



## RAEME ASSOCIATION – QUEENSLAND

### SPANNER NEWS EDITION 31 Mar 12

#### CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Welcome to Spanner News for 2012 – we have another great year coming up in the life of your Association and this Newsletter plays an important part in communicating our plans to you.

2011 finished on a high note with several very well attended RAEME Birthday celebrations at Enoggera, and a wonderful All Ranks Formal Dinner, hosted by RAEME Aviation Maintenance School (RAMS) in the RAMS Hanger at Oakey. The RAEME Birthday Luncheon was also a highlight. My heartiest congratulations to all the organisers – you did the Corps proud.

Our Annual RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon at the Port Office was the best attended to date. We were honoured to have our Head of Corps, BRIG Dave Creagh, AM, and his wife Sue, as our special guests amongst the 120 attendees. Other guests included several recently returned veterans from all areas of operation as well as their wives and partners. Many of our valued sponsors of Spanner Pack, and other association activities, were also present. These included ENZED Brisbane Central, RACQ Batteries, Logistic Solutions Australasia Pty Ltd, OZKOR, and of course representing the Corps Committee and Corps Fund, LTCOL Todd Ashurst DHOC (Ground), LTCOL Mick Millar DHOC (Aero), and the Corps RSM, WO1 Jason Ballard.

Additionally, we were honoured to have the Prince Philip Banner paraded and displayed, a first in the history of the Banner – it is a rare event to have the Banner presented in such a public place – and certainly a historical event in the Association's life. As usual the food, service and venue were first class and I am sure all enjoyed a great celebration of the Corps Birthday. My thanks also goes to the management and staff of the Port Office Hotel.

The 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011, officially the Corps' Birthday, also saw another important event with the

launch of the RAEME National Association (RNA). This historic initiative is supported by the majority of Regional Associations including Queensland. The role of the national association is to support the regional associations, and assist in managing and coordinating agreed tasks and activities, from which we all benefit at a national level. Some of these tasks include the following:

- Coordinating economies of scale purchasing of specific RAEME merchandise. This initiative alone has the potential to create savings for all associations across Australia.
- Investigating the purchase of common insurance policies. Once again potential savings to be obtained by all.
- Production of a National Calendar of RAEME Events for publication in the Craftsman Magazine and regional newsletters.
- Managing national projects, e.g. Operation Spanner Pack and assist the Corps Committee Corps History Project Director develop a new version of the Corps History.
- Obtaining visibility of Corps members leaving the service to encourage them to join the regional associations Australia wide. This is wonderful opportunity for recruiting new members and refreshing our associations to guarantee their longevity.

Whilst on membership, all current members of the regional associations, who have agreed to affiliate with the RNA, will automatically become members of the RNA free of charge. This free membership will also apply to all serving members on continuous full time service ARA, GRES etc. Other GRES folk on part time service can become members by joining the home state/territory regional association, and by this affiliation, become members of the RNA.

All the practical and financial benefits from the establishment of the RNA will flow directly to the affiliated regional associations. Each affiliated regional association has a nominated representative on the RNA Committee.

I encourage anyone who has questions on the development of the national association to contact me and I will attempt to answer them. The aim is to keep this process as simple as possible and to provide better services to all members of the Corps – past and present.

We know that ANZAC Day and RAEME Birthday across the state in 2012 is going to be, with your support, bigger and better than ever as we will be celebrating the Corps' 70th Birthday this year.

Financial members look out for your free gift on ANZAC Day and RAEME Birthday Luncheon. Non-financial members, pay, join and obtain a free membership badge, free gift and discounted entry to our various functions. Membership is only \$10. The above free items and entry to functions is valued at around \$54 – so full membership is to be valued! More later from the Membership Chair. Membership forms are available at [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org) or in this issue of the Newsletter.

The RAQ requests your continued support – it is important to our goals and objectives, but also to the success of the many events we plan and run each year. We have some significant vacancies on the Committee this year and we invite you to join us in providing the services to our membership.

I hope you have a great 2012.

Regards,

Raymond G. Norman OAM  
Chairman 07 5476 6254  
[www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org)  
[rgnorman1944@bigpond.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@bigpond.com)



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#### **FROM THE COL COMDT**

Greetings to you all in the Corps' 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. It is a privilege and honour to be asked by the HOC to take over from COL Bryce Titcume as the Colonel Commandant - Queensland. Colonel Titcume has served in the role since 2004 and performed his duties with enthusiasm and determination. Colonel Titcume's commitment epitomises what is best in our corps and I wish both him and Erica all the best for the future. Luckily Bryce's counsel will not be lost to us, as he has accepted a continuing role as Patron of the Queensland Association.

By way of introduction, I joined the Army in 1980 as an Electronic Technician apprentice (35<sup>th</sup> class). To complete my apprenticeship, I was posted to 1 Base Workshop Battalion. While I would like to say I found my calling within RAEME, I always yearned to fly the skies as a pilot. While my pilot aspirations never quite got off the ground (pardon the pun), I was given the consolation prize of being posted to 5 Avn Regt Wksp as the AO/QM. This was the start of a

great period of my work life where I was associated with the Army Aviation elements of the Corps both in Townsville and Oakey. During this time I was given the opportunity to gain a business degree and focus more on the administrative aspects of workshops life.

On promotion to Major I was posted to HQ Logistic Command in Melbourne, subsequently to ADF School of Languages as a Thai student and then back to Bulimba to join South Queensland Logistic Group. I then parted company with the Army, on a full time basis, and joined the Queensland Department of Main Roads and transferred to the Army Reserve. Postings to 7 CSSB and QUR as a reservist, while completing Staff College, saw me promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2004. I have remained with HQ 1 Div for the entire time except for a stint as the Garrison Commander for Gallipoli Barracks.

Enough of me and on to Corps matters. The Corps committee discussed a number of issues at their annual Corps Committee Meeting prior to the Corps Conference last October. The most significant being the approval of the Corps History Project led by Brig Ross Grant. The committee received a project and business plan from BRIG Grant, which were overwhelmingly endorsed. This project is exciting and long overdue and has my full backing.

To achieve the projects' goals, isn't going to be a "walk in the park" and I would ask each and every one of you to contribute in whatever way you can. That could simply mean finding a sponsor, or conducting a fundraising activity, or even prompting someone in the corps, or with an affiliation with the corps, to submit an article.

I must also mention that I attended an excellent all ranks dinner hosted by the CO RAMS LTCOL Mick Millar late last year. I was particularly impressed with the young men and women trainees / craftsmen I met prior to, during and after the dinner. If this is the calibre of tradesmen we are fostering as a Corps, I have no doubt our reputation as the premier logistic Corps will continue to grow.

I also attended an excellent RAQ lunch held at the Port Office hotel in November. I have only high praise for Ray Norman and the committee for organising this event, and from the HOC down, I believe everyone who attended had a great time.

Last but not least I also enjoyed myself at the Brisbane Regional RAEME Corps Birthday celebrations held at Enoggera. They were well organised and attended by local corps members and strongly supported by our generous local sponsors.

Nine units submitted teams on the day – with 1 Sig Regt taking out the overall honours. It's always inspiring to see the time and effort put into both organising and participating in the events. The iron man event was a particular favourite of mine and pats on the back for all the competitors that managed to finish after having to consume the various bits of sheep offal. The kart race is always a highlight and I don't believe any of the spectators were disappointed with the action that ensued.

I look forward to seeing both current serving and past corps members on ANZAC day and having been to a number of after parade events at the Port Office Hotel, I can recommend the event to all. If you haven't been for a while, then try and make the effort on our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and join the RAQ and other Corps members either for the parade in the morning, and or at the hotel, in the afternoon. Don't be shy in bringing some of your other Corps mates and let them observe and experience that famous RAEME esprit de corps.

Richard Kluckhohn  
Colonel Commandant –  
Queensland



Arte et Marte

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Despite having over 400 members, the Association is always looking for new members to keep the Association young and vital, share the load of organising our many activities and generate enough income to make our Association viable and healthy. We attempt to keep you abreast of everything that is happening, not just locally, but state and countrywide in accordance with our Association Charter. Clearly this flow of information is likely to increase as the newly established National Association takes shape, but regardless of the will and effort on those dedicated folks, who wish to get the information out there, we (the Royal “We” that is) can only get the information directly to you if we know your address. Ideally an e-mail address removes the need for costly stamps, but we do accept that not everyone has, or wants to be encumbered, by computers, so we endeavour to make sure that snail mail gets through on a regular basis. So please, please, tell someone on the Committee (preferably me), if you change any of your contact details. However, the simplest way, is to send your details to [member@raemeqld.org](mailto:member@raemeqld.org) and we won't lose track of you.

That's the free stuff out of the way, now the cost!! For those Life Subscribers, please ignore the following paragraph. For those that subscribe annually, it's nearly that time to renew your membership – our year runs from 1 July to 30 June. We have consciously kept the fee at \$10. As a paid up member, you will be guaranteed four Newsletters each year, a rebate for entrance to the increasingly popular post-ANZAC Day March Party held at the Port Office Hotel in Brisbane, and a discount on tickets to the Annual Lunch, also held in the Port Office Hotel at the end of November or the beginning of December.

And to those whose membership may have lapsed, or to anyone else that wishes to join, by doing so just before or on ANZAC Day, you too will enjoy the rebates as discussed above. In effect, your annual payment will be “wiped” because of the reduced entrance fee. Additionally, your first few months will be free!!

Finally, as the Corps celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a Commemorative Ribbon has been designed specifically for this year. These should be available on ANZAC Day, and free to all financial members attending this or other RAEME Association Queensland functions throughout 2012. It will be available for purchase by non-financial members on the Queensland website, but it is our intention to give them to renewing and new members – just another little incentive.

A Renewal/New Member form is attached in this issue and is also available on line [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org)

Please support your Association.

Stu Bowles  
Chair Membership Committee

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## REPORT ON RECENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**Corps Birthday Luncheon – Nov 11.** As the Chairman reported this RAEME Birthday celebration was first class. There was a great mix of Corps members in attendance and the speeches reflected our pride in the Corps, and in particular, those who have given valuable service to the RAEME Association in Queensland. Pictures speak volumes, so we have included a range of photos of attendees enjoying themselves – see whom you can spot in the photos overleaf:





### **Army Apprentices Reunion Canberra 27-30 Oct 11.**

Frank Maloney (13<sup>th</sup>) has provided the following report on what was a very successful event in the life of the Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA). Frank was part of a dedicated organizing committee, which included the Chair of the AAAA, Mr Frank Poole (10<sup>th</sup>), the Treasurer Mr Owen Reynolds (13<sup>th</sup>), and several other committee members of the AAAA. The event also relied on a lot of volunteer assistance from non-committee members, who reside in Canberra, and the local reunion coordinator, Frank Poole.

The Meet and Greet at EPIC restaurant on 27 Oct 2011 was the first of the functions and was lively and most enjoyable. The venue was bigger than needed, and a little out of the way, but it was close to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Annex which houses the artefacts not on display at the AWM.

The Brian & Barb Daley (14<sup>th</sup>) Raffle Inc, in company with, Trisha Richardson and Lorraine Grant, together with their band of volunteers, once again took control of the raffle and raised over \$1200.

The Wreath Laying at the Australian War Memorial was the highlight of the Reunion and included the Senior Wallabies Choir, the Royal Military College Band, and a well researched and powerful Eulogy, delivered by Norman Wells (14<sup>th</sup>). With great weather, and an assembly of some 200, a highly emotionally charged ceremony was held in the hallowed halls of the AWM. Frank singles out Michael Kusternig (17<sup>th</sup>) for his good work with the AWM, on behalf of the AAAA, to ensure that the wreath laying proceedings went without a hitch.

The AAAA Annual General Meeting was held at 10 am on 29 Oct 2011 at the Southern Cross Club. This was a well-attended meeting with over 100 participants. It dealt with the things that are the province of an AGM and the minutes are available on the website.

A Partners' Gathering was held in conjunction with the AGM. This activity provided an opportunity for partners of AAAA members to be informed of the way the Defence Community Organization cares for

dependents and families of our troops on active service. The hostess for the event was Mrs Jodie Luhrs, wife of our new Patron, Brig David Luhrs (35<sup>th</sup>). Mrs Luhrs produced a most enjoyable session, with the many willing participants in the room, and endeared herself to all.

The Reunion Dinner saw attendees heading back to the Southern Cross Club. Over 300 attended. Patrons, past and present were in attendance and wise words delivered by both. The new patron, Brigadier David Luhrs, briefly addressed the gathering and made it clear that he was honoured to be appointed Patron of the Association and would take a very keen interest in its affairs. He then presented Frank Poole with his Life Membership badge. Another life membership badge was to be presented to MAJ Jack Westernhagen, but he was not able to attend. Our retiring Patron, LTGEN Ken Gillespie (23<sup>rd</sup>), briefly addressed the gathering in his usual forthright manner. His words of encouragement were well received by attendees, particularly when he referred to his experiences at Balcombe. President Lucas McGann (35<sup>th</sup>) presented Ken with a mounted photograph of the gathering at the 2008 reunion at Bandiana.

Peter Thornton (35<sup>th</sup>) was thanked for his audio visual display, which ran all evening and created enormous interest, with many requests for purchase of a copy of the DVD coming north being received. This initiative is to receive priority attention by Merchandising Committee in the New Year. Bill Mertin (22<sup>nd</sup>), who managed all aspects of the Southern Cross Club functions was congratulated for his organisational skills and hard work – a successful celebration.

