

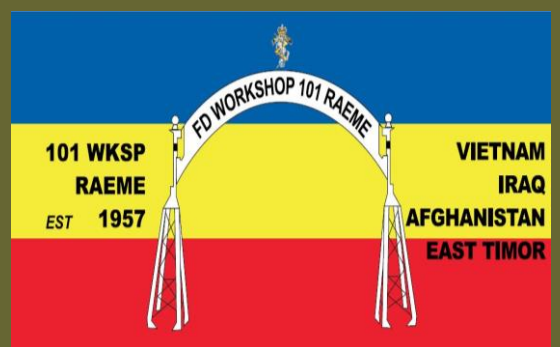
SPANNER NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC

MARCH 2024



Featuring 101 Fd Wksp Coy I CSSB



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Spanner News

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Contact Us

editor@qld.raeme.org.au

www.qld.raeme.org.au

Join the RAQ

PO Box 64 Ormeau Qld

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the 1st edition of Spanner News for 2024! The Association kicked off the year with successful gatherings in Townsville and Toowoomba, followed by a bustling "Off-base" Spanner Club event in Brisbane, drawing around 150 attendees. With more functions lined up through the year, including the upcoming ANZAC Day commemorations, there's much to look forward to.

We are privileged to have a dedicated group of Corps members in our Association and I wanted to make special mention of a few. Most importantly, congratulations to our former Chair, Jeff Maurice. Jeff was honoured on Australia Day with the award of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his services primarily to our Association, but also to business in Queensland. This prestigious recognition is a testament to Jeff's hard work over an extended period, and unwavering dedication to our Association and the community. His commitment to excellence and service sets a new standard for us all in the RAQ.

Our Patron, BRIG (Rtd) RLG Grant AM stepped down recently. His wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and unparalleled connections within the Corps have been invaluable to the RAQ. We extend our thanks to Ross for his lifelong dedication to the Corps and our Association. A journey that began as an 17th Intake Army Apprentice and continued throughout his distinguished career.

We're pleased to welcome COL (Rtd) Tony Borg as our new Patron. Tony's illustrious career started from his early days as a 35th Intake Apprentice and continued apace after he was commissioned as a RAEME officer. Throughout his career, he commanded at various levels and served on operations, including deployments to East Timor, Iraq, and South Sudan. Tony's leadership and dedication were evident during his tenure as COL COMDT-QLD, where he contributed significantly to the development and maintenance of camaraderie within the Corps and the RAQ – during his tenure, the RAQ experienced substantial membership growth, which continues to this day.

MAJ Steve Howells received his 3rd Federation Star recently, marking over half a century of dedicated service – a testament to his enduring contributions to our Corps. Commencing his journey as a 28th Intake apprentice, his service has included deployments to Afghanistan and IRAQ. After achieving the rank of WO1, Steve was commissioned as an officer and continues to serve today. Congratulations Steve, 50 years of service to the Corps is a remarkable achievement.

It was my honour to present COL Steve Evans with a Chairman's Award earlier this year for his leadership as Colonel Commandant Queensland, positively affecting the Association and Corps Members in Queensland. Steve's dedication to several projects included the NQ RAEME Recovery Mechanics Memorial and Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC Book Launch. His advocacy for diversity and inclusion and passionate address on Corps history furthered our reputation.

After selling out our first batch, the RAQ has produced a second RAEME Rum. This is a great local news story, produced by the Milton distillery and labelled by a Help Enterprises in Brisbane for the RAQ. There are still just a few bottles left, make sure you get in quick before it sells out!

My final point, with ANZAC Day just around the corner, I would encourage everyone to attend a march and function in your region. In Queensland, our main commemorations will be in Brisbane and Townsville, with functions at Port Office Hotel (Brisbane) and Flynn's Hotel (Townsville) respectively. No matter where you are on the day, let us remember all those who served and continue to serve, for their commitment and sacrifice. Lest We Forget.

Arte et Marte

Peter Matthews
Chairman RAQ

chairman@qld.raeme.org.au



BIOGRAPHY OF NEW RAQ PATRON – COL TONY BORG (RTD) RAEME



Originally from Adelaide, Tony enlisted in the Army in 1980 as a 35th Intake Apprentice Electronics Technician. Tony was posted to 5th Base Workshop Battalion at Oakey to complete his final year and remained there until he was posted to 162 Recce Sqn in 3 BDE as part of the Operational Deployment Force. It was whilst there he was accepted into the Royal Military College, Duntroon and was

subsequently commissioned as a Lieutenant in December 1989. Shortly after returning to Oakey in January 1990, Tony attended the Officers Long Aeronautical Engineering (OLAE) course in the UK.

Over his long and distinguished career, Tony held numerous command and staff appointments in Australia and overseas culminating in command of the Australian Contingent on operations in South Sudan as part of UNMISS. His overseas service also included a detachment to the British Army on the Rhine and an exchange posting with the US Army 101st Airborne Division. His operational service includes two deployments to East Timor in 1999 and 2000, Iraq in 2005 and again in 2012, to South Sudan as Commander of the Australian Contingent (COMASC) and Senior Military Liaison Officer (SMLO) with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

He transferred to the ARES in May 2013 and worked in industry as an ILS consultant and Operations Manager. He returned to Army in February 2017, initially to work in the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), and later in Army Headquarters as Director Plan Centaur and 17 Combat Service Support Brigade supporting special projects. He returned to Defence industry in 2019 and is currently Director Growth and Systems with KBR.

Tony served as the COL COMDT-QLD from 2014 to 2019. During his five year tenure, he was instrumental in building and maintaining the relationship with Corps members, both retired and serving. Through his drive and leadership, Tony saw the “Esprit de Corps” of Corps members in Queensland, especially in the RAQ, reach new heights, ensuring our Corps’ reputation remains pre-eminent in local ARA and ARES units.

Tony has also served as a Secretary of the RAQ, and for his efforts, he was named Honorary Life Member No.7 of the Association in 2019. His enthusiasm and passion for the Corps is outstanding, and on behalf of the Association, we congratulate and welcome Tony to role of RAQ Patron.

Tony and his wife Alison have two sons and recently became very proud grandparents of a little girl.

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AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Mr Jeffrey Grant Maurice.



For service to veterans, in particular, veterans of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association Queensland (RAQ) in many capacities, but most importantly, as Chairman from 2012-2022. In addition, for Jeff’s contribution to business, as the former Chairman, ENZED Franchise Association

Council, 2007-2019; former Managing Director, ENZED Brisbane Central - Franchise, 2003-2020 and franchisee, ENZED, 1999-2020. In a congratulatory letter, the Federal Member for Fadden, Mr Cameron Caldwell, MP wrote to Jeff (in part) saying: “Your unwavering commitment to the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association is commendable. You have demonstrated exceptional leadership, guiding the Association through a decade of growth and your ongoing support has played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community and support amongst members.”

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM).



Warrant Officer Class One Sean Heinz WEBER

For devotion to duty as the Regimental Artificer Sergeant Major of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. WO1 Weber has been instrumental in proving the concept of Distributed Maintenance Training, championing the General Dynamics Land System – Australia contract renewal, identifying and remediating critical Armour Multi Spectral Surveillance Suite maintainer deficiencies, and involvement in the Regional Sustainment Pool to improve vehicle availability and maintenance processes. Warrant Officer Weber’s actions have gone above worn rank, beyond expectations, and greatly enhanced Army’s Armoured capabilities.

Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)



LTCOL Gwenda Casperonn

For achievements as a Senior Coordination Officer, which have greatly enhanced Army's reputation as an organisation primarily focussed on the welfare of members and veterans. Through superior stakeholder engagement, leadership and an unwavering devotion to service, she produced outstanding outcomes that directly led to Army meeting its statutory responsibilities in a compassionate, respectful manner. Her professional mastery and authenticity exemplify the finest traditions of the Australian Army.

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)



LTCOL Meng Wang

For meritorious achievement as the Staff Officer Grade One Rotary Wing Development, Headquarters Aviation Command. LTCOL Wang demonstrated exceptional capability management expertise and strategic acumen in gaining Government approval to rapidly acquire UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters for the Australian Defence Force. His skilful navigation of the One Defence Capability Life Cycle and adept stakeholder engagement produced an exemplar modernisation project within a greatly compressed period. His leadership and dedication to duty have directly contributed to ensuring a reliable and credible utility helicopter capability within the Australian Defence Force.

