



RAEME ASSOCIATION – QUEENSLAND

SPANNER NEWS EDITION 3/12 SEP 12

CHAIRMAN'S DESK – SEPTEMBER 2012

As one of the silver foxes of the Corps, my time has come to move on as Chairman of the RAEME Association Queensland. It was a great honour and privilege to have been elected in the first place and have been your Chairman over the past few years. Nothing compares with this experience, and I would say, it has been the highlight of my career since joining the Corps in 1964. It is now time for me to allow a younger member of the Association to hold the reins for the next period of our development.

I will be stepping down at the AGM in November 2012. I would very much like to thank the many folk behind the scenes, who have made my job easy, and such a delight. These folk have assisted me greatly in meeting the many challenges of the Association on a daily basis. Like most organisations, it takes a reliable and cohesive team to make the Association tick and we are very fortunate to have such a team.

It is much too difficult and unfair to name all those people, who have helped on a daily basis, but may I single out the following for special thanks:

- Gary Sargent – the Association Secretary, who provides a constant and steady hand on the Association's records and provides unbounded friendship;
- Andrew Nicolson – the Association Treasurer, who always provides mature, timely and logical solutions and keeps a weather-eye on the Association's accounts;
- Ross Grant – a mentor who also brings experience from his time as a past Chairman;
- John Parfitt – our Association's Welfare Officer who is always there when you need him and keeps the communications channels open; and
- Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn- the ANZAC Day Chair, my travelling partner and most reliable sounding board.

It would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the tremendous support of the RAEME Associations across Australia and the unflinching support from past and present Heads of Corps. In my time as

Chairman, Brig McGahey, Brig Welsