectives being delivered within the area of the Army Aviation Systems Branch, where I wear my other hat outside of my HOC duties. Since the last edition of the Spanner News we have seen:

- Insitu Pacific awarded LAND 129 Phase 3 – Shadow UAS replacement project;
- LAND 4503 – ARH Tiger replacement with Apache project achieving a National Security Council Second Pass approval; and
- LAND 4507 – MRH90 rapid replacement project, living up to its name "rapid", preparing the document suite and briefings in preparation to support Government approval later this year.

With this hard and complicated work being accomplished by our Corps members across the nation, I encourage you to occasionally take a step back, even if you feel you don't need to, to ensure you're looking after each other, your families and yourself. I wish everyone the best in their endeavours for the second half of the year.

Arte et Marte

**James Allen**  
**BRIG**  
**HOC**



## MESSAGE FROM COL COMDT QLD – COL STEVE EVANS

Giddy Spanners, since I last wrote, we have had a change of government, we now have a new Defence Minister, and some of the uniformed positions at the top of Defence have also changed including the appointment of LTGEN Simon Stuart to Chief of Army. It is a time of change, not just with personalities and appointments, but also with our major equipment, processes, procedures and training. I encourage everyone to embrace change in your area of expertise and look for the opportunities with the new regiments.

RAEME is very good at many things, but one thing that really defines us, and we are seeing that regularly during recent crises, is our ability to take on new challenges which test our adaptability, intellect, behaviours and expectations – you will see all these attributes on display in the many stories in this edition of Spanner News.

In the past month or so, I have been working to pull together the RAEME Corps Conference for 2022. Most of you will have seen the Warning Order which has been widely circulated. The Conference will be held at Gallipoli Barracks over the period 2-3 Nov 22 and will also incorporate a welcome BBQ on the afternoon of the 1

Nov 22 and a Dining-in Night on the evening of the 2 Nov 22. Stay tuned for more details.

May I advise the North Queensland fraternity that the Head of Corps, Corps RSM and myself will be travelling to Townsville early in August. The date and itinerary are still to be finalised so stay tuned on that one also.

I wish everyone the best for the second half of 2022 in what has been, and will continue to be, a busy year. Stay safe and busy.

Arte et Marte

**Steve Evans**

**COL COMDT – QLD**

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### A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH 1921 – 2021.

On the 29th of March 2022 at 11:30, the royal trumpets sounded in Westminster Abbey and the crowd rose to its feet as Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, made her way to her seat next to Prince Charles, escorted by Prince Andrew. I couldn't believe I was standing in a large crowd of dignitaries, in a building with centuries of history, representing the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps. I am writing this article so that all past, present and future members of RAEME, may have some insight to how it felt to attend the belated thanksgiving service for our former Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Philip, who passed away in 2021.

My day began with a trip along the M4 to London, and Australia House. Australia House is located in central London on the Strand, opposite St Clements Dane Church. Once inside Australia House, I met BRIG Grant Mason, DSC, DSM, ADC, who is currently Head of Australian Defence Staff (HADS), United Kingdom, who was also attending the service.



**L to R: CAPT Frank de Waard; BRIG Grant Mason, DSC, DSM, ADC; MAJ Stephen Venning**

This magnificent building is covered in Australian marble, and in its recent history, the foyer has been used for Harry Potter films, while the staircase was used in one of the Wonder Woman movies. After a quick tour of  
**Spanner News**

Australia House, it was a short cab ride along the Thames to Westminster Abbey. The Guard of Honour at the entrance was comprised of a number of Cadets from different services. Once inside, I marvelled at the history of the place, including Christopher Hawking's memorial stone, Poets Corner, with the statue of Shakespeare, and memorials to many other famous people from over the centuries.

Once at our seats, a row of Canadian Infantry personnel filed in behind. Naturally we started talking, and it became clear, Prince Philip was associated with their Regiment. Interestingly, one of the soldiers in the group, belonged to a Battalion that had fought alongside 3RAR in the battle of Kapyong, in Korea. I also noticed some REME Corporals and spoke to them. It turns out they drove the Land Rover for Prince Phillip's funeral procession in 2021. Fittingly, the REME Corps RSM and HOC, had brought along the youngest member of the Corps, a 17-year-old "Crafty", who had just about fainted when he was called up to the COMDTs office to get the news he was attending the Service.

Music continued to play as many other dignitaries filed in, heralding PM, Boris Johnson's arrival. This was followed by various members of the Royal Family who made their way to their seats which were about 10 rows in front of us facing our chairs, so we had a clear view of Prince Charles and behind him Prince William. The Queen then arrived, and the service was underway.

The service was multi-faceted and included a very good speech from a recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, who described how undertaking tasks in the program, helped her get her first job and build the skills we take for granted in the Defence. The Choir and all attendees joined in the hymn singing, including an amazing performance from a young choirboy. At the end of the service, the crowd rose for the National Anthem, with notes rebounding from the stone walls and pillars soaked in history, in a building that has been used to crown all of the British monarchs since 1066. I was moved deeply.



**Westminster Service Booklet**

I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to attend this commemoration service, alongside MAJ Stephen Venning, and represent all members of RAEME. I will be handing my copy of the service booklet and ticket to the HOC

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Cell for their retention – I believe it belongs to the Corps, not me.

I also trust this article gives all readers an insight into what it felt like to attend the Service of Thanksgiving for His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 1921 – 2021, Colonel-in-Chief Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

#### **Arte et Marte**

**Captain Frank de Waard**

**Extract from “The Craftsman” magazine 2022**

### **2022 QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS – RAEME RECIPIENTS.**

#### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (DSM).**

**Brigadier Todd Andrew ASHURST.** For distinguished leadership in warlike operations as the Commander Task Group Afghanistan and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Resolute Support Mission Chief of Combined Joint Operations, on Operation HIGHROAD from September 2020 to June 2021.

#### **ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL (OAM).**

**Warrant Officer Class One Bradley Scott BARGENQUAST (48<sup>th</sup> VM).** For meritorious service as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 11<sup>th</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion, 1st Combat Signal Regiment and Royal Military College - Duntroon.

**Warrant Officer Class One Michael Leonard WATERS (42<sup>nd</sup> F&T).** For meritorious service in senior Artificer Sergeant Major roles inside Army Headquarters and Special Operations Command. Warrant Officer Class One Waters has demonstrated exceptional performance in multiple senior Artificer Sergeant Major appointments.

#### **CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)**

**Lieutenant Colonel Josephine Lee RICHARDS.** For outstanding achievement as a Commanding Officer of 8th Combat Service Support Battalion force assigned to Operation Bushfire Assist and as the Commanding Officer of Joint Task Unit 629.1.1 on Operation COVID-19 Assist.

#### **CONPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL**

**Lieutenant Colonel Paul John BELLAS CSM.** Bar to CSM. For meritorious achievement in the reform of organisation management in the Australian Army.

**Major Benjamin William ANGUS.** For meritorious achievement as the Officer Commanding Administration Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

**Warrant Officer Class One Christopher Barry McCULLOCH.** For meritorious achievement as the Artificer Sergeant Major of the 3rd Combat Signal Regiment.