ONE OF OUR OWN – THIRD FEDERATION STAR FOR MAJ STEVE HOWELLS – PAST TREASURER RAQ



MAJ Howells (28th Elec Tech) being congratulated by WOI Amir Tito (41st F&T) and WOI Kev Bishop (2/91 VM Adult tradesman)

MAJ Stephen Howells was presented with his 3rd Federation Star recognising 50 years of dedicated service to the ADF. Steve is a stalwart of our Corps starting his career as an apprentice radio/mechanical radar technician, attaining the rank of WOI, before transferring to the dark side. He is continuing to serve on as a SERCAT 5 in ACAU doing NPMA work, he's on an age extension till at least next year. Congratulations, Steve.

HOC CELL – UPDATE FROM CORPS RSM

Introduction. The Corps RSM, WOI Jon Tynan, issues monthly updates on Corps matters – the RAQ is pleased to feature excerpts from these important communications for our readers.

“Corps Conference location for 2024 is 3 BDE Townsville. This year's conference will focus on work occurring around the restructure of the ADF, including base asset; how the BDE COMD sees the BDE being employed; and for those, who may not have the chance to attend previously, an opportunity to do so.

“At the time of drafting this email, the dates are as follows:

- 01 Oct – All ranks BBQ – dinner
- 02 Oct – Day 1 of conference
- 03 Oct – Day 2 of conference (mid-afternoon finish – all ranks dining-in night)

“The Corps RSM will release a “Warning Order” shortly with the agenda and admin detail. The BDE ASM (WO1 Goninan) and WO2 Askew will complete the relevant administration requirements with assistance from HOC Cell.

“**Key Corps Points.** A little known fact is the range of positions available to Corps members via the link below:

- **Overseas Postings.** [Pages - Overseas Postings](#) is a one stop shop for all information on preparing an application for an overseas posting. This link will also take

you to the overseas postings soldier gazette. There are numerous positions available for CFN up to WO1 (especially our Aviation brethren). As always, make sure you use the chain of command for advice and guidance. Make sure when checking for positions you filter for 'Any Corps & RAEME'.

- **Matt Stone Racing Team.** The affiliation with Matt Stone Racing has got off to a flying start in 2024, with ASEME providing two JNCOs integrated into the crew for the Bathurst Race Weekend 22-25 Feb 24. WO1 Ben Munro has been in consultation with ASMs in all regions IOT to inform persons interested in being part of the program. Please go through your ASMs to have your name put forward.

“**Craftsman Magazine.** There has been a fantastic response for articles for the next edition of the magazine, with the Editor, Dave Clarke, expressing his gratitude to those who have taken the time to submit articles. Dave will commence putting the magazine together for release later this year.

“**Corps Shop.** The shop is live [Welcome to HOC Corps Shop \(raeme.org.au\)](https://raeme.org.au). Please continue to provide feedback IOT for the Corps Cell to build a stock of items you want to see for sale.

“**RAEME Corps Awards.** Please consider nominations for the awards. The Corps RSM will release more information in a month or two relating to the changes within the relevant Corps Instruction.

“**Development of ECN 222, the Marine Technician trade** has progressed to a point where ASEME has a basic understanding of the training requirement for in-service transfer and IET. In summary:

- In-service transfer for ‘big boat’ qualified pers (83 within Army) will be considered. Those pers will receive an offer to trade transfer once the L8710 workforce plan is approved and Army Position Numbers (APN) are converted to ECN 222 Marine Technician. This will be merit based (lead by Workforce and Training Group and offer distributed by CMA). At this point in time, the ‘Gap’ training for transfer into the category will be minimal (based on qualifications and currency).
- In-service transfers (fully qualified) will not incur a ‘ROSO’
- The analysis for Introduction into service (IIS) training for L8710 Littoral Manoeuvre capability is still to be conducted for the new Landing Craft Medium – LC-M (details here), Landing Craft Heavy – LC-H and Amphibious Vehicle - Logistics – AV-L

“**Development of ECN 418 – Energy Technicians with Auto Elec qualification.** It seems there is some confusion surrounding the employment of ECN 418 for rectifying auto elec issues. Auto elec is no longer taught as part of the ECN 418 IET continuum; however, this does not automatically preclude already qualified technicians (deemed competent during their IET) from conducting analysis, repair or replacement, as their qualification remains extant. If wishing to mitigate risk, ASMs can assess and provide Tech Authority.

“**Workforce and Training Group.** The W&TG web page has been updated with information on each of the employment categories. See [Workforce and Training Group - Maintenance](#). The Manual of Army Employments RAEME page with your employment specification has changed and is now [here](#).

“W&TG are working on the new Land Engineering Officer Employment Specification to simplify and clarify the management of RAEME Ground Officers. LEO are currently managed under the [Logistics Officer ES](#) with an excessive number of skill grades.”

Arte et Marte

Jon Tynan
WO1
Corps RSM

jon.tynan@defence.gov.au



RAQ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RAQ membership stands at 693 at January 2024, a growth of 4.4% over 2023. RAQ's approach to growing members results directly from our sound communications program, and attendees signing up at our many events and functions, undertaken by the RAQ across the state, experiencing first-hand the camaraderie of their friends and colleagues in RAEME. See below, our recent membership trends in Queensland:



RAQ is also keen to sponsor Spanner Clubs, on and off base, support promotional activities and facilitate other initiatives to encourage ALL members of the Corps, to join the RAQ, or other local associations. Increased diversity is another goal, and our 2023 “Women in RAEME” event, held in Brisbane on 11 Oct 23, which was attended by CFN and officers from 106 Fd Wksp & 9 FSB, was a first step towards encouraging more women to join. RAQ is well connected to local ARA/ARES units, with supportive COs, OCs and ASMs, and in 2024, our focus will be on encouraging young serving soldiers to seek membership of the RAQ in all regions.

Don't forget, if you are already a member, and live in Queensland, encourage a mate to join and enjoy our many offerings and benefits. Go to the RAQ website at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/membership>.

The RAQ offers membership discounts for all events and makes full use of on-line booking facility in the RNN IT system.

Extracted from RAQ Chairman's Annual Report presented to AGM Oct 2023.

Arte et Marte

Kingsley Pocock
RAQ Membership
membership@qld.raeme.org.au



BRIG (RTD) BERT BARKER AND WIFE, NONA, CELEBRATING WITH FAMILY

One of our oldest Corps members, BRIG (RTD) Bert Barker, turned 102 in December 2023. He and Nona, his wife of nearly 80 years, who turns 100 on 31 Oct 24, recently enjoyed lunch with their family visiting from Sydney and Melbourne. Bert and Nona will celebrate their 80th wedding anniversary on 15 Jul 24. Bert's family will return for that significant event.



L to R. Bert, daughter, Liz, his wife, Nona, and two other daughters, Sue and Cherry, at lunch in the Bolton Clarke Nursing Home 13 Mar 24

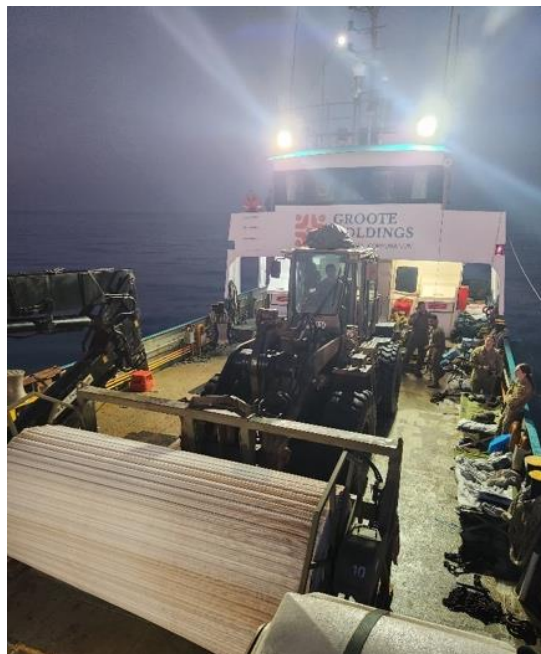
FEATURING 1 CSSB AND 101 FIELD WORKSHOP COMPANY

Introduction to 101 Fd Wksp Coy, 1 CSSB. 2023 was an exciting and challenging year for the 101st Field Workshop Company (101 Fd Wksp Coy) of the 1st Combat Service Support Battalion (1 CSSB). Previous years saw the wksp with healthier unit establishment numbers, however the current climate sees the wksp dealing with the same challenges that face the whole of Army: doing what we can with fewer members (the new norm). In 2023 what didn't we do?

Like everyone else, we participated in all unit training activities from driving and weapons courses through to the Crawl, Walk, Run exercise series. Ex PREDATORS RUN 23 saw the BDE occupy territory offshore utilising three Contracted Maritime Vessels (CMV) to transport personnel and equipment into the AO. The wksp provided EME Subject Matter Expertise (SME) to niche capability bricks for this exercise in littoral operations: these being SGT Aaron Glenny to the trial Littoral Support Squadron (LSS) and SGT Justin Daly to the

Littoral Beach Team (LBT) recovery element. Here's what they wrote about their experience.

SGT Aaron Glenny provided the following elaboration on the operations of the CMVs. The CMV's contracted for Ex PREDATORS WALK and EX PREDATORS RUN were the Centaur II, Cooma Cooma and Jane Virgo – see below. This also included the civilian coxswain, engineer and deck hands.



Centaur II with LX120 loaded



Cooma Cooma



Jane Virgo

The difference in size and shape of the vessels compared to the in-service LCM8 and future LMV-M is shown in the table on page 21.

Operating Conditions. The contract arrangement for the CMV allowed the military crew to effect Command and Control (C2) of the vessel, while the day to day operation was conducted by the civilian skipper, engineer and deckhands. An RACT LT was assigned as the Troop Commander for the Troop (callsign L31) of three vessels, with a SGT or CPL on each CMV as a Section Commander. I BDE personnel assigned as crew to the vessels maintained military communications across SATCOM, HF and VHF, facilitated loading and unloading of personnel and equipment and ensured adherence to the Surface Assault Schedule by providing direction to the CMV Skipper on task requirements. The military crew also maintained a security watch and force protection whilst underway, through use of MAG 58 and as required, using small boats (Zodiac F470 or 4.5m Tinny) to push forward of the CMV to clear vulnerable points (i.e. prior to entering landing points within Darwin Harbour).

Callsign L31 took part in force projection of I Bde assets from Port of Darwin to Melville Island, lodgement of Bde HQ elements over the beach at Gunn Point and supported the clearance of Channel Island by providing a Role I afloat and backload point for small boat breakdowns.

Sea Preparations. WO2 Aaron Barnett instigated a new procedure to facilitate the sea prep of equipment in I Bde. The extant Sea Preparation procedures (EMEI VEHICLE A 201-2, etc) are based around transporting equipment on Navy Vessels, and where there is likely a maintenance support facility at the point of arrival.

As the I BDE operational concept for PREDATORS WALK and PREDATORS RUN involved multiple movements on and off CMV without access to a maintenance facility, the existing procedures were not fit for purpose. They didn't take into consideration the tactical situation either. The modified procedure focused on a pragmatic approach to prevent the effects of the saltwater corrosion and rusting of equipment, while acknowledging that vehicles would be in and out of a wet gap on multiple occasions before being cleaned. For the majority of the beach landings conducted, there was a wet gap with equipment and personnel having to transit through it routinely.

Training. As I CSSB was not provided with additional manpower to operate in the new environment, the roles that would traditionally be performed by Marine Specialist or Cargo Specialist, were addressed as an all corps responsibility. I CSSB obtained useful information from various other SME (specifically 10 FSB and AST) and members of the unit that have worked in the marine environment.

Importantly, SOP's were created and adapted from all these experiences and current processes and adapted to suit the CMV's and the exercise operational environment.

SGT Justin Daly outlines how I CSSB performed the role of Littoral support for EX PREDATORS RUN 2023. In order to support Littoral Support Squadron (LSS), 101 Fd Wksp Coy designed a small Forward Repair Team (FRT) to support I Bde units conducting beach landings on Melville Island. The FRT consisted of four trade SME's (1 x ECN 229, 1 x ECN 146, 1 x ECN 418 and 1 x ECN 226). Our main effort was to assist with beach embarkation and disembarkation from the CMV, Objective BEAR (an established boat ramp) and Objective DONKEY which was a beach landing site, determined by the Littoral Beach Team (LBT) Commander.

One of the considerations for beach landings included dealing with vehicles bogged or stuck on the beach and how the FRT would mitigate this potential event. In preparation, I CSSB ordered waterproof strops to attach to vehicles as they moved through the wet gap. Our primary recovery vehicle was a JD850 Bulldozer from I CER, and our secondary asset, was a PMGMV which has a pull capability up to 10 tonnes.

After being recalled to the I Brigade Maintenance Area (BMA), the FRT was tasked to deploy to Gunn Point to assist with the disembarkation of two CMVs. Our role was to establish an Equipment Collection Point (ECP) and assist any stricken vehicles. This provided the FRT firsthand experience in support of Littoral Operations.

For the other wksp personnel, EX PREDATORS RUN 23 involved deploying to a notional island environment to provide close support to the wider BDE dependencies and visiting nations units. In the future, it is envisaged this will become actual, rather than notional environment, with technicians providing maintenance support from, or on, our own littoral manoeuvre vessels.

As expected, marine equipment has increased in volume and is now an important priority for the unit. General Engineering Platoon (GE PL) has been very busy with the "running in" of many new outboard motors (OBM) – for context, the current EMEI has the run-in duration for a single OBM at 40hrs. This requirement has led to the design and approval for the fabrication of a more suitable OBM tank. An additional requirement in order to support littoral operations is a need for the workshop to piggyback off a 10 FSB ECP for the fabrication of a 900kg counter balance for an LX120. The counter balance will be used to stabilise the vehicle during the laying of beach matting as it disembarks from a landing craft.





Drilling the mounting holes on the counter balance



The finished product mounted to the LX120

GE PL weren't the only ones kept busy during the year and although it was generally more traditional tasks, there was plenty of work and tasking's for VEH, EIR and REC Platoons.

Memorable tasks for VEH PL include complying with all the RODUM actions for the L121 FOV. We also had the opportunity to send workshop members on the Finke Desert Rally. They reported having a great time running around central NT fixing competitors vehicles.

The team in EIR PL appeared to take everything in stride and stay on top of all their work. Two thirds of the way through the year, we finally welcomed two new "Boffins" into the wksp, which allowed us to maintain close support once again to radio and related electronic equipment.

REC PL stepped up and were constantly busy with either maintenance of their over prescribed fleet of recovery vehicles, providing SME advice, assisting Transport Squadron with the movement of vehicles, or in their traditional role of recovering unit, BDE and other organisations equipment.

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HRV lifting an all-terrain forklift onto a flat track to enable self-recovery

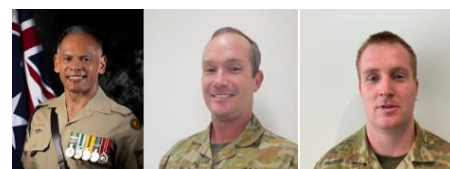
Intermingled with the BAU and everything else that the wksp has done, and is doing, we constantly look for opportunities to develop and learn about operating with the maintainers, engineers and specialists of the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin. We invite them to the Spanner Clubs, RAEME Birthday, and have conducted personnel exchanges and facility tours giving them an insight into our respective organisations' SOPs, equipment and maintenance systems. The OC and I have also assisted them develop their competencies in additive manufacturing which includes 3D printing. Another relationship established in 2023 was the development of our knowledge within the broader maritime maintenance environment. To this end, we have liaised with our RAN counterparts at Fleet Support Unit (Larrakeyah) to facilitate future opportunities for cross-pollination of maintenance procedures, processes and potentially more personnel exchanges.

As the year drew to a close, we acknowledged, promoted and farewelled numerous wksp members. We also celebrated the award of "Craftsman of the Year NT Region" to CFN N. Wellington. We wished all those departing the NT all the best for their future careers and welcome the many new faces to the unit and feel they will learn much from the old hands staying on.

2024 and beyond is shaping-up to be as intense and exciting as last year. There will again be many opportunities for our technicians to further their experiences and develop new skills. 101 Fd Wksp Coy will continue to learn, shape and provide the best maintenance support and engineering to all its dependencies as we can. Until next time.

Arte et Marte

**Marcellin Chee
ASM
I CSSB**



3 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENT – POWER OF THE DINGO PAW

Introduction. The cliché of “another busy” year rings true across the ADF and it was no different at 3 CER during 2023. The Operational Support Squadron (OSS) comprised of Logistic Troop (LP) and the Technical Support Troop (TSP) supported the Regiment across many domestic operations and tactical exercises providing many training opportunities for unit members.

Exercise DINGO FURY. 3 CER OSS deployed to Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA). This was a shakeout exercise for the SQN to understand the challenges of integrating new personnel into their roles and responsibilities in support of the Regiment. It focused on establishing critical logistic effects to enable remaining unit elements to deploy. OSS training for the Exercise also focused on All-Corps soldier skills and achieving an understanding of the CSS effect to support the Regiment. The OSS was able to achieve Linear Distribution Points, as well as revising and practicing the requirements for vehicle convoys on public roads using Land 121 vehicles. Developing the teamwork and having the squadron learn many lessons, even though the activities may not be within one’s area of expertise, was critically important.