A last minute inclusion in the evening agenda was a recital by Robert Ludlow (13<sup>th</sup>) of a poem he created for the jubilee reunion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Intake in 2010 at Tweed Heads. The title of the poem is "Say goodbye to Mum", a very touching verse and at the conclusion of his reading there were many reaching for their tissues and handkerchiefs. It has been posted to the AAAA website [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org).

The Memorial Church Service held at St Pauls Church at the Royal Military College, Duntroon on Sunday 31 Oct 2011 was a fitting location for our last activity. The large crowd who attended were treated to two expert dissertations on the construction of the impressive complex in the early sixties, by two of our own, that were involved at the time, namely Herb Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup>) and David Wilson (12<sup>th</sup>). The service was conducted by our Chaplains, Craig Potter (38<sup>th</sup>), Bryan Nicholls (11<sup>th</sup>) and Keith Noldt (14<sup>th</sup>). How

fortunate the AAAA has three graduates who are now Chaplains. Canberra Vietnam Veterans were thanked for the morning tea and bikkies, which rounded off a most pleasant morning, and concluded the weekend.

Finally, Frank Maloney offers a special thanks to those Apprentices and Partners who travelled far and wide to support the Association Reunion. Frank understands that many simply were unable to come for various reasons, but their expressions of goodwill were pleasing to receive.

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## 2012 COMING EVENTS

**Attention All RAEME Nashos.** For the last thirty years the RAEME CMF units have parade at the Bulimba Barracks. During these years of service, many National Servicemen joined 104 Field Workshop, where they developed natural leadership qualities and skills. Many attained commissioned rank, or were promoted to NCO level. Many enlisted in the Regular Army and proved to be a credit to themselves and the Corps of RAEME.

Who can forget the heady years of 1967 and 1968 when these RAEME Reserve Units and Sub Units were charged with the responsibility of the complete technical support at Shoalwater Bay, for Exercises “Get Set” and “Bellbird”, in final preparation for Battalions going to Vietnam? The RAEME Reserve stood tall and people noticed when they passed by.

So in 2012 we have an opportunity to get together once again. The Association has received approval from the CO of JLU(SQ), Bulimba Barracks, for 104 Field Workshops & LAD’S ASSN INC to hold a reunion on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012. As the Barrack’s days are numbered, I invite all those who served in the CMF, Reserve, or as Nashos, to come along and enjoy each other’s company. Please contact, **Bob Martin**, on **07 3822 5985** for more detail.

**ANZAC DAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012.** Planning is well under way for this year’s march in Brisbane followed by our annual get-together function at the Port Office Hotel.

It is important that you get to the start early this year as it is the Army’s turn to lead the parade. Instead of being serial 120 (approx), the Association’s contingent will be serial 64 (subject to change). So our advice is turn up no later than 1000hrs. The Committee is still not 100% sure on our FUP, but as

soon as we know, it will be published. The Brisbane ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee has launched a web site which we encourage you to visit: <http://anzacmarchbrisbane.com.au/>

**Reunion Notice.** 106 Field Workshops is holding a reunion in Mandurah, WA, from 19-21 Oct 12. Please contact the following for bookings and latest details:

- Peter Perry 08 9581 9113
- Steven Cartner 08 9547 1720

**Annual Reunion of Army Apprentices – South East Queensland.** The 12th Annual Reunion of Army Apprentices in South East Queensland will once again be held at the Quarry Club (old Sgts Mess) Bulimba Barracks, Apollo Rd, Bulimba, Brisbane:

- **Date:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Jun 12, commencing at 11:00 to 16:00.
- **Catering:** There will be a 'sausage sizzle' at lunch and drinks will be available at the bar.
- The reunion is open to Apprentices, their families, ex-members of Staff and any other personnel, who were associated with apprentices and wish to renew old friendships.
- Please feel free to pass on these details to any one you know who may be interested in coming along. RSVP: **Brian Daley, ph. 07 3399 1300 or 0412 721 761** or email: [brianjdaley14@gmail.com](mailto:brianjdaley14@gmail.com)

**Operation Spanner Pack.** The latest “Spanner Packs” were despatched on 25 Jan 12. The Christmas Packs were received by the troops on time and some letters of appreciation have already been received.

The next Spanner pack will be held at 25 Mar 12. Volunteers should contact **Ray Norman on 07 5476 6254.**

*Hi Raymond,*

*Thankyou for sending the **Spanner Packs** for all workshops personnel to enjoy. They were well received and they lifted the boys’ spirits and morale, especially at a time following the loss of one of our own, CFN Beau Pridue.*

*I had two of my troops trial the Solar Chargers to see how they'd cope with the environment and times to charge some of their personal equipment. It's still the*

*dry season at the moment and plenty of sun. I'll send you some more feedback closer to the end of our deployment to reflect the wet season's effects on the chargers.*

*T. McLaren  
Sergeant  
Artificer Sergeant Major  
Combat Service Support  
Hello Raymond,*

*I will soon be departing the MEAO and WO1 Stephen Luke will be replacing me. Thankyou for your efforts with the RAEME Spanner Packs during my deployment, I know the troops on the ground appreciate them. Please pass on my gratitude to your team in the RAEME Association and your sponsors.*

*For all future correspondence there is no change to the group email provided previously.*

*David Williams  
Warrant Officer Class One  
EMEWO HQJTF 633*

**Corps History Project Gets Underway.** As a result of a decision made by the RAEME Corps Committee in October 2011, approval has been given for the RAEME Corps History Project (CHP) to commence.

The intent of this project is to celebrate the achievements of individuals, sub-units and units of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (RAEME) Corps during warlike operations and peacetime training activities. The other equally important intent is to capture and record stories that have underpinned and enhanced the reputation of RAEME over the past 70 years and ensure they are recorded in perpetuity.

It is hoped that these stories will inspire all members of the Corps, in particular the newest members, giving them a sense of pride in the Corps' achievements, its contribution to the nation in general, but specifically, its contribution to the ADF. These stories are also important to the general Australian community, who know little about the "back room boys" of the Army, and their contribution to the Army's war-fighting ability through the effective management of land equipment in war and peace.

The CHP Team has been established to seek contributions in the form of stories and photographs, from past and current members of the Corps, to be developed and published as a pictorial history, or

memoir, for public sale. The book will be published in a "coffee table" style format.

The project's intent is in line with the Corps Vision statement and the goals of the newly released RAEME National Association's Strategic Plan (1 Dec 11). In that plan Goal 1, "Promote the Corps' identity and reputation across Australia", and Goal 2, "Recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps", epitomise the intent of this project. The project is an important component of the national association's activities on behalf of the Corps.

Under the general direction of the Corps History Project Board, the CHP Team is authorised to request and collect contributions from past and present members of the Corps through all available communication channels and compile and publish the contributions in a book entitled "In Peace and War – A Pictorial Memoir of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers".

The Corps History will address various facets of the Corps' support to operations and training over time, by reference to major ADF activities or operations; and by chronological sequence of events (e.g. RAEME in Timor 1999 to 2011). **Past and present members of the Corps are encouraged to provide photographs of interest, together with short accounts of the events depicted in the photo or photos.**

The success of the book is highly dependent on good quality photographs being made available. The photographs in themselves should depict an interesting story, or specific activity, in which members of the Corps participated or led. However the written account, which underpins the photograph, is equally important and should focus on telling a story of the human element depicted of the photographed activity within the context of an historical event.

It is anticipated that a very readable and interesting publication can be produced if all the stories can be brought together coherently. Having said this, it is essential the accounts are accurate, have a historical underpinning and do not depict the narrow view of a single person.

For all potential contributors, a good theme to guide your story line will be to apply the 'Five Ws' to an incident, activity or event, which occurred during your service life and to tell the story in your own words. Think along the lines of: "What is the activity or event I am trying to depict; Who amongst my unit, mates or colleagues played a part in the event depicted in the

story and photographs; **Why** were they involved in the activity; **When** did the event occur and what was the broader context; and **Where** was the event located.”

Over the coming months more information will be provided, but as a starting point, look at the advice that will shortly be provided on the RAEME National Association Face Book page and the RAEME National Association website. When your story is ready, please send it to [raemeprojectbook@hotmail.com](mailto:raemeprojectbook@hotmail.com) where it will be checked for suitability and passed to the CHP Editor for further editorial changes to ensure it fits cohesively in the final book. Hard copy can be sent to:

*HOC Cell – RAEME  
Latchford Barracks  
BANDIANA, Vic, 3694*

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### “Letters From Timor”

Here is a book worth a read. One of our Corps colleagues, who changed Corps from RAEME to the Royal Australian Chaplaincy Corps, has written a book about his experiences in Timor. MAJ (Chaplain) Graeme Ramsden, deployed to Timor in 1999 and wrote “... prolifically and bluntly about his experiences to his family.” In the words of a review in the “Mildura Weekly” on 30 Sep 11, “...the book is well illustrated, but readers will find some of the images - and text - disturbing, a graphic reminder of the atrocities that ordinary people can carry out under mob rule. The destruction in Dili is well documented, there are pictures of mass graves, destroyed houses and market places, the house in Balibo where five Australian newsmen were shot as Indonesia invaded in October, 1975, a poignant funeral service, burnt-out school, a cathedral and church where people were slain, and groups of orphans.”

Graeme’s book also contains some very blunt observations about the coalition of countries who were involved in the deployment and for this reason alone it is a book very much worth a read. “Letters from Timor” is available through Big Sky Publishing.

**The RAEME National Association wishes to once again thank the Northern Golf Club, Glenroy, for its generosity in donating \$2000 towards “Spanner Pack” program.**

**Australia Day Awards 26 January 2012.** The following RAEME persons have received awards as follows:

- David “Bulldog” Martin. OAM in the Civilian Division for services to the community, in particular the Murray Valley Centre in Wodonga, Victoria.
- MAJ Keirin Joyce – Award of CSC for services to the ADF in the management of the UAV project.

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### **RAEME Badges and Artifacts for Sale. The Association’s Merchandising Officer, Bruce Hermann, advises that he has the following items for sale:**

- The last five bottles of the 2011 Craftsman Port – priced at \$20.00 each.
- RAEME Embroidered Patch. A special feature of these patches is that they are attached by three clasp pins, enabling simple transfer from jacket to coat or shirt – price at \$20.00, or \$18.00, for those eligible for a member’s discount. Quote your membership number to gain your discount..



- To complement the jacket with the above badge, Bruce has RAEME ties – priced at only \$27.50, or \$24.75 for those eligible for a member’s discount. Quote your membership number to gain your discount.



All items shown in the Catalogue will be available for sale at the Port Office Hotel on ANZAC Day.

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## VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- Craftsman James “Blue” Patrick O’Reilly passed away 12 Nov 11 after battling cancer.
- LTCOL Donald Stuart Heming passed away peacefully after a long illness 7 Sep 11.
- Maurice (Morrie) Melcher passed away in Dec 11 and was buried on 19 Dec 11.
- Alan Bensley (13th Appy) passed away on 20 Dec 11 after a long illness and his funeral was held in Gilgandra on 28 Dec 11.
- Sandy McHutchison passed away peacefully at a nursing home in Brisbane on 3 Jan 12.
- John Albert Bunker passed away peacefully on 9 Jan 12 at Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane.
- Sandy Remin was found deceased in his flat in Wodonga on 15 Jan 12 and was privately cremated.
- LTCCOL Newton Ellaby passed away on 27 Jan 12 in Casino NSW after a heart attack. He was buried in the Casino Lawn Cemetery, Reynolds St, Casino.
- Frank Maxwell (11th Appy) passed away on 20 Feb 12 from pancreatic cancer and was cremated at the Crematorium Chapel at Great Northern Garden of Remembrance, Deception Bay Road, Burpengary.
- George Joseph Gissane passed away in the Fremantle Hospital on 13 January 2012. George’s death was a result of malnutrition.

## WELFARE

- Joe Ottobriano – diagnosed with cancer. He underwent six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy treatment which commenced in November 2011.
- Bruno Kwas – has been into hospital for surgery for cancer and is now recovering at home well.

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**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Land Systems–Australia

## COMMUNICATION AND CONTACTS

**Progress on the Fair Indexation Bill – A Fight for Fair, Just and Equal Indexation.** This update from our Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) Representative, Peter Snowdon, gives our members a broad summary of the status of the current campaign. The DFWA believes the method of indexation, used to keep military superannuation payments in line with rises in the cost of living, is not fair, or just, or provides equity.

The DFWA exists solely for the purpose of promoting and protecting the interests of serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force, both full time and Reserve members. Full details of the role, purpose and its activities are explained fully in the DFWA website [www.dfw.org](http://www.dfw.org). All are encouraged to visit the website as there is a wealth of information, including the details of the following:

- DFWA Constitution;
- DFWA role and responsibilities;
- Support to partners and bereavement advice;
- Discussion on family issues; and
- Currently, detail on the indexation of superannuation campaign.

**Indexation of Superannuation.** This applies to all forms of Military Superannuation: DFRB; DFRDB; and MSBS. For 20 years now DFWA has been fighting for better indexation of Defence member’s superannuation to ensure that payments keep pace with the cost of living. Ever since the Government of the day in 1982 changed the content of the basket of goods, which make up the CPI (which is the measure upon which super payments are indexed), superannuation payments have been eroded and are falling further behind the cost of living.

Successive Governments have commissioned at least seven inquiries into the problem, but to date no improvement has been forthcoming. The latest inquiry, the Matthews’ Report, has provided recent advice that little improvement is required and the current CPI methodology is a good method of indexation. DFWA does not agree with these findings, and is actively lobbying for a better system, which will maintain the purchasing power of service pensions, with increases in the cost of living. DFWA prefers pensions to be indexed against the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) OR the

Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) OR the CPI, whichever is the GREATER!

DFWA believes service pensions are falling behind the above pension schemes. Consider this: In the last 20 years, politicians' super has increased by over 140%; aged pensions have increased by 130%; and our super has increased by only a paltry 70%. All DFWA is asking is that defence superannuation is indexed to the same as that used for the Aged Pension.

What has been done about the situation? From the DFWA perspective, quite a lot, but unfortunately the results have been very disappointing. This is mainly because the politicians do not generally reply to emails and letters sent to them or, if they do reply, it is usually couched in terms of government policy in which they attempt to tell us that the CPI is an appropriate form of indexation for our super.

What can you do about it? You can assist by:

- writing letters to your local member of Parliament and or your State Senator;
- writing letters to the editor of your local, State or National newspapers;
- contacting talk-back radio and make your comment when there is a discussion on the plight of pensioners; and
- explaining the situation to your friends and family and encouraging them to do any or all of the above.

Whatever you choose to do, make sure that you are always polite; rudeness will not do our cause any good at all. There will be ongoing updates in each Spanner News, on this and related subjects such as where the DFWA stands with Widows' Pensions, Disability Pensions and Commutation payback.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I attended the Corps Birthday at the Port Office Hotel in Nov 11, after an absence of some years, and would like to add my congratulations to that of others, on the first class work undertaken by the organisers. I'd also like to mention the staff of the Port Office Hotel, who ran a slick operation and made everyone feel welcome. It is a great event and certainly a good way to top-off a busy year. Having many of the HOC staff in attendance was also another highlight.

I want to continue the theme mentioned earlier in this Newsletter, on "what our Association does for you". In any calendar year the various sub-committee organise, or help organise, some 8 to 10 events or functions. In the last year, if the lecturing commitment at Enoggera and Oakey are added, it increases to around 15 or 16 activities – this is a lot for a small volunteer committee. Therefore if you participate, then we are very happy; if you enjoyed the function, well that is even better; but if you come back again and offer you support to assist us, then we are absolutely delighted.

The heart of our association is our people, who get involved in one way or another; and increasingly the support we are getting from our loyal sponsors.

The other key part of our Association is the people from the wider Corps whom we attract. Over the next few years, we will be seeking contributions to the Corps History Project from all members – recent and long-standing members; young and mature; Regular or Reservist, "Appy" or Adult Trainee or "Nasho". We want your stories and photos, so I commend the article on the fledgling Corps History Project to all readers – we want to hear what you did "in and for" the Corps.

I also need your contributions for this Newsletter – I am pleased to say that on this occasion I received too many contributions, so if you didn't see your contribution in print, then don't be too disappointed. We try to keep Spanner News to 12 pages and the articles relevant. I also like photos of your events and activities to make the newsletter more readable.

Please keep your contributions rolling in for 2012.

Regards,

Ross Grant AM  
Chairman of the Communications  
Committee  
[editor@raemeqld.org](mailto:editor@raemeqld.org)



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**RACQ**

**ADA Bulletin – Defence Brief.** The February Edition can be accessed on the relevant page of the ADA website at

<http://www.ada.asn.au/defencebrief.htm>

Topics covered in this four-page bulletin include:

- The public over-reaction to the interim report of the force posture review.
- The need for official reviews and think-tank studies of defence matters to be undertaken by cross-disciplinary teams.
- What Australian history teaches us about best developing prime-ministerial talent by career experience in key ministerial portfolios.
- Exposing the myth that the Defence portfolio “kills off” the careers of its ministers.
- Some background perspective to Stephen Smith’s continued and largely self-inflicted difficulties in the Defence portfolio.
- Slow-marching to a constitutional and institutional crisis in the Defence portfolio because the ADF leadership has had to continue insisting on proper civil control of the military by its minister.
- Why Stephen Smith’s troubled performance in the Defence portfolio needs to be particularly aired and discussed at this juncture.
- Irony Corner: The ADA apologises to Kevin Rudd for doubting he might have been an effective Minister for Defence.

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**RACQ**

## Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme

Defence is concerned about the impact to the health of current and former ADF members and APS employees who may have been exposed to asbestos in the course of their Defence employment.

Current serving and former ADF members, and APS employees, who believe they may have been exposed to asbestos and would like to have their asbestos-related medical status evaluated are encouraged to contact:

**1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)**

and register with the Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme.

More information can be located at:

Defence Internet

<http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/Asbestos/default.htm>

or Defence Intranet

<http://ohsc.defence.gov.au/Programs/Asbestos/default.htm>

October 27, 2011

## RAEME ASSOCIATION – QUEENSLAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012

### January

16<sup>th</sup> Management Meeting- Vic Barracks  
28<sup>th</sup> Spanner Packing- Buderim

### February

7<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting- Vic Barracks

### March

1<sup>st</sup> Army Birthday-Nationally  
6<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting- Vic Barracks  
25<sup>th</sup> Spanner Packing- Buderim

### April

3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly General Meeting- Vic Barracks  
20<sup>th</sup> Spanner Club - Enoggera  
25<sup>th</sup> ANZAC Day March- Brisbane CBD  
25<sup>th</sup> ANZAC Day Function-Port Office Hotel

### May

1<sup>st</sup> Monthly General Meeting-Vic Barracks  
6<sup>th</sup> 104 Fd Wksp Reunion-Bulimba

### June

10<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting-Bulimba  
10<sup>th</sup> AGM- Bulimba  
10<sup>th</sup> Apprentice Reunion- Bulimba  
29<sup>th</sup> RFD Cocktail Party-Vic Barracks  
30<sup>th</sup> RFD Recognition Ceremony-Bris ANZAC Square

### July

1<sup>st</sup> RFD Parade and Recognition Ceremony-Ipswich  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly General Meeting-Vic Barracks

### August

7<sup>th</sup> Monthly General meeting-Vic Barracks  
TBA RAEME Reserve Reunion

### September

4<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting-Vic Barracks  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunshine Coast Family Gathering

### October

2<sup>nd</sup> Monthly General meeting- Vic Barracks  
17<sup>th</sup> RAEME Corps Committee Meeting and All Ranks Bar-B-Q- Bandiana  
18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Corps Conference- Bandiana  
18<sup>th</sup> Officers Dinner- Bandiana  
19<sup>th</sup> WO/SNCO Dinner – Bandiana  
19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> 106 Fd Wksp Reunion –WA

### November


13<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting- Vic Barracks  
18<sup>th</sup> Spanner Packing- Buderim  
30<sup>th</sup> RAEME Birthday- Oakey  
30<sup>th</sup> RAEME Birthday- Enoggera

### December

1<sup>st</sup> RAEME Birthday-Nationally  
2<sup>nd</sup> RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon-Port Office Fix Restaurant


Notes:

1. October- Dinners maybe combined
2. Spanner Clubs- TBA



## Army Apprentices School

### Annual Reunion



**South East Queensland**

CELEBRATING 64 YEARS OF ARMY APPRENTICES  
1948 .....2012

**DATE:** Sunday, 10th June 2012  
(Queens's birthday w/end)

**VENUE:** Bulimba Barracks  
Quarry club  
The old Officer's/SGTS MESS (on the river)  
Apollo Road  
BULIMBA. BRISBANE

**TIME:** 1100 – 1600

**DRESS:** Casual

**CATERING:** There will be a "Sausage Sizzle" at lunch but feel free to bring your own. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for use.  
Drinks will be available at the bar.

The reunion is open to Ex-Apprentice's, their families, ex-members of staff any other personnel who were associated with Apprentice's and wish to renew old friendships.

If you know of any Ex-Apprentice's who may not be aware of the reunion taking place could you please make an effort to pass this information on, also if you have access to any means of advertising the reunion please feel free to do just that.

RSVP TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

Brian Daley  
1 Michael Street  
Bulimba QLD 4171  
Tel: (07) 3399 1300 A/H MOBILE 0412 721 761  
Email: bjdaley@hotmail.com.au

# RAEME Association Queensland Application for Membership / Renewal

New Membership  
Application

Existing Member

Member  
Number (If Known)

Title  Given Name  Surname  PostNoms

Spouse / Partner's Name

## Postal Address

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Line 2

Suburb/Town

State

Postcode

Country

## Contact Details

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Primary Email

Alternate Email

Life Subscription \$100

Annual Subscription \$10

No of Years

Total \$

## Payment Methods and Details

**EFT:** DEFCREDIT BSB: 803-205 Account Number: 20682037 Account Name: RAEME Association Queensland  
Member Number 82731 (For other DEFCREDIT Transfers only)

Please add your Surname and word 'Membership' in the reference box

Please email [treasurer@raemeqld.org](mailto:treasurer@raemeqld.org) to advise you have transferred the money

Cheque or Money orders made out to 'RAEME Association Queensland'

and send to: The Treasurer

RAEME Association Qld

PO Box 11

CANNON HILL QLD 4170

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