### **FEATURING 2 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENT LOG SPT SQN TST.**

**Introduction.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineering Regiment (2 CER) is based at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane, Queensland as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade (7 BDE). 2 CER is a high readiness unit, providing mobility, counter-mobility, survivability and sustainability effects in support of 7 BDE tasks. Common tactical tasks include: bridging, high risk search, breaching, obstacle construction and operating within contaminated environments. 2 CER also holds capability of dive reconnaissance, riverine movement, engineering reconnaissance, water purification and civil construction. These capabilities make it the ideal brigade asset to respond to Humanitarian Aid – Disaster Relief (HA-DR) operations.

2 CER traces lineage back through to the 4<sup>th</sup> and later 7<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers in World War I, providing similar battlefield effects as a modern combat engineering force element.

The unit is comprised of the Regimental Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Squadron (mounted), 7<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Squadron (mechanised), 11<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Squadron (ARES), 24<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron and Operational Support Squadron.

With such a diverse range of capability and corresponding equipment assets, the RAEME workshop is required to maintain all classes of military vehicles and engineer specialist equipment, while providing specialised Forward Support Teams (FST) for each squadron. As such, the workshop is bolstered with a “Mega” ASM, WO1 Wayne Davis, supporting the Technical Support Troop (TST) Commander, LT Edward Healy. The remainder of TST has a posted strength of 30 personnel, having the FRTs consolidated within the workshop.

**TST 2022.** From the start of the year, the TST hit the ground running with deployments to Tonga and closer to home. These diverse tasks left the ASM in barracks short on personnel, covering the roles of TP COMD and EMESGT. With task teams returning to barracks in late March, the workshop effectively started its routine work and training in April, just in time for a Tier 3 audit in June. With manning and qualification deficiencies, each spanner has pushed hard to keep 2 CER online and mission capable. TST’s focus is now on the “Terrier Run” series of exercises, part of 2 CER’s build-up phase towards Ex Talisman Sabre 23.

**Operation Tonga Assist (Jan – Mar 22).** Following the devastating undersea volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami, 2 CER deployed to the Kingdom of Tonga as part of a multi-national support effort. To support the ground element, as part of a CSST, 2 CER’s TST deployed an FRT, EME SGT and TP COMD with a recovery element provided by 7 CSSB.



### Embarkation of 2 CER onto HMAS Adelaide

The RAEME element conducted an array of tasks with a limited supply line (weekly strategic RAAF flights with DFAT as priority), requiring creative repair solutions to keep equipment online and the ground element mission capable.



### CFN Wheelen moving debris on Atata Island

Some of the more unique tasks included assisting the HMAS Adelaide maintenance crew during the Ship's temporary power outage and the recovery of the JD450J to enable its return to HMAS Canberra via CH-47.



### 2 CER FRT changes the air intake filters on HMAS Adelaide during a power outage

Spanner News

FRT were deployed with 7 CE SQN and 24 SPT SQN attachments alongside Royal Fijian Military Forces (RFMF) combat engineers and technical trades personnel to several islands in the Ha'apai Island Group and closer to Tongatapu Island. The FRT completed general duty clean-ups, electrical make-safe tasks, small engine repairs and routine equipment maintenance throughout the deployment.

With the air-mobile deployment of light PLANT onto Atata and Nomuka Islands, the FRT was deployed via watercraft to maintain this equipment and complete the aforementioned tasks.



### CH-47 (C SQN, 5 AVN) completes recovery of JD450J back to HMAS Canberra

Due to their heavy use, the plant equipment suffered many hydraulic issues. These were carefully managed to ensure continued use of the plant and enable their recovery. On Nomuka Island, the JD450J became too heavy for CH-47 lift, due to its heavy use in island mud. The FRT was projected on small boats to reduce the weight, before HMAS Canberra moved into range to attempt the aviation retrieval.



### RFMF trade personnel work alongside the FRT to fix a local Tongan tractor

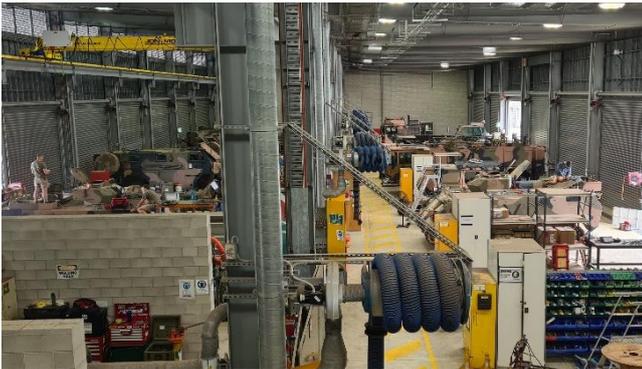
Throughout the three-month deployment, the RAEME elements supported the Combined Task Group to successfully provide aid to the people of Tonga and achieve the "whole of government" mission.

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**Operation Flood Assist (February – Apr 22).** Whilst the high-risk weather force element was deployed to assist Tonga, widespread flooding from a large and persistent weather system moving over Southeast QLD and Northern NSW began to impact on many regional communities. As part of the ADF response to these events, 2 CE SQN, with attachments from 24 SPT SQN, were deployed as the initial engineering response. To support the deployment of this equipment, TST provided an FRT.

**Preparation of M113 AS4 vehicles for Ukraine (May 22).** In support of the Australian military assistance for the Government of Ukraine, 7 BDE was tasked with providing M113-AS4 armoured personnel carriers. With the Engineer APC squadron (7 CE SQN) deployed on Ex Southern Jackaroo, the chosen APCs were awaiting digital conversion and trade works.

As usual, the workshop surged to meet the demand. The 100 hours of maintenance work was completed by TST's only AS4 vehicle mechanic, supported by a trainee turret fitter and a 7 CSSB FRT. This effort enabled the delivery of one AS4 within the week to JLU (SQ) for despatch with another delivered the following week.



**APC M113-AS4 206401 and 206402 being repaired in the 2 CER Wksp**

Notable mentions of exemplary effort of LCPL Bond (2 CER), LCPL Court (7 CSSB) and CFN Teis (2 CER).



**M113-AS4 APCs painted, ready for transport to Ukraine (JLU SQ)**

Arte et Marte

**Edward Healy**  
Lieutenant  
TST COMD  
2nd Combat Engineering Regiment  
Spanner News



## RAEME UNIT ACTIVITIES IN PNG

**RAEME in Papua New Guinea - Training and Maintenance with the PNGDF.** On the 2 Mar 22, a small RAEME element from 102 Fd Wksp, 3 CSSB, deployed to Papua New Guinea on Exercise Olgetta Warrior as part of the Mentoring and Training Team – Alpha. This support was part of a larger contingent delivering training and mentoring to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). RAEME personnel committed to this task included; LT Tiffany Vickers (RAEME GSO), SGT Dean Allen (VM), CPL Bryce Webb (VM), CPL Mark Campbell (ASEME - Fitter Armourer), CFN Nathan McNally (VM) and CFN Henry Bill (VM). After a number of briefings, the RAEME team departed Australia with a ready mindset, eager to get stuck into work, but with an expectation that plans could change and flexibility would be key.

The team started with a plan for the four vehicle mechanics to deliver mentoring to PNGDF mechanics at the Lae engineering battalion. The fitter armourer would be delivering mentoring at the Force Support Battalion (FSB) workshop at Murray Barracks in Port Moresby. However, on arrival at Port Moresby, and after the initial work assessment with the Defence Co-operation Program (DCP) representative (WO2 Dan Leatham), it was decided the team could be more effective if split across two locations.

From here the vehicle mechanics were split up with SGT Allen and CFN Bill flying to Wewak; and CPL Webb and CFN McNally locating to Lae. This, however, would not occur immediately as Papua New Guinea brings about new challenges, one of them being up to a two-week lead time to be able to book a flight due to COVID-19. With adaptability being at the forefront of everyone's minds our vehicle mechanics then set about conducting repairs to a Land Cruiser at the Force Support Battalion (FSB) workshop while they awaited flights. The two week lead time unexpectedly changed to a single day when SGT Allen's and CFN Bill's flight were pushed forward. After being in country for only six days they then flew to Wewak as a forward repair team (FRT) for an unknown amount of time.

CPL Webb and CFN McNally continued repairs on the Land Cruiser at the FSB until they ran into an all too familiar problem – parts availability. With a lack of parts to continue repairs at the FSB, CPL Webb and CFN McNally then conducted an FRT out to Goldie River Training Depot (GRTD) to undertake repairs and servicing on four Land Cruisers at the transport yard. The craftsmen not only faced challenges in conducting repairs and maintenance without their usual tooling and equipment but also in driving conditions to get to the job. The road to the training depot is a dirt road that quickly turns to mud and is mud most of the year. After testing their driving skills as well as their technical skills, CPL Webb and CFN McNally were able to complete the

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required repairs and servicing before continuing onto their main effort in Lae.

The PNGDF Land Cruiser fleet maintenance was not only a priority for the VMs at GRTD but also for the FRT deployed to Wewak. SGT Allen and CFN Bill, alongside the PNGDF maintainers, completed all of the Land Cruiser fleets major servicing over five weeks spent in Wewak.

In the meantime, CPL Campbell, the only fitter armourer deployed to PNG, was facing his own challenges. His task was to mentor PNGDF personnel; however, the armourer he was meant to look after was on leave. Whilst he set about working autonomously to assist the PNGDF and DCP reps, the PNGDF seized the opportunity to conduct armourer training. CPL Campbell then thanked his lucky stars he had come over from the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and commenced work on collating course content and writing formative and summative assessments.

The course would see the first Fitter Armament training completed by the PNGDF in many years, Lead Instructor and Course Manager CPL Mark Campbell (ASEME) along with LCPL Lochlan Goddard (IRAR) delivered armourer training to trade qualified PNGDF soldiers. The course began with instruction on small arms principles encompassing intro, design, principles of operation, cycle of operations, security and safety and then progressed to practical components utilising PNGDF weapons systems. The course was so well received by the PNGDF it ran three times during Exercise Olgetta Warrior, each with a panel of five students. The large number of attendees for this course has had a huge impact on building and enhancing the armourer capability throughout the PNGDF.

In Lae, CPL Webb and CFN McNally were given the task of running a B & C vehicle course, including covering PNGDF documentation for vehicle maintenance. On arrival to Lae, CPL Webb and CFN McNally were then required to learn the PNGDF processes and familiarise themselves with foreign documentation in order to teach it and incorporate it into the course. Along with this, they also created course content including both formative and summative assessments, as well as ROAs and certificates, none of which had been done previously.

Whilst developing the course the VMs in Lae also had repairs to conduct, including repairs on a Renault Prime mover. This prime mover is one of the PNGDF's biggest engineering assets, and with CPL Webb and CFN McNally being deployed to an engineering unit it quickly became one of their top priorities. They were told it had not been started in three years and getting it working again was of great importance to the engineering battalion's capability. The team identified a learning opportunity for the PNGDF vehicle mechanics and they came up with a practical component for the course. Using practical learning throughout the course, they enhanced the capability of

the unit two-fold, by repairing the mover, and enhancing the knowledge of the trainees.



**Australian Defence Force vehicle mechanics from the 3 CSSB working alongside PNGDF vehicle mechanics in Wewak. Left to right: CPL Konjip Crisi, SGT Dean Allen, CFN Henry Bill and CPL Eyane Asiah.**

The beginning of the B & C vehicle maintainer course was well received. DCP purchased new personalised PD's and boots which were issued to all students on day one of the course. The students were eager to learn and CPL Webb and CFN McNally were equally keen to understand the PNGDF workshop and develop their initiative. The formative assessments proved to be a useful instructional tool in training with foreign militaries. The assessments ensured that information was being understood and retained. At the end of week two, all students had passed both formative assessments. The course concluded on the 6 May 22 with CPL Webb and CFN McNally remaining in location for a further two weeks to continue mentoring and ensure skills taught on course were put into practice.

In retrospect, the chance to work in small teams away from home was invaluable for all ranks from craftsmen to sergeant. This opportunity allowed everyone to take on a role they would not normally be given in a larger organisation – their efforts will technically enable battle groups in future throughout the PNG provinces. The instructional activities will also assist in establishing a foundation for potential future training. As the PNGDF seek to re-establish their apprenticeship training school, course, our former students could be delivering training themselves in the coming years. The knowledge, skills and experiences shared by the ADF and PNGDF participants is an excellent example of two militaries organisations mutually benefitting from working collaboratively.

Throughout Exercise Olgetta Warrior 22 MTT-A, our tradesman were tested across all aspects from All Corps and trade specific competencies. Through their ability to embrace new working environments, face new challenges and build relationships with a partnering defence force, each member of the team demonstrated core values of Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence to an exceptional standard. Whilst operating throughout PNG

all members were able to build on their skills in instruction, self, or team management, whilst passing on knowledge and skills to the PNGDF. They have been able to overcome language and knowledge barriers when teaching as well as find innovative solutions to problems when their usual resources aren't available. Through this, the team has demonstrated the technical mastery and versatility that the RAEME Corps strives for.

"We have created friendships during our courses that will last throughout our careers and beyond, the ADF and PNGDF will continue to have mutual support through these friendships as we develop our armourers and training delivered." CPL Mark Campbell

Students from the Fitter Armament Course were presented their course completion certificates by the Australian Chief of Army, LTGEN Rick Burr.



**Back Row. L to R: WO2 Daniel Leatham (Defence Co-operation Program, WKSP LO, ADF), CPT Walter Lourie (Force Support Battalion, OC WKSP, PNGDF), LTCOL Roderick Noyamefa (CO Force Support Battalion, PNGDF), LTGEN Rick Burr (CA) WO1 Grant McFarlane (RSM-A), CPL Mark Campbell (Lead Instr, ASEME), LCPL Lochlan Goddard (Linguist, IRAR, ADF)**

**Front Row. PNGDF Students L to R: LCPL Samuel Augustine, ORDSMN Somungai Junior, LCPL Owofea Sero, PTE Solomon Mota**



**Authors: CFN Henry Bill, CFN Nathan McNally, CPL Bryce Webb, CPL Mark Campbell, SGT Dean Allen and LT Tiffany Vickers**

Spanner News

## RAQ ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

**ANZAC Day – Brisbane.** Pictured below is BRIG Todd Ashurst leading the RAQ Brisbane Contingent. BRIG Ashurst is Director General Support at HQ Joint Operations Command. Todd is a former RAEME HOC, grew up in Brisbane, and served in Brisbane for most of the 1990's. He has also served in the United Nations, Middle East, and Afghanistan.



The RAQ was very proud to organise and commemorate ANZAC Day in Queensland, with over 470 veterans and guests in Brisbane and Townsville participating.

In Brisbane, the day started with steady soaking rain and worsened during the march. However, it didn't deter a strong attendance with some 150 on parade who sadly were wet through – much fortitude on display in Brisbane.



The streets were lined with many thousands of onlookers showing their gratitude to veterans. Thankfully the RAQ contingent was led by the Brisbane Pipe Band and allowed us to keep in step and look very organised as we passed the saluting dais.



We were also grateful to have WO1 Mick Patman, RAEME, providing the ABC commentary. For the first time, we got a wonderful wrap!

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Big thank you to BRIG Todd Ashurst for leading the parade in trying circumstances; as well as to WO1 Mick Patman, for his sterling work commentating on and credibly informing the Brisbane community throughout the march on the history of various units and their roles in our modern Army.

Most importantly the RAQ wishes to thank Max Walker, the ANZAC Day organiser for the Brisbane event. Max attends all the ANZAC Parade Committee meetings and facilitates our attendance in the parade – we appreciate his efforts are very much.

Our post-March function gets better each year. We had close to 240 members and guests in attendance this year. Held at the iconic Port Office Hotel, the RAQs traditional “watering hole”, guests were treated to great food and convivial company – thank you to the Port Office management and staff who put on another great buffet lunch with their traditional good humour and gracious service. The hotel event normally finishes around 1700hrs, however a number of “stayers” held on way past this time. I hope everyone had a great day and arrived home safe and well.

ANZAC Day can also be a time of mixed emotions for many members. It can bring back both good and not so good memories. So, if a mate reaches out, or you haven't heard from one in a while, now is a great time to pick up the phone, or check-in with a catch up for a coffee, or a beer. We should also remember that many of our Corps are still serving overseas – they were not forgotten on the day.

Thanks to a good idea from the Team in NQ, we held a couple of raffles, with prizes including a large stainless steel Corps Badge and merchandise packs. Congratulations to those members who won prizes. We look forward to running more of these at future our functions and unit Spanner Clubs in Southeast Queensland.

These functions take a fair bit of organising. The RAQ wishes to recognise those folks who made a wonderful contribution, including a number of our executive members who helped throughout the Day – Jeff Maurice, Ty Bodle, Bruce Hermann, Adrian Butcher, Peter Matthews, and Steve Howells. Thank you all.

Below are some images from our RAQ Brisbane ANZAC Day March and post-March event at the Port Office Hotel. More photos are available on the [RAQ Photo Gallery](#).

Some images are Courtesy of ABC YouTube.

Arte et Marte

**Lest We Forget**

Spanner News



RAEME Association Queensland Inc



**ANZAC Day – Townsville.** The Townsville ANZAC Day activity was a huge success with Flynn's Irish Bar hosting RAQ-NQ from 0600 -1330 to celebrate the contribution of past, present and future service personnel to the country. Whilst some initial rain put a dampener on the form up for the Strand march, the rain held off for the main event. Approx 150 RAEME personnel marched behind the Banner shown below.

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**Mandatory selfie at Flynn's Irish Bar - L to R - Ian Joyce, Alecia Blanch, Tank Pontifex**

The crowd in Townsville must also be acknowledged. They lined the streets in droves, clapping and cheering all those in attendance in damp conditions. To top the day off, the Chief of Army, LTGEN Rick Burr, acknowledged our "snappy" eyes right on the dais. The crowd returned to Flynn's to continue the RAQ-NQ function with many a story recounted and refreshment enjoyed.

Lest we forget.

**Robert 'Tank' Pontifex**  
**RAQ Nth QLD**

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



**ARMY APPRENTICES REPORT**



**Annual SE Queensland Reunion.** The annual reunion was held at the Bulimba Bowls Club, Quinn St, Balmoral on 4 Jun 22. Fortunately, the "Apprentice Weather Gods" once again smiled on us, and we had a perfect sunny day.

Approx 160 apprentices attended the event, along with their wives/partners. Apprentices travelled from distant places such as Sydney, Rockhampton and the western regions of QLD.

The oldest apprentice in attendance was Les Edis, 9th Intake. Les holds his age well and would pass for a man of 50!! The youngest was Evan Box and Peter Finch from the 49th Intake. Peter Lambert was the only 13th Intake representative but was joined by a large group from the 14th Intake to share many stories. The 30th and 31st once again, were the largest group represented.

**RAEME Association Queensland Inc**

Rob De Visser, 25th Intake attended on the day, but unfortunately during a chat, he explained his days were numbered, and he was planning a trip to Vietnam in the days just after the reunion. Sadly, we have now been informed of his passing due to cancer in July.

At the 2021 reunion, Belinda, and Jan Slaats, 32nd intake F & T made an amazing cake to celebrate the day. This year Belinda excelled herself (maybe with Jan's assistance) and made not one, but two even more beautiful cakes, which were appreciated and enjoyed by the attendees.



**Apprentices immediately behind the cakes. L to R: David Grant 14<sup>th</sup> VM, Les Edis 9<sup>th</sup> Elec Tech, and Dave Warren-Smith 33<sup>rd</sup> Electronics Technician**

This reunion could not be successful without the support of the Bulimba Bowls Club who would not accept a payment for the venue. Thanks too must go to the ladies, Mary-Ann Bowyer, Trish Richardson, Barb Daley, Denise King, who organised the "Meet and Greet" and the raffle ticket sales – could not do it without these ladies! Thanks too to Woolworths at Bulimba for their amazing support.



**Cooks on the Day – Barb Daley and Mick Caughey**

Thanks must also go to the "BBQ Kings". Unfortunately, this year Peter Henderson aka "Chook" was unable to attend due to illness, so Mick Caughey worked on his own and produced a great meal as he has done for many years.

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Brian Daley announced that the 4<sup>th</sup> June was not only the reunion day, but also it was his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday! He advised that if the reunion is still run by him next year, it will not be held on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday weekend – so it will not be held on the first Saturday in June. It was suggested it is time for a committee to be formed to take over the running of the reunion. Brian suggested an informal invitation be sent out inviting fellow apprentices to gather, perhaps at the Bulimba Bowls Club in the near future, to facilitate the formation of a committee. Watch this space for a date. Potential volunteers interested in continuing to make these reunions happen, please contact Brian Daley, **M 0412 721 761**, or email: [bjdaley14@gmail.com](mailto:bjdaley14@gmail.com)

## AAAA NOTICES

**Association National Reunion Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Commencement of the Army Apprentices Scheme.** Next year marks 75 years since the 1st Intake of Army Apprentices commenced training with a further 49 further Intakes to follow. To celebrate this milestone the Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) is organising a National Event to be held in the Albury Wodonga area over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 23. See details on page 19 – and the responses required to assist the AAAA organising committee with planning.

**Australian Army Apprentices Association MAY 2022 Newsletter "The Apprentice About".** To view this edition, visit the Association Website or [click this link](#). Please feel free to pass this information to any Appies and encourage them to join the Association so that they can receive their own copy.

AAAA is still looking for articles for future Newsletters, particularly from Bonegilla of the 80's and 90's, or more Corps-specific items. If you have any comments or contributions to the Newsletter, please contact us.

Also, please let the Membership Secretary know at [membership@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:membership@austarmyapprentice.org) there have been any recent changes to your contact details.

Regards

**Jeff Heron**

**Newsletter Editor Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc.**

**Email:** [news@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:news@austarmyapprentice.org)

**Website:** [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)

## RAQ COMING EVENTS

The following social events will happen in and around Queensland in the remainder of 2022. For further details on any events, please contact the RAQ Functions Officer at: [functions@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:functions@qld.raeme.org.au) or check Friday Files each week.

RAEME Association Queensland Inc

EVENT	DATE
RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion - Brisbane	21 Aug 22
RAEME NQ All Ranks Function - Townsville	26 Aug 22
RAQ Gold Coast Lunch - Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC	27 Aug 22
RAQ Sunshine Coast Lunch - Maroochydore	1 Oct 22
RAQ NQ Gathering	TBA Oct 22
RAEME 80th Birthday	1 Dec 22
RAEME Birthday SE QLD - Brisbane	TBA
RAEME Birthday NQ - Townsville	TBA
RAQ All Ranks Luncheon - Brisbane	3 Dec 22

### RAQ WARNING ORDER GOLD COAST LUNCH 27 AUG 22.

**Situation.** The RAQ as part of its annual social events program is organising its annual lunch on the Gold Coast at the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club on the afternoon of 27 Aug 22.

**Mission.** You are invited to attend and bring your wives, husbands, partners, girlfriends, boyfriends or mates to this popular event.

**Execution.** The lunch will see a direct assault on the Surf Club conducted in several phases. Note the following key phases:

- arrive at the venue and head upstairs – some parking is available in the car park opposite,
- go to the FUP via the bar to grab a beer,
- join the other troops and commence gasbagging,
- take a deep breath and read the menu, draw rations at the ration order point using your own ration card,
- sit comfortably in the FUP, and
- enjoy your rations and carry-on gasbagging.

**Admin and Log.** Generally between 60 and 70 folks attend the lunch, but space is limited, so get in early. With Covid restrictions lifted, we are expecting a good crowd. Surf Club management allocates an area to the RAQ members on the front veranda overlooking the sparkling ocean and provides tables / chairs. For all attendees. Please purchase your own drinks over the bar and purchase rations from the menu at the meal order point. Meals will be brought to your table.

**Command and Signals.** Further reminders have been sent as well as requests for attendance – please let us know if you are attending. **The lunch is scheduled for Saturday 27 Aug 22, commencing 1200, and generally winds up about 1630-1700.**

Regards,

**Eddie 'Beans' Bevans & Barry Skinner**  
Co-Convenors



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### RAQ SUNSHINE COAST ANNUAL LUNCHEON SAT 1 OCT 22.

Readers are advised that this year's RAQ Sunshine Coast Annual Luncheon is to be held at the Maroochy RSL on Saturday 1 Oct 22. This year's lunch is of significance given it is the Corps' 80th Birthday.

In the next few weeks invitations will be sent out, but all with an affiliation with RAEME are welcome to make up a table. The founder and Executive Chairman of Canberra based Aspen Medical, retired RAEME Major Glenn Keys AO, is our guest speaker. Aspen Medical provides support across the full spectrum of healthcare in Australia and abroad and has had Government contracts in Australia, the UK and US. Glenn has a wealth of experience on delivering medical services but he will concentrate on what it meant for him to serve in the Corps before he undertook his current role in business. He will also address Aspen's support to State and Federal Government responses to the COVID pandemic in Australia.

The Maroochy RSL has waived the cost of room and projector/screen hire and again will offset the cost of the lunch to the sum of \$10.00 per head for the first 100 attendees. The RAQ is matching the RSL and will subsidize the lunch a further \$10.00 per member and one guest, again for the first 100 attendees. This will reduce the cost per head for members and one guest to \$38.00.

In the next few weeks, details confirming the menu, format and timings will be emailed to RAQ members in an invitation flyer. Friday Files and the RAQ website will also contain more detail.

**Note the date, Saturday 1 Oct 22, and we look forward to seeing you once again on the Sunny Coast celebrating, amongst other things, the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of RAEME.**

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



### RAEME HISTORY SEGMENT – A SPECIAL 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY STORY

**Events leading to the Formation of RAEME – 1939 to 1942.** Australia was generally ill-prepared for WW2 and it took some time for the prevailing lethargy to be overcome. Almost reluctantly additional funds became available to develop the Army's electrical and mechanical services, but unfortunately much of the knowledge and experience that had been gained during WWI had been lost or was ignored and the Australian Army was entirely dependent on British resources to achieve the necessary development. In spite of these difficulties and some cross-Corps confusion regarding the responsibility for the maintenance, repair and modification of mechanical and

RAEME Association Queensland Inc

technical equipment, the first WW2 AAOC workshops were raised early in the war.

Key to the AAOC deployable capability was the Army Field Workshop (AFW). However in spite of the importance of this capability to the AIF, raising an AFW was a difficult task. The outbreak of war had accentuated the need for tradesmen, and workshops had to compete fiercely to obtain its establishment of skilled manpower from the limited national resource. This was a requirement made more difficult by the perception held by some trade qualified AIF recruits, who enlisted to fight, but who saw service in a workshop as a non-combat role. Bureaucracy was an additional hurdle, resulting in slowness to release trade qualified men from the central Army pool of enlistees.



**1939: New 6th Division recruits entraining at Melbourne Showgrounds railway station for Puckapunyal.**

All of these problems were eventually overcome and AFWs were raised, trained and deployed in support of AIF Divisions in the Middle East, Malaya and Australia.

The 2nd AIF's initial engagements in the Middle East were fought against the Italians and as a result of battle damage, the harshness of the terrain, and a decision to employ captured Italian vehicles and equipment, the workshops were faced with an enormous workload and often exposed to enemy fire. During the attack to remove the Italian garrison from Tobruk, No 6 Recovery Section of the 2/2 AFW actually went into action with the tanks and carried out repairs during the battle. For this action SGT W.M. Allison and PTEs E.O.J. Dunning and K Smith were awarded the Military Medal.

<sup>1</sup> After just two hours of bombing, more than 2,400 Americans were dead, 21 ships had either been sunk or damaged and more than 188 US aircraft destroyed. This devastating attack so outraged the USA that it abandoned its policy of isolationism and declared war on Japan the following day, officially bringing the USA into WW2.



**1941 Maddalena: The Motor Transport Section of 2/2 AFW at work on Bren Gun Carriers.**



**An Italian-made SPA truck resurrected by the 2/53rd LAD during 1940.**

During the siege of Tobruk, the Greece campaign, and later actions in the Western Desert, the men of the 2nd AIF Workshops and their recovery elements made a significant contribution to the eventual defeat of the Axis powers in the Middle East.



**Recovery under fire in Greece 1941**

Closer to home, the Australian Government agreed to commit the 8th Division AIF to Malaya to assist with countering the Japanese threat. Elements of the 8th Division AIF, including supporting LAD and AFW support arrived in Malaya during February 1941. A second contingent of the 8th Division arrived in Malaya during June 1941. On 7 December 1941 Japan entered the war with a surprising and devastating attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii<sup>1</sup>. The next day Japanese forces commenced their invasion of Malaya. In a matter of

weeks Japanese forces gained control of much of Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific Area. Australian troops of the 8th Division captured during this period numbered about 17,000. 9,607 members of the Division were killed in action or died later as prisoners of war.



**Members of the 2/4th AFW, 8th Division, on a troopship. From left to right are: WO Alfred Hindle; LT John Hornidge; CAPT Sydney Harkess, later killed in action aged 46 and WO Victor Beynon**

In spite of their capture and harsh treatment, some artificers found a way to defy their Japanese captors. Lieutenant R Wright of the Australian Army Ordnance Corps made three covert radio sets, one hidden in a broom; another was concealed in a clock and a third in a water bottle. These radio sets enabled prisoners to keep abreast of war news and greatly assisted in the maintenance of morale. The photograph below was taken after the Japanese surrender. It shows Lieutenant Wright demonstrating his covert broom radio to three unidentified members of the AIF.



The rapid Japanese advance continued and in January 1942 Japanese forces overran a comparatively small Australian force on the New Guinea island of New Britain. This Japanese victory opened the way for a Japanese invasion of New Guinea, posing an even greater threat to Australia. On 19 February 1942, Japanese forces attacked Darwin, twice before noon with more than 260 aircraft launched from four aircraft carriers in the Timor Sea and from land bases at Ambon in the Maluku Islands of the Dutch-East Indies. Darwin, only lightly defended, was left devastated by the Japanese attack. At least 243 people were killed during the bombing and much of the city's Spanner News

infrastructure, including valuable port resources, was destroyed.<sup>2</sup>



**Fuel storage tanks burning in Darwin after the first Japanese air raid.**

A number of AAOC Workshop elements were in Darwin at the time of the initial bombing attacks and it is possible a spotter from 23 Independent Brigade Group Workshop was one of the first to report Japanese aircraft over the town<sup>3</sup>.



**19 Feb 1942: Sounding the general alarm at the Darwin-based 14th Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA.**

Confronted with the grim reality of a major attack on Mainland Australia, defensive preparations were finally begun in earnest. At the strategic level the Australian Government directed the return of the battle hardened AIF troops from the Middle East. At the same time, and at an organisational level, the Government directed Army to undertake an internal review designed to produce a more effective Defence Force. Indeed this review was to have a profound effect on the future of the Ordnance Department and the Mechanical Engineering Branch and would lead directly to the formation of a new Corps for a modern Army.

In response to the Government's directive to review the Defence Force, the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Thomas Blamey, appointed a committee to investigate the issues raised by Government. Ordnance and the maintenance and repair of equipment did not escape his attention and Blamey wanted to know if existing policy<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "Bombing of Darwin". *War history*. Australian War Memorial. Accessed 30 September 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Owen Robinson, *History of RAEME* (un-published) p. 116.

and arrangements for the control, design and inspection of Army munitions and stores was causing a duplication of effort and staffing.

This particular focus of the review had been influenced by similar events taking place in the United Kingdom which, in October 1942, resulted in the formation of the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). In Australia the immediate reaction to this British initiative was to retitle the Director of Mechanical Maintenance (DMM) the Director Mechanical Engineering (DME); and the formation of a new Corps was discussed at the highest levels.

These discussions resulted in the issue of General Routine Order G465, on 16 October 1942, authorising the formation of the Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME). On 20 November 1942 General Routine Order 0573 promulgated full instructions regarding the formation of AEME and the process of reorganisation which was to take place.

The initial transfer of the Australian Army Ordnance Corps Workshop organisation to the new Corps was to take effect on 1 December 1942.<sup>4</sup> The transfer of unit maintenance tradesmen (with some exceptions), whose duties were primarily the maintenance of mechanical equipment, took place on 1 May 1943. AEME began life with 950 officers and approximately 14,000 other ranks.

The immediate focus of the new Corps was the provision of support for operations against the Japanese. To this end some AEME elements deployed to New Guinea, while the majority of field units prepared for future operations from training areas in northern Australia and others provided their support from fixed facilities at various locations around the nation.

**Excerpt taken from “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsman of the Australian Army 1942-2014” – published 2014.**

## RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE

### Message from the National Chair/Coordinator.

I am pleased to see all associations are keeping busy, highlighted by the excellent turn-out at various ANZAC Day parades and post parade functions. I have seen detail on most of the activities around Australia in association newsletters which are now being published widely usually in an electronic form or by direct mailing.

I have been using the RNN IT communications system provided by the RAEME National (Network) Support Team (RNST) to great effect to keep in touch with the associations in the RNN. I encourage all associations to use our electronic systems as best you can, especially to get your newsletters into the wider RAEME community. Help is available from the RNST to facilitate your use, and association management capacity.

<sup>4</sup>Barker, T, p.127.

As a result of a meeting of some of the RNST on 7 Jul 22, we agreed on an outline plan to improve the website security, accessibility, functionality and consider ways to broadening the systems use. I want to thank the RNST - Alex Smithers, and his team of webmasters in most state locations for their great work and assistance

I have discussed methods of providing for long-term funding for our IT system, with SO2 Corps in the HOC Cell, MAJ Stephen Howells, and we are considering options. In the interim, we have enough funding to keep the system going short-term thanks largely to funds in the RNN Account, which were topped up by the profits from the very well received publication of the “Horses’ Mouth”, compiled by two loyal and dedicated RAEME people, Ian Cooke and Peter Shefford.

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

- **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.
- **RAEME Craftsman Magazine.** The most recent edition was published 1 Jul 22 – lots of interesting articles showing what the Corps is up to across Australia and elsewhere. Don’t forget to get future articles for “The Craftsman” magazine to MAJ Stephen Howells, the SO2 Corps [stephen.howells@defence.gov.au](mailto:stephen.howells@defence.gov.au) at any time for publication of the next edition later in 2022.
- **Appointment of a new COL in CHIEF.** We are still waiting for advice on the replacement of our COL in CHIEF following the passing of Prince Phillip. HOC is about have discussions with CA in regard to the matter and protocols to be followed as a result of the appointment of the new COL in CHIEF for REME, Sophie, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex.

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/COORD RNN**  
[rnn.chair@raeme.org.au](mailto:rnn.chair@raeme.org.au)



## WELCOME TO SEVEN NEWLY GRADUATED RAEME OFFICERS



The above officers have just joined the Corps and several are serving in our RAQ region. In no order, they are as follows: Brendan Corsaro (ADFA 4<sup>th</sup> Year), Tony Bud Hill (4 Regt RAA), Wilton Jansan (1 CSSB), Steele Lloyd (SOARMD), Kieran Poort (ASEME), Elizabeth Stott (3 CSR) and Harrison Ross (7 CSSB).

Welcome to the Corps, especially those lucky enough to be serving in the Sunshine State, where you are welcome to participate in all RAQ activities.

## VALE

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

- **Chisnall**, WO2 (Retd) James Francis (16<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away on 14 Apr 22. Jim served in SVN with 102 Fd Wksp from 31 Mar 71 to 9 Mar 72.
- **Swan**, Major (Retd) Robert Douglas (11<sup>th</sup> VM and OCS Jun 64) passed away on 13 Apr 22, aged 82 years. He served in SVN as OC 4 Fd Regt LAD, Feb 70 – Mar 71.
- **Eveleigh** (Basil) Tony, vehicle mechanic., passed away peacefully at the Palliative Care Unit, Townsville University Hospital on 7 May 22 surrounded by his Loving Family. Tony served in 3 Fd Engr Regt Wksp around 1975 – 1977.
- **Simpson**, WO1 (Retd) Jeffrey Garth (30<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away suddenly at home in Ballarat on 23 May 22, aged 63. Jeff's funeral was held in Ballarat on 6 Jun 22. Jeff retrained and served as a TES(G) with 1<sup>st</sup> Armd Regt TSS, and later still, in a CLK ADMIN position in SCMA.
- **Lidster**, WO1 (Retd) Paul Anthony, passed away peacefully 23 May 22 in palliative care at Oakey. Paul served in 161 (Indep) Recce Flt SVN as an Airframe Fitter on three occasions: 26 May 66 until 10 May 1967, then 1 Apr 69 until 1 Apr 70 and finally 28 Apr 71 until 16 Sep 71.
- **Nowak**, SGT (Retd) Wladyslaw "Sam" passed away on 6 Jun 22. Sam was a member of the RA South Australia, but was a founding member of 106 Fd Wksp, serving in SVN as a Radio Mechanic. On

completion of his ARA service he continued to serve in the ARES.

- **Courtney**, Charles (Jock) 17<sup>th</sup> VM passed away after a long illness on 9 Jun 22. He served with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt in SVN.
- **Sherington**, John, OAM, passed away on 10 Jun 22. John was a keen supporter of RAEME and served a number of times with Bulimba CMF/Reserve units and regularly attended CMF/ARES annual reunions.
- **Hawke**, SGT (Retd) Darryl (20<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away on 22 Jun 22. He served in 4 Base Wksp Bn. He was the President of the Lismore RSL Sub-branch.
- **Taylor**, MAJ Trevor "Squizzy" passed away in June 2022. Squizzy served in SVN with 106 Fd Wksp from 17 Nov 68 to 22 Jun 1969 and later with 17 Const Sqn Wksp from 23 Jun 69 to 19 Nov 69.
- **Stuart**, Trevor Charles RAE (17<sup>th</sup> VM) passed away on 27 Jun 22. Trevor served with 17<sup>th</sup> Const Sqn in SVN from 15 Apr 67 to 12 Mar 68.
- **Rosser**, Michael Gra "Mick" (16<sup>th</sup> Elec Flt) passed away in June. Although originally from WA, Mick resided in Redland Bay and served in SVN with ALSC from May 65 to Apr 66.
- **Host**, MAJ (Retd) James "Jim" (12<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away 11 Jul 22. He served in SVN with 102 Fd Wksp from Dec 68 to 23 Dec 69 and retired after serving at 5 Base Wksp Bn as MAJ ADMIN.
- **De Visser**, Robert "Rob" Bernad (25<sup>th</sup> Rad Mech) passed away 11 Jul 22, after losing his battle with cancer. Rob lived in Caboolture, Queensland.
- **Stanley**, WO1 (Retd) Russell passed away at his home in Ingleburn NSW on 7 Jul 22. Russ trade enlisted as an electrician in 1972 and served in Indonesia on survey operations in 1980 on detachment from Sydney Workshop Company.
- **Tinson**, Jason Aaron 'Jase' (46<sup>th</sup> VM) passed away on 2 Jul 22, aged 47. Of Brisbane, but formerly Maryborough, his funeral was held in the Heritage Chapel, Maryborough Crematorium on 15 Jul 22.

## WELFARE

- **Reddin**, Bill is currently recovering in hospitable in Adelaide after being knocked off his scooter by a minibus on 17 Apr 22. He has spent the last 3 months in an injury recovery rehab unit. Despite severe injuries, Bill is "recovering beautifully" and will be going home soon. Bill served in 161 Recce Flt as a Rad Mech from 8 Jul 69 until 2 Jul 70.
- **Melandri**, David MAJ (Retd), has been undergoing treatment for metastatic cancer of the throat and recently finished six weeks of radiotherapy. He is slowly recovering from the side effects. He requires another PET scan to see if all the cancer has been eradicated. His wife, Joan, has been undergoing her own battle with thyroid cancer, and following surgery, the cancer has been contained.

- **Williams, Dave**, advice received on 21 Jul 22 Dave's wife, Maxine, that he had a stroke on 19 Jul 22 and is now in the Toowoomba General Hospital. It has affected the right side of his body and his speech. He is undergoing further tests.

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](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)



### DFWA UPDATE

**Injured Your Back?** Establishing the date of clinical onset of a medical condition is a key to DVA accepting that the condition was "service-caused" for incapacity payment purposes.

It was a surprise to DFWA that a recent case saw the Repatriation Commission successfully argue at Federal Court that the date of clinical onset of Cervical Spondylosis was the date of Xray imaging confirming the diagnosis. Symptoms had been reported during service and at the final medical board. Expert medical opinion was that clinical onset was indicated at the time of these earlier symptoms. The veteran was considering an appeal to the Full Bench of the Federal Court. Costs were mounting.

This approach by DVA goes against the:

- DVA Policy Manual;
- 2018 advice from the Chief Health Officer and Principal Medical Advisor of DVA, Professor Ian Gardner; and
- legal precedent set by the Full Bench of the Federal Court

These all clearly distinguish between clinical onset and diagnosis. For a doctor can say that earlier symptoms indicate the presence of that disease at that time, then that is the date of clinical onset, not date of diagnosis. Full details can be [found at this link](#).

When DFWA found other cases where this approach was being taken by some delegates, it appeared that there was a systemic issue concerning governance and quality assurance within DVA. There may have been other cases where similar claims had been denied at least initially. The matter has been raised with the Secretary DVA and the matter is being investigated.

If you know of veterans who have been denied a claim for similar injuries on the basis that clinical onset was the date of diagnosis, they are advised to see an advocate and raise the issue with DVA. DFWA is pressing DVA to be

proactive in this area and contact veterans who may have claims wrongly denied.

Regards,

**John Lowis**  
President  
Defence Force Welfare Association



### DEDICATED SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE



**L to R John Land 24th Intake F&T, Neil Cromarty 15th Intake VM, COL Andrew Adams 35th Intake TES**

CAPT John Land OAM joined the Army in 1969 as a 24th Intake Fitter & Turner. On graduating, he was allotted to RAE serving with 1<sup>st</sup> Fd Engr Regt, SME and 6th Sig Regt. He transferred to RAEME in 1979 and served with 11th Sup Bn, Armd Centre, HQ 2 EME GP (EIS) and Infantry Centre. He discharged the ARA in 1989 and transferred to Active ARES and was posted to the Infantry Development Cell, School of Infantry as the Assist Curator/Armourer at the Infantry Museum. Posted into the newly raised Army History Unit (AHU) in 1998 when Corps and Regional Museums came under AHU command. In Apr 2000 he graduated with a Master of Applied Science (Materials Conservation) to become Army's Museum Conservator and Advisor, a role he held until 2022. John was commissioned as a Captain in 2002 into the Manager's position at the Infantry Museum and held the position until June 2011, when he became the full time APS Curator at the museum. Posted the AHU HQ as the SO2 Museum Technical Advice Cell. He took off the uniform in 2020 after combined 51yrs 8mths ARA / ARES service, continued APS Curator role until 30 Jun 22, completing 53yrs 5mths service in Defence.

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I want to continue with the theme of volunteerism mentioned by the Chairman in his editorial in this edition of Spanner News. I recently wrote to a long-time volunteer for the Corps, COL (Retd) Larry Foley, formerly the longstanding President of the RA ACT. Larry recently tendered his resignation after many years of voluntary service to the RAEME National Network, the RA ACT, and before that, the Corps as a COL COMDT.

In accepting his resignation, I said in part: "It is a sad day to see you move on - after all this time and after a great contribution...." I went on to say, "I formally, thank you on behalf of the RNN, and the Corps, for your dedication over many years - it was always a pleasure to "do business" with you as part of the network, and formally, in your other role as a COL COMDT, as well as in your professional life. For those who do not know Larry, he is the epitome of a dedicated volunteer and set a wonderful example of commitment to his tribe and wider community.

This brings me to the theme of being part of a tribe, in particular the "RAEME Tribe". At one time in our Corps' history, it was deemed inappropriate to talk about being part of a tribe. It was seen as too narrow a view of a Corps which is part of an integrated fighting force, rather than being seen as a force for good; but as I am reminded by my favourite demographer, Bernard Salt, tribalism rather than being a pejorative term, is now much more important as a result the community's Covid experiences.

He said in the Weekend Australia, of 2-3 July, "There's a renewed focus on home and hearth; the feeling of being deeply connected to tribe and community." He goes on to say, "there's scope for creating even stronger communities in the future as newbies seek out local volunteering and sporting opportunities." He also talks about the "galvanising stories" we tell each other in our communities, or "tribes"; and what they can do for our communities, relationships and "... our desire to work in teams for each other." That was part of the motivation of the most recent 2014 Corps history book - to capture the stories of the members of our tribe.

This is the essence of the RAEME National Network and the various RAEME Associations. I believe you see this every time you open the pages of Spanner News, Friday Files, the Horse's Mouth, Lightning Flash and other newsletters put out by the Associations - we wish to retain the family or tribal connections of service life after we leave. For association members in Queensland, there is a looming opportunity - we will soon need a new Secretary, so please consider what you can do before the AGM in September/October when volunteers are sought. The history story in this edition is a sweeping story of our Corps and how it was formed in the early years of WW2. Again volunteers were prominent as the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF formed and the first workshops and LADs were established largely from men, and eventually women, from all walks of life. And communities

The story may seem a little mundane, but without hard and dangerous toil by RAEME units on the battlefields of the time, complemented by excellent staff work in headquarters remote from the battlefield in 1942, we wouldn't exist as we do today. The Corps now enjoys a reputation which emphasises "... service and technical excellence: a reputation hard won and highly valued. It results from several generations of officers, warrant

Spanner News

officers, non-commissioned officers and craftsmen committing themselves to a culture of service and support to the ADF arms and services, delivering innovative and outstanding materiel maintenance, maintenance engineering and recovery support." However, good solid staff work made sure it happened at the right time.

Arte et Marte

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



**Australian Army Apprentice Association  
National Reunion October 2023 - Albury  
Wodonga Celebrating - 75th Anniversary of the  
Army Apprentices Scheme.**

2023 marks 75 years since the 1st Intake of Army Apprentices commenced training with 49 further Intakes to follow. To celebrate the AAAA is organising a National Event to be held in the Albury Wodonga area over the weekend of 20th to 22nd October 2023.

The proposed program is:

- Friday 20 October 2023 Registration followed by Meet & Greet
- Saturday 21st October 2023 Morning - Association Annual General Meeting Evening - Reunion Dinner (3 Course sit down meal)
- Sunday 22nd October BBQ Lunch

We are hopeful access may be arranged to visit Latchford Barracks, the Army Museum and our AAAA Memorial. However, before we can make approaches to Defence, we need an indication of numbers who would want to visit these sites.

To assist with planning, we are seeking expressions of interest from those who would attend the Reunion.

This event is open to All Association Members, Army Apprentice Non-Association Members, their partners, friends and family. Please respond to [events@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:events@austarmyapprentice.org) with comments, questions and most importantly how many would be accompanying you.

Many thanks & regards, Brian Daley

RAEME Association Queensland Inc

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

For those yet to buy the Corps memoir, there are still copies available, detailed below is how to obtain a copy. It may be a great gift for someone who has served in the Corps.

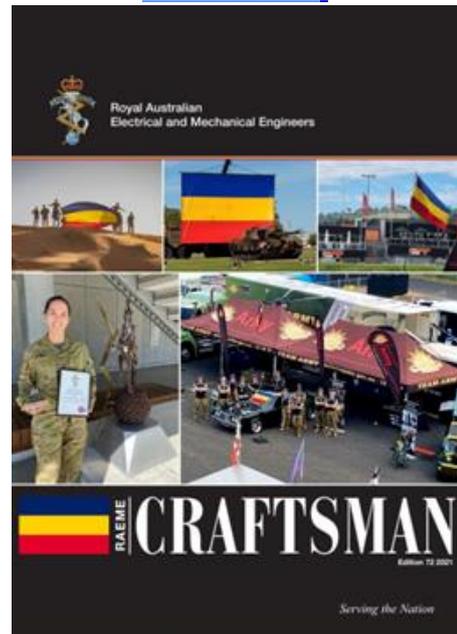
Books are only \$40.00 plus postage. To order a copy send an email to [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au) with the subject RAEME Corps History Book, include how many copies and your postal address details (so postage costs can be determined). The Head of Corps Cell will get back to you with full costs and payment details (preferred option is EFT) as soon as possible. Please be patient, there are only a couple of Defence Members in the HOC Cell and they have other tasks.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop us a line at [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au).

**THE CRAFTSMAN.** The latest magazine has hit the new stands and is now available to view online by clicking on the image below. This 85-page edition is packed full of Corps happenings, including from HOC:

- Special Operations Rapid Fabrication Cell (SORFC)
- From the Aviation Desk of CATW Ops
- RAEME Afloat
- The last Bluebell in the Middle East
- Operation COVID-19 Assist
- 51 Far North Queensland Regiment (FNQR) Workshop Platoon
- 106 FD WKSP
- RAEME Birthday
- Associations news
- and much more...

All editions can now be viewed online at the RAEME national site, including previously unsourced editions. [Go to this link](#) for more.



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