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2023. The main activity for the unit in 2023 was Exercise Talisman Sabre 23. Although OSS did not deploy completely, the squadron supported a variety of units. LT Rory Whitton of the TST commanded a LOG Node in support of the Regiment providing resources to 16 & 18 CE SQNs. OSS also provided tactical caches of Class 4 items to ensure 25 SPT SQN conducted its mission in support of REDFOR. The transport section was assigned to the US led BG Gimley assisting in the movements of stores across the area.

Introduction to Survival Techniques. OSS deployed on a Combat Survival training exercise, aided by the Combat Survival Training School from RAAF Townsville. The squadron was separated into two distinctly different groups within the within the Pall Mall sector of TFTA.



The groups were taught techniques to survive in a permissive environment and included learning how to make drinking water, live off the land with local

vegetation, fishing, basic shelters, fire-starting and make visible smoke signals which could be seen by low-lying aircraft. It was a very good exercise in getting to know one-self, learning about others and living in a harsh environment without “creature comforts”.

Legacy Fishing Competition. The annual 3 CER Legacy Fishing Competition was conducted this year from the 01-04 September and was a huge success. This year, the focus for the competition, was shifted to targeted species with 16 categories.



Despite the rebranding of the competition from “3 CER” to the “3rd Brigade Legacy Fishing Competition”, participation came largely from the majority of 3 CER members. However, over 500 members from across the Townsville region, both military and families, participated. The launch day was run on the lawn in front of 3 CER RHQ which saw stalls from 4WD Central, a casting competition from Pure Fishing Australia, live music from the 1 RAR band and a much improved and streamlined registration tent run by OSS.

This year \$20,374 was raised in support of Legacy, topping the \$14,000 raised last year. All proceeds from the shirt sales, entry fees, brag mat sales and generous donations assists Legacy in its work within the North Queensland defence community. Notably the funds this year went to families who have lost loved ones in the line of service, paying for school fees, as well as funding their children with the experience of a lifetime – walking the Kokoda Track.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for 2023 with the major sponsors being the North Queensland Sappers Association, Townsville RSL, Pure Fishing Australia, Kai Signs and Reeling with Veterans for getting on board. We would also like to thank CPL Grey from Brigade HQ, CPL Couper from 3 CER OSS and Michael King from Reeling Veterans Australia for their immense efforts in gathering sponsors and ensuring the event was a success.

5 AVN REGT TSS

No Rest for the Wicked. As 2023 drew to a close and personnel from 5 Avn Regt proceeded on leave for the Christmas holidays, Tropical Cyclone (TC) Jasper made landfall in vicinity of Cairns. The weather system that followed brought persistent and heavy rainfall leading to significant flooding. Cairns Airport (see below) was among the key infrastructure devastated by floodwaters and was forced to close. As TC Jasper moved North West, a number of communities were under flood threat including the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people of Wujal Wujal.



The Regiment's Chinook aircraft were called upon to provide much needed support to these communities by transporting key emergency service personnel from Townsville to Cairns, disseminating food, water and medical supplies to affected communities and evacuating personnel from Wujal Wujal, which was subsequently inundated by floodwaters.

At this time, the men and women of C Squadron were not thinking of their own families, but of the families in this community, who were now displaced. By the end of the task, our Chinook capability is proud to have infilled 135 emergency services personnel, moved 34,500lbs of cargo and evacuated 265 people from the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire, Queensland.



We now look forward to the challenges of 2024. This year CH-47F will deploy on several field exercises to rehearse and refine field deployment TTPs. We will also deploy on exercise to PNG to practice High Density Altitude operations and we embark on HMAS Adelaide on Indo Pacific Endeavour. Back home, CH-47F deeper

maintenance teams will complete back-to-back phase servicings as well as supporting a number of aircraft modifications, which are essential to safety and increased fleet availability. 2024 is shaping up to be another busy year for the Chinook capability and our personnel look forward to serving the Australian public and wider defence by providing safe and reliable aviation support.

Arte et Marte

James Beer
CAPT
COMD C SQN TST



Annual Basic Training. Logistic Support Squadron (LSS) provides integral logistical support to 5th Aviation Regiment in order to generate and sustain air assault and combat recovery. It is comprised of four troop elements covering Logistical, Transport, Maintenance, and Aircraft support.

The first few months of 2024 has seen LSS quickly integrate new unit members and complete annual basic training, mounted training using the Vehicle Simulation Centre at Lavarack Barracks, as well as practice and refine squadron SOP in a squadron led field exercise. During this exercise, personnel practiced their basic field craft and their trade specific combat service support skills. Junior officers and NCOs were presented with a variety of scenarios to develop knowledge and EME leadership and management skills, including dispatching forward repair teams, vehicle recovery tasks, power distribution and weapon repair in the field environment.



RAEME element around a mud model with rivers and roads looking suspiciously like a RAEME flag.

This exercise ensured all unit elements can integrate with each other and our SOPs are refined. With the exercise complete, the squadron is now readying to provide combat service support to future Aviation Battle Group field exercises.

Arte et Marte

Christopher Payne
CAPT
2IC LSS



81ST RAEME CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS | DEC 23 – QUEENSLAND



Hundreds turn out for 2023 RAEME Birthday Celebrations at 7CSSB

On 1 Dec 23, RAEME Birthday celebrations blasted across various regions in Queensland, uniting Corps communities in Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns and Oakey. The festivities commenced with numerous sporting events, which saw record participation in many traditional and new events in Enoggera based units, as well as in the regional areas of Queensland. Those who couldn't participate in the gruelling challenges, ensured that large groups of RAEME spectators were on hand to cheer on the participants in the heat of a sultry Queensland summer.



A fantastic achievement for 2/14 LHR (QMI) marking their fourth consecutive win. (Image courtesy of Facebook)



L to R. CFN Quinten Rix receives the Norm Hicks-Hall Award for CFN of the Year 106 Fd Wksp, from 106 Fd Wksp SVN Veteran, Phil Bond. BRIG Ross LG Grant AM is presented with the Patron's Reserve Rum Bottle No.1 by HOC BRIG Ben Slaughter at the Port Office Hotel, Brisbane.

A huge thank you to the organisers of each event and the local Queensland businesses who turned up to support our day. A shout out to HOC BRIG Ben Slaughter who attended events in SE Queensland, along with BRIG ED Smeaton, our Representative Colonel Commandant, and Colonel Commandant Queensland Steve Evans, who journeyed north to experience the celebrations NQ style.

RAEME Birthday NQ. The stage was also set in NQ for a fiercely contested 2023 RAEME Birthday celebrations. Despite some participants facing challenges like incomplete go-karts or major system failures, the day before, impressive rework and engineering feats were achieved.

This year, Elite Performance and Tuning entered a go-kart (they also sponsored the perpetual trophy). The winners of the team events included:

- Volleyball: 102 FD WKSP (second year running)
- Spanner Throw: ASEME OJT Det Townsville
- Go-Kart (engineering, esprit de corps, time trial, and go-to-whoa): 3 CER TST
- Engineer Lift and Carry: 3 RAR TSP
- Chain of Command Relay: 1 RAR TSP

Reporting from NQ, Jason Ballard shares the following detail:

“LTCOL Nick Trotter, CO 3 CER, graciously hosted the RAEME Birthday celebrations. The day kicked off with a BBQ breakfast as RAEME members gathered for the day's festivities. RAEME COL COMDT QLD, COL Steve Evans, journeyed north to celebrate the day and present awards to deserving recipients.

“Congratulations to 3 CER TST for clinching the Champion Workshop for 2023; consistency prevails. COL COMDT presented awards like National Craftsman of the Year to CFN Joel Gandy 2 RAR and Regional Craftsman of the Year to CFN Jayme Nicholson 3 RAR. The Peter Jennings Award (LOBC) went to LT Corne Wild 2 RAR. SGT B Alderson of Combat Training Centre received the Regimental Award SUB 2 (WOCS) on December 6, 2023.



3 CER TST with the Go Kart trophy and NQ RAEME Birthday Champion Workshop trophy

“Special thanks to all sponsors for contributing prizes to the annual raffle and trophies for the show and shine. Gratitude to the RAEME Corps Fund, the NQ Amenities Fund, and RAEME Association Queensland for their consistent support. They day finished with a great raffle draw and few casual drinks, with the last prize drawn being an outstanding 750mm RAEME badge donated by Mr Mick McMillan from AEP Engineering; followed by a 3 CER regimental dining out dinner, with the RAEME Corps colours flown loud and proud with the Regiments’ SNCO, WO and Officers proudly displaying the tricolour cummerbunds.”



The Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs of 3 CER at the Regimental Dining Out Dinner

STOP PRESS. OFF-BASE SPANNER CLUB AT KEDRON WAVELL SERVICE CLUB – 22 MAR 24

As we go to press, advice has been received of another very successful Spanner Club – this time members and guests attended the first Spanner Club for 2024 at the Kedron Wavell Services Club, Kitty Hawk room, for a great afternoon of camaraderie and celebration of all things RAEME. The event attracted around 150 members and guests from across the Brigade units and SE QLD region. Many attendees had just returned from deployments from Wide Bay and many soldiers will soon again be on operations, it was a perfect time to celebrate all things RAEME.



We were honoured to have our Rep Colonel Commandant BRIG Ed Smeaton DSM attend, who provided an update to the group on his role, the importance of the Corps camaraderie and the wider Associations. Most importantly he drew the start of the raffles. The RAQ takes great pride in supporting these Spanner News

events with lucky door prizes, major raffle prizes of a full-sized metal Corps Badge manufactured in NQ by AEV, some bottles of our newly brewed RAEME RUM and \$100 RAQ Shop vouchers. We pre-planned with providing quite a few food platters and then pizza, I would say keeping young (and old) soldiers fed requires a big effort!



This event's success would not have been possible without the great staff at the Kedron Wavell Services Club and the dedicated efforts of a few people, SGT David White and WO1 Ian Dale, who have been instrumental in fostering these events throughout the region. RAQ members Bruce Hermann and Brian Daley provided the always popular merchandise and raffle ticket sales.

We look forward to sponsoring more of these events. The next one will be held around September this year at another Northside location near Enoggera Barracks, so look out for more details in future editions of Friday Files.

COMING EVENTS

The following social events are planned for 2024 in and around Queensland.

Event	Date
ANZAC Day - Brisbane	Thu 25 Apr 24
ANZAC Day - Townsville	Thu 25 Apr 24
Darling Downs Luncheon - Toowoomba	Sun 19 May 24
SE QLD Apprentice Reunion - Bulimba	Sat 1 Jun 24
RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion - Brisbane	Sat 17 Aug 24
RAQ Gold Coast Function - AEME SLSC Mermaid Beach	Sat 24 Aug 24
RAQ Sunshine Coast Function - Maroochydore RSL	Sat 14 Sep 24
RAEME Birthday - Brisbane	Fri 29 Nov 24
RAEME Birthday - Townsville	Fri 29 Nov 24
RAEME 82nd Birthday	Sun 1 Dec 24
RAQ All Ranks Luncheon - Port Office Hotel	Sun 1 Dec 24

For further details on Events please contact the [Functions Officer](#) .To view all functions happening around Australia by the Associations [Click on this link](#)

Gold Coast RAEME lunch 24 Aug 2024. The Gold Coast Annual lunch / get together will be held on Saturday 24th August at the Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Lifesaving Club between 1200 and 1700 hrs. Lunch and drinks are at

attendees cost. I will provide further detail in June, July and August and ask for returns of those intending to attend.

Just a reminder, the Surf Club has its roots in AEME, forerunner of RAEME, when it was formed at the end of World War 2. Importantly, the club offers FREE Life membership for any serving / ex serving member of RAEME whom is a member of the RAEME Association Queensland. You DON'T have to live on the Gold Coast to take advantage of this offer.

Simply go to the RAQ website where the process / application is detailed. See more detail on page 22 of this edition of Spanner News.

See you in August.

Eddie "Beans" Bevans
Lunch Convenor
Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC
beans55289@iprimus.com.au



RAQ Sunshine Coast Annual Luncheon – Saturday 21 Sep 24. Readers are advised that the 2024 RAQ Sunshine Coast Annual Luncheon will be held at the Maroochy RSL on Saturday 21st September. This year we have made sure it doesn't clash with either the AFL or NRL Grand Finals!

At the time of drafting this notice, we have secured another exemplary guest speaker – COL Kane Wright, now DLOG-A, who has returned from a tour of duty in Fiji as the Defence Attaché – we look forward to being brought up to speed on his experiences in the South Pacific and learning about the many logistics initiatives accompanying change in Army.

It is anticipated the Colonel Commandant, Queensland, will host the lunch, and as in past years, Brigadier Ross Grant (Rtd) will be our MC. We will once again be well supported by the Maroochy RSL which generously looks after our every need.

The RSL will waive 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 80 attendees. Additionally, the RAQ will subsidise RAQ members and Serving members and one guest to the sum of \$20.00 per head, again for the first 80 attendees. This will reduce the overall cost for attendance to \$30.00 per head.

Details confirming the menu, format and timings will be promulgated later in the year. **Note the date**, Saturday 21 Sep 24 in your diary, and we look forward to seeing you again on the Sunny Coast.

Ross Grant & Mike Prain
Lunch Convenors
RAQ Sunshine Coast
Chapter



Annual Army Apprentices Reunion Balmoral Bowls Club 1 Jun 24. The next lunch will be held under a slightly different format now that our long serving convenor has relinquished the organisational reins. The format includes a **FREE** sausage sizzle, with drinks at own cost from the Bulimba Bowls Club bar, which will be an innovation, but our hosts on the day will be the hardworking staff of the Bulimba Bowls Club. So come and join your brothers and sisters and represent your Intake on what has normally been a wonderful day of camaraderie under a blazing South East Queensland winter sky.

Details to remember are as follows:

- **DATE:** Saturday 1st June 2024.
- **VENUE:** Bulimba Bowls Club, Thynne Road (Access off Quinn St,) Balmoral, BRISBANE, QLD.
- **Timings:** 1100 – 1600.
- **DRESS:** Neat casual.
- **RSVP TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:**

Brian Daley - (07) 3399 1300 or MOBILE 0412 721 761
bjdaley14@gmail.com

SPANNER PACK CONTINUES ITS GOOD WORK

Op Spanner Pack continues to do good work on behalf of our serving personnel overseas, despite its reduced demand. Please enjoy this recent letter from CAPT Simon Butler, on OP Lilia, in the Solomon Islands:

"Ray,

"I'm writing to you from the Solomon Islands, where I'm on night shift as watchkeeper. Just wanted to say thanks to you and the team for arranging and sending our Spanner Packs through. It is great to receive them and highlights the spirit that puts our Corps above all others when it comes to looking after our members.

"This is the second time I have received a Spanner Pack; I was deployed to the MEAO in 2017 and received one then. The other Corps are always interested in how we manage to keep this program going and I just say it's because of the pride and commitment of those past Corps members. This is my 31st year in the Corps, and first year as an Officer – if my body holds up, I'll try and make another nine before hanging up my boots. Then, if I am able, I'd like to maintain the connection and input to the Corps that you and your team have.

"Due to a no "Pers Electronic Devices policy", I don't have any photos to attach, but I did see in the RAQ Friday Files that there are some photos from the boys who are supporting the Solomons Island Police Force vehicle repairs. I'm guessing they have come from the ADF image gallery. If not, you can just go to the [ADF image gallery](#).

"I know all the guys really appreciated the packs – I hope you have got a few other messages of thanks.

Simon"

CAPT
OP Lilia WKSP

“Operation Spanner Pack” was managed and coordinated by RANSW and RAQ until 2011, at which time, the RAEME National Association (RNA), now the RAEME National Network (RNN), took over responsibility.

Spanner Packs contain small items not available through the military system and includes magazines, grocery items, toiletries, RAEME memorabilia, merchandise, traditional Australian biscuits and sweets to name a few items. The team is always looking for new and popular items to put in the pack and appreciate feedback on the contents, particularly from younger soldiers on deployment.

RAEME Birthday Solomon Islands. We must acknowledge several Corps members who, despite usually being in Queensland for celebrations, found themselves on overseas operations. Twenty-six RAEME soldiers and officers from Queensland were in the Solomon Islands supporting the 2023 Pacific Games. Our tradition of sending Spanner packs to deployed troops ensured they received packs before RAEME Birthday in December.

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

The most recent distribution of Spanner Packs to the Solomon Islands brings the total number despatched, since Op Spanner Pack started in 2008, to 4824 packs.

Arte et Marte

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



VALE

It is with deep regret we advise of the following deaths amongst the members of our Corps:

- **Bruce, William (Bill) Wallace Mervyn**, passed away on 11 Nov 23 aged 106. Bruce was a WWII veteran, founder of Nebo RSL Sub Branch, and RSL Life Member. Born in Nebo on 2 Jan 1917, Bill joined the Australian Army Reserves in 1942. He later transferred to the AIF, serving with the AEME in New Guinea and New Britain. After discharging in 1945, Bill worked as a contractor and dedicated himself to community service.
- **Jenkins, Kenneth William**, “Jenco”, formerly of Goondiwindi, had recently been travelling the wonderful sights of Australia, but passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Day 2023. “Jenco” served with 1 Fd Sqn Wksp from 17 Sep 69 to 17 Sep 70. His funeral was held in Goondiwindi on 8 Jan 24.
- **Tidd, AVM (Rtd) Don**, passed away on 24 Dec 23. He had suffered from advanced dementia. Don had an eventful & significant involvement in RAAF technical & engineering affairs as well as with Army aviation in its formative years. He was the first RAAF ex-apprentice to make two star rank. Don was also one of the early RAAF rotary wing engineers; he had two tours in Vietnam, the first with 161 Recce Flt & the second, as SENGO of 9SQN.

- **Trusselle, LTCOL (Rtd) Wayne**, formerly RAEME, but later RACT (OCS June 1969) passed away suddenly on 6 Jan 24 following surgery.
- **Lamb, Don “Chops” (24th VM)** passed away on 5 Jan 24 in Brisbane. A service was held at Church of Christ, Foley Street Bongaree on 15 Jan 24.
- **Wilson, LTCOL (Rtd) John Collison “Jack” (10th VM)** passed away on 29 Jan 24 after a short stay in hospital aged 84. He graduated with the OCS Class of June 1962 and served on operations in SVN with 101 Fd Wksp from May 1966 to June 1967. On discharge, then LTCOL Wilson, was appointed the Honorary COL COMDT RAEME Southern and Central Regions and held senior positions within Mercedes Benz as Unimog entered service and later.
- **Dupree, Les (20th RM)** passed away on 6 Feb 24 at Bongaree, Bribie Island. He had been in palliative care for 12 moths suffering from Dementia.
- **Poole, Keith** passed away on 11 Feb 24. Keith was RAQ Member No.105. He served in several RAEME units and locations including Bulimba. A funeral was held at Sylvan Funeral Home, Ipswich on 22 Feb 24.
- **Walker, Frank CAPT (Rtd) (8th F&T)** passed away on 25 Feb 24. Frank graduated from an Officer Training Course at JTC Canungra, prior to serving in 101 Fd Wksp in SVN from May 66 to July 67.
- **Andrews, LTCOL (Rtd) Elvin John “Hanna” (17th Rad Mech)** passed away on 21 Feb 24. Aged 78. He served in SVN from May 66 to June 67 with 101 Fd Wksp. He was commissioned through the Officer Training Course at JTC Canungra, subsequently holding many important appointments, including the last CO 2 Base Wksp Bn from 1982 to 1983.
- **Bowen, Roy MAJ (Rtd) (22nd Elec Fit, OCS June 72, aged 73, passed away on 21 Feb 24. Roy served in RAAOC and RAEME and hadn’t been well for some time, but his recent decline was sudden following a stroke. A celebration of Roy’s life was held at Stratton Bar and Kitchen, Newstead, on 28 Feb 24.**

WELFARE

RAQ has been advised of the following.

- **Edis, LTCOL (Retd) Les**, advised he underwent a Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE) procedure on 13 Feb 24. Surgeons have diagnosed leaking heart valves and Les will undergo open heart surgery in April to repair heart valve damage.

Please advise me via email address below, of any brothers and sisters, who have passed, or are in distress, in Queensland. Please ensure the detail provided is accurate and as complete as possible.

Arte et Marte

Barry Shipway
Welfare Officer
welfare@qld.raeme.org.au



HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF RAQ MEMBERS

DVA News: AIHW recently published a report looking at the Social Connectedness of Australia's Veterans. A new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report was released on 26 Oct 23, measuring the social connectedness and feeling of belonging and connecting with others amongst our veteran community. The Veteran Social Connectedness report profiles veterans and presents key insights into their social connectedness, including comparisons to the wider Australian population.

Key findings in the report found veterans were not too dissimilar to the Australian public when it came to social connectedness. However, compared to the broader Australian population, veterans in 2021-22 were more likely to undertake volunteer roles, particularly veterans with a disability, and veterans are more likely to be active members of a club or association than people who have not served:

- Nearly 1 in 10 (9.4%) veterans are socially isolated, this is similar to people who had never served in the ADF (11%).
- Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) veterans reported to be lonely, this was similar to people who had never served in the ADF (19%).
- Over 1 in 4 veterans (27%) did not feel part of their local community, this was similar to those who had never served in the ADF 26%.
- 22% of all veterans had infrequent social contact with others, this was similar to those who had never served in the ADF (20%).

It is recognised, that due to the unique nature of military service, veterans can experience both protection from and vulnerability to issues with social connectedness. The report finds that veterans who are in poor mental health and/or distress ranked poorly in comparison to those in the general population:

- Veterans in poor mental health were nearly twice as likely to have infrequent social contact (47%) as persons who had never served in the ADF (26%).
- Over half of veterans in psychological distress (51%) did not feel part of their local community, this was higher than those who had never served in the ADF (39%).

To read the full report, visit the [AIHW website](#). For more information on loneliness and social isolation, see: Ending Loneliness Together: <https://endingloneliness.com.au/>

The Australian Government is committed to supporting vulnerable veterans access the health services they need to live well:

- Any veteran who has completed one day of full-time service in the ADF can access fully funded mental health treatment through Non-Liability Health Care - mental health, with some reservists also eligible.

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- Some veterans are eligible for the Coordinated Veterans' Care program, through which social assistance is available to provide short term support with community and social connection.
- The Government is delivering on its \$46.7 million commitment to deliver eight new Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country. Hubs provide a space for veterans' services and advocacy organisations to co-exist and provide integrated support to current and ex-service personnel and families which may include health and mental health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and social connection.
- DVA also offers free and confidential counselling services to veterans and their families, available 24/7 through Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling. For more information or support call Open Arms on 1800 011 046 or visit www.openarms.gov.au

For more information about services and support available visit www.dva.gov.au or call 1800 VETERAN.

Source: [DVA Newsroom](#)

Note: RAQ exists to in part to encourage its members to attend all events and stay connected to family, friends and RAEME colleagues – please join us.

PUBLICATION OF EDITION 3 OF STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Due to the huge success of the First and Second editions of RAEME's humour book, "Straight from the Horse's Mouth", a third edition is being drafted now!

The editors already have about 25 stories ready to go but they need more – lots more!

If you have any funny stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at

FunnyStories@raeme.com.

Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable!

If you didn't get your order in for Edition 1 or Edition 2, it is not too late. Our Head of Corps Cell was gifted several hundred copies for sale from the Corps Shop with all funds raised to be made available to support serving and retired members of our Corps.

The Corps Shop is up and running online but the books haven't yet been uploaded for sale. When they are, we will let you know, but in the interim, requests for books can be [emailed to the Head of Corps Cell](#).

Ian Cook

Book Editor

<https://FunnyRaemeStories.square.site/>

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RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK REPORT

Over recent months, in my capacity of the Coordinator of the RAEME National Network (COORD RNN), I have conducted some research on behalf of the RAEME Corps Committee (RCC), to identify issues being experienced by each state association – essentially, I was looking for common themes and issues across the regional associations which may guide the RCC to better inform the RCC and let them assist RNN operations.

For those that may not know the RCC is comprised of a Chair, the REP COL COMDT, BRIG Ed Smeaton; the Head of Corps (HOC), BRIG Ben Slaughter; the two Deputy Heads of Corps Ground and Air respectively, and CO/CI ASEME and RAMS; the Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan; and the five Regional COL COMDTs, and me as the RN representative.

I have summarised some of the findings of the survey, to which each regional association contributed. They are as follows:

- Lack of ability to connect with ARA and or ARES units, and their CO/OC/ASMs, in local areas, mostly outside of Queensland - this stymies participation in local events and membership potential.
- Attempts to garner new members are not having the desired effect in some states and regions – membership is in decline in most areas or remaining static at best.
- Apathy at worst, or lack of energy at best, to sustain, or more critically, grow some organisations, including in the NT, where retired members are light on the ground.
- Existing members or new association members not seeking leadership roles in some associations which means that strategic planning or innovative plans may not thrive.
- Identifying key local members in some regions / associations, who can drive change, lead the team and boost enthusiasm for growth.
- An inability to use the full functionality of the RNN IT system, but critically for communicating timely and relevant information to members and potential members, who may visit a regional website.
- Some associations are not moving with the times and using social media platforms to best effect, or at all.
- Poor engagement across the RNN, or not valuing the RNN structure, and the ability to work with other associations - sales of merchandise, lever ideas, or use webmasters to best effect.
- Regional chapters not fully engaged with, or committed to, the aspirations of the main state based organisation.
- Consider switching to, or using, simpler funding models for events – RA ACT, RANT, RAWA have simple “pay as you go” models, which suits their needs and do not hold funds – nor do some associations sell merchandising which is appropriate.

- Not engaging fully with, or valuing the contribution, which local COL COMDT can make in some jurisdictions.

These conclusions make for uncomfortable reading for many. I have shared the spreadsheet with the RCC, including with the REP COL COMDT and the five COLs COMDT, and as a first step, asked them to increase their level of support for the associations in their jurisdictions. As you may be aware, the current crop of COL COMDT will step down in 2024, and it may be opportune to ask the new appointees to increase their level of involvement and seek their help to promote the growth of each association. Most importantly, I have asked them as a priority, to connect associations with as many local ARA and or ARES units as possible.

Having summarised the above information, and since the RCC meeting in October 2023, I have been advised of an emerging threat to our communications across the RNN. The administrator/host of our current RNN IT system (Prerequisite, owned by Richard Legge) has advised me that he may have to withdraw his services owing to business concerns and personal issues. As mentioned, this system is used by all our associations, to a greater or lesser degree, as well as the HOC Cell, and presents us with a problem of what to do in the immediate and long term future. Be advised, I am discussing the situation with Richard, who has managed the system for many years at minimal cost, but I will rely on the national webmaster, Alex Smithers, for his ongoing and timely support, technical advice and guidance as we consider options. As a start, I will be establishing a work party comprising representatives from each association and considering over the next 12 months the best way forward. Much more to follow.

At the most recent RAEME Corps Committee, which I attended remotely, I advised the Committee that I was desirous of stepping down and was seeking a replacement. I am in the process of identifying and firming up a replacement and will advise more on that later.

Arte et Marte

**R.L.G. GRANT AM
BRIG (RETD)
COORD RNN**



RAEME HISTORY SEGMENT

The Heritage and History of the Bulimba Army Camp. The RAQ has regularly reported on the development of the old Bulimba Barracks site, including the RAEME historical aspects. Most readers would know that the Brisbane City Council has been keen to retain many historical features since Aboriginal times, as well as the Barracks more recent history as a military facility. Recent work underway at the old site of Bulimba Army Barracks has seen the barrack's site almost totally cleared and prepared for the new development.



Demolition underway in 2023

But what is the bigger history of the site and how did it become such an important site during WW2 and later from 1945 to 2014 when the ADF vacated the site. Here is an excerpt from the Brisbane City Council's own historical collection which reader may find informative, especially those of us who were privileged to serve there.

"The first inhabitants of the Bulimba area were members of the Aboriginal community, mainly from the Coorparoo and Chepara clans whose lands ranged south of the (Brisbane) River. Because the land had an ample water supply, fauna and flora were plentiful making the area an excellent food gathering ground for Aboriginal people and later Europeans.

"After the Moreton Bay region was opened for free settlement in 1842, David McConnel, having established a station at Cressbrook, bought much of the first land offered for sale in Bulimba and soon after built a home for himself and new wife Mary McLeod. The McConnel's home, Bulimba House, was built by Andrew Petrie in 1850 becoming one of the first substantial residences in the colony.

"While farming was the main activity in the district, a large tin smelting works was also established near the ferry giving employment to a considerable number of people. During the latter part of 1866, Messrs Smith, Price and Harvey were reported as having discovered nuggets and particles of gold along the banks of the Brisbane River opposite the Breakfast Creek. While some alluvial deposits were found and a shaft sunk into the main quartz reef, the mine did not become a major industry in the area.

"The 1880s saw the beginnings of more urban and industrial development in the area. Many of the large land holdings were subdivided and sold as housing estates and with the concomitant rise in the population, commercial services were established.

"The Apollo candle factory was built in 1880 near the present Apollo Road. The yard covered about 25 acres and the factory produced candles, soap and oil. It amalgamated with J. Kitchen & Sons of South Brisbane in 1885 and continued production well into the twentieth century, despite being inundated by floods and suffering a fire in 1909.

"Although Australia had been at war with Germany since 1939, the impact of war increased dramatically after the Japanese entered in 1941. The Japanese forces swept south through Malaya, the Netherlands East Indies and had reached New Guinea by January / February 1942. General

Headquarters South West Pacific Area, under the command of US General Douglas MacArthur, was also moved to Brisbane in July 1942. An unprecedented military build-up followed. The concentration of US troops alone was heaviest in south-east Queensland, reaching a peak of 75,500 in December 1943. Camps, airfields, construction and recreational facilities specifically for the US Army were erected in Brisbane during the war.

"As with the rest of Brisbane, the coming of the Second World War brought enormous changes to the Bulimba district. The river became an important defence site and industries associated with the war effort were located nearby. Australian soldiers were stationed in bunkers and gun emplacements on Bulimba Point protecting the American submarine base at New Farm, the wharves and the city of Brisbane. Anti-aircraft batteries were also located at the rear of Balmoral Cemetery and staffed by WAAAF personnel.

"The Apollo Barge Assembly Depot was swiftly built by the United States Forces on land that had been acquired by the Commonwealth of Australia in March 1943. The American military built six large warehouses, one of which was a workshop. As is suggested by the name, the U.S barges were assembled at the Bulimba base.



Bulimba site (facing North towards the Brisbane River) under construction 1943

"The steel components were shipped in via the Brisbane River and delivered by barge to the assembly depot. In a memo dated 11 August 1943 from the U.S Army the requirements needed for the establishment of the Assembly Depot were outlined:

- Ship and gun crew training station in conjunction with approved camp site for 1,800 men.
- Installation and outfitting of 100 refrigeration barges, oil barges and ships repair facilities.
- Construction of four or more, floating dry docks, 250' to 350' long by 50' to 60' wide, and 12 or more floating workshops 150' x 30' x 3'.
- Construction of 400 wooden barges, 80x32x8'.

"The position of the Apollo Barge Assembly Depot was tantamount to its importance as a military vessel supply base. During the Second World War a wide wharf was constructed for the Assembly Depot that allowed an efficient means of distribution. Once assembled, the barges were shipped out as deck cargo to the conflict in the Pacific. The workers within the

assembly depot were mainly Chinese. Approximately one thousand Chinese workers were housed in the barracks.

“With the end of the Second World War in 1945 and the departure of the American Military Forces from Brisbane the Apollo Barge Assembly Depot became the base for the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The RAEME, was a component of the Australian Regular Army that were responsible for the maintenance of all land electrical and mechanical equipment. In April 1945 the Quarter-Master General of the Australian Army outlined the agreement with the United States Military relating to the handover of the Bulimba site. It stated:

“At Conference today with Commanding General Base Section USASOS and Brig-Gen Johnson, GPA, an undertaking was given that the US Authorities would release the Bulimba site to the Australian Army as soon as practicable and possibly not later than the beginning of May. The US Authorities will proceed forthwith to clear stores and equipment now held on the site to the open storage area adjacent or in the vicinity of the Chinese Camp.’

“As well as re-using the already existing military workshops and warehouses on the site, RAEME moved several buildings from their previous Kangaroo Point site. In October 1946 a training school was established in the army buildings. Later workshops and administration buildings were added as the site grew to be a major base for carpentry, metal fabrication and machining, and electronics manufacturing and repairs for telecommunications and some outside businesses.

“The most historically significant buildings on the site are those built by the United States Forces on the base during the Second World War.

“History Excerpts from the [Heritage Brisbane Website](#)

We look forward to the next phase of the site and work being undertaken by the developers to retain a record of units and personnel who served there over a long time.

The Spirit of RAEME. When Australia’s commitment to the War in Afghanistan was coming to an end, COL Andrew Adams, wrote a story for the second edition of the Corps history published in 2014, reminiscing on his experiences in Afghanistan with Special Forces. The Spirit of RAEME, as he’d experienced during his tour, had never been higher – the worth of the Corps had once again been confirmed, but this time, by a new generation of Australian soldiers. As Col Adams finished his tour, and ultimately his long career, it is fitting to remind readers of that spirit, and end this edition of Spanner News, with excerpts from his story.

“Greetings All, to be very clear, if anyone had suggested that I would be writing an article from the desk of the Director, Logistics Directorate of NATO Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan (NSOCC-A)/Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan (SOJTF-A), I would have used the immortal line ‘Tell ‘em they’re dreamin.’ Nonetheless, as a very ‘conventional’ officer, I have found the experience of being

the senior logistics officer for a highly focused special operations headquarters most entertaining, culturally challenging and professionally expanding.

“Whilst initially confronted by the size and diversity of resources at the commander’s disposal, having the ability to commit the right tool at the right time in the right place, contributes significantly to the success of our mission. To be involved in this level of war fighting, in what will be my last appointment in the ARA, is a great way to complete my time!

“As a quick history, SOJTF-A was raised in July 2012 to synchronize the efforts of four special operations components deployed to Afghanistan, by focusing their collective operations within a consolidated operational framework and exploiting the respective strengths of each organization. NSOCC-A comprises three US components (including a dedicated aviation brigade) and a NATO special operations command. Shortly thereafter in August 2012, NATO approved the raising of NSOCC-A. NSOCC-A/SOJTF-A and it now constitutes the largest special operations command ever deployed. Being the first CJ4 as an Australian (and a Spanner no less) is not something that I had thought much about until recently; having done so, it is something about which Australia, and our Corps, can be more than a little proud.



Colonel Andrew Adams (eighth from left) with the NATO team

“The CJ4 team’s six month rotations, means I have worked with several national Special Operations service personnel mostly US personnel from all services (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, full and part time). I have also worked with a sprinkling of NATO personnel from Canada, Netherlands and the UK and overall the experience has been excellent. From my view point as a nation, we can be very comfortable our soldiers and officers are well trained, highly capable, committed and flexible – they are able to mix it with the best NATO has to offer. An added bonus is the ability of Australians to speak their minds, receive guidance and get on with business without being fussed about who they have engaged. Having accepted Special Operations really are special, the application of common sense, a logical approach to problem solving and the application of one’s uniquely Australian and British sense of humour, has assisted the CJ4 team get on with the business of supporting our components comprehensively.

“I would observe that our historical exposure to a resource austere environment and the approach that it drives, when

applied appropriately, has enabled me to bring to the directorate a balanced view when developing courses of action. Given that, there is a lot to be said for cheque book logistics. “In terms of maintenance, our hard won knowledge that investing in sensible preventive maintenance is fundamental to achieving availability is as applicable here as it is in Australia. Many new capabilities have been introduced into this theatre over the last 12 years and many of the challenges we have faced are reflected in theatre. Whilst often considered mundane, adhering to the regime of periodic technical inspections is a key capability multiplier; having confidence in your weapons systems can never be over stated. Interestingly, my exposure to coalition force logistics has been somewhat limited, as each nation is responsible for managing their own logistic system. For those countries that are unable to do so, the US has a “Lift and Sustain” system where they sponsor nations as part of the overall mission. Like many things, I have discovered, the US can be an extraordinarily generous, something that I had not previously considered a national trait.

“What I have found interesting is language. As there are very few Australians on the HQ, living with Americans was at first quite challenging. Speed of verbal delivery, use of many acronyms and the numerous regional US speech traits (northern states, the deep south, east coast, west coast and Texas) all combine to obscure my understanding of what is being said versus what was thought, could be amusing. Equally, it has been highly entertaining educating the CJ4 shop as to the appropriate use of Australian English; having very smart RAAF SNCOs as my personal interpreters, for six months during my tour, was also most helpful. I suspect that there will be a several confused American families, when their loved ones return home, speaking Australian. It should be noted that none of them have mastered the simple phrase ‘Giddy mate’.

“A quick plug for the Corps Network – the role of Op Spanner Pack is as important now as it has ever been. The connection to the RAEME family is a unique and very important part of my service. It was always very satisfying to receive a Spanner Pack and the sentiment that comes with it. Keep it up, it is greatly appreciated by all across the country.

“While 12 months is a long time to be away from family and friends, our Corps motto continues to resonate with me. It has been a hell of a ride, and in balance, one for which I am professionally and personally thankful – it has been a special experience.

Good soldiering to all”.

Andrew Adams
COL (RTD)
COL COMDT NSW/ACT



Editor’s Note: COL Adams enlisted as a 35th Intake Army Apprentice Electronics Technician on 15 Jan 80. On completing his training he was posted to A AQN 3/4 CAV REGT in Jan 1984 as a Radio Mechanic. In 1984 he commenced training at the Officer Cadet School Portsea and in 1985 was commissioned into RAEME. During his career Andrew has commanded at all levels from his initial appointment to the rank of Colonel. His appointments included OC SPT SQN 2 CAV REGT, CO ASEME and Commandant ALTC. Andrew also rendered operational service in East Timor and Afghanistan. In April 2014 Andrew transferred to the Standby Reserve.

Spanner News

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

The statistics on page 5 of this edition of Spanner News point to an issue each RAEME association must deal with around Australia – how to grow and make our associations viable and sustainable. From the study I undertook in November and December 2023, as COORD RNN, looking at the main issues being experienced by state based associations, and reported on page 14, two things stand out – what is the best way to recruit new members, especially younger men and women; and how do we encourage existing members to be part of the executives and take a leadership role in their associations. Two related issues were how to increase diversity in our memberships – in particular, more females and the now diverse demographic of the ADF.

At the first RAQ Meeting held at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club in February, the RAQ Executive made all attendees aware of an initiative which may help solve the second issue – seeking a young “Champion” to influence younger men and women to join the RAQ; while the RAQ Executive resolved to continue its 2023 initiative of supporting ongoing involvement of women following the October “Women in RAEME” event at Victoria Barracks.

The President has alluded to both these initiatives in his message in this edition of Spanner News, and we will hear more soon, but I am looking forward to younger folks stepping up, including to replace me as editor of Spanner News incorporating new and fresh ideas, and making use of alternative media platforms, including social media. I endorse these initiatives as I step down as Patron of the RAQ. May I give a “plug” for the most recent RA ACT Newsletter, as an example of a first class, content rich association newsletter – well done, Ian Cook.



Attendees at the “Women in RAEME” Event 2023

Finally, may I congratulate the RAQ Executive for the appointment of COL (RTD) Tony Borg as Patron. Tony has had a long association across the Corps as his bio spells out on page 3, and in particular, within the RAQ – I am sure he will do an excellent job and provide the Executive and all RAQ members with much wisdom and guidance to ensure the RAQ grows and prospers.

RAEME Association Queensland Inc 19

Arte et Marte

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



RAEME Association Queensland

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.

RAEME CORPS SHOP

“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. Copies can be ordered from the Corps Shop, which is available on the RAEME National Website

<https://raeme.org.au>.

Whilst on the site why not check out the other items available.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop us a line at

RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au

Please be patient, there are only a couple of Defence Members in the HOC Cell and they have other tasks.

The **Veterans Heart Health Program**, proudly funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and managed nationally by Corporate Health Management (CHM), offers a 12-month health and fitness journey at absolutely no cost to you! It's FREE! See detail at: <https://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>

IRONSIDE RESOURCES

THE EXPERTS IN FINDING NEW CAREERS FOR RAEME VETERANS

REGISTER WITH US
WWW.IRONSIDERESOURCES.COM.AU



Table from 101 Fd Wksp Coy Article on Page 7

Type	Length	Breadth	Weight capacity	Fuel capacity	Load example
LCM8	22.45m	6.36M	50 tonnes	5058L	1 x 40M
Centaur II	23.9M	8.2M	60 tonnes	135000L	2 x 40M and 2 x Gwagon
Cooma Cooma	34.3M	7.3M	110 tonnes	100000L	2 x40M and 2 x Gwagon
Jane Virgo	45.4M	10.9M	350 tonnes	273000L	6 x 40M and 2x Gwagon
Next-generation Fleet					
Littoral Manoeuvre Vessel – Medium (LMV-M)	36M	9M	80 tonnes	TBC	100 x Troops, or 1 x light INF Coy, or 2 x CRV with crews, or 4 x PMV-M with PL

\$25 OFF*
RACQ batteries

*\$25 rebate on the purchase of any RACQ battery. 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 the 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 2023 - 30 April 2024 and must be used by 30 June 2024.

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ANZAC Day Function 2024 – Brisbane

Tickets available now until 19 April 2024.

- RAQ Members/Serving Soldiers and up to one guest are just **\$25 pp.**
- All other guests **\$35 pp**

Each ticket includes Priority entry, one meal and two drinks tickets. Best value by far!

The Port Office Hotel will be open from around 1100 hrs. Drinks will be available for purchase using either a drink voucher or purchased across the bar. The Buffet Meal for those with Pre-Purchased Tickets will be served from approx 1200-1400 hrs.

Please note: This is a private function on ANZAC Day. For anyone attending prior to 1400h **must purchase a ticket for entry.**

ANZAC Day March - [Details are here](#)

BOOK NOW

RAEME Association Queensland Merchandise 2024

The RAQ has a huge range of merchandise on sale at our [online shop](#)

Search under "Categories" for the following items many of which are relatively new products. Make sure you have a good look at the complete range on our website - Here are a few to consider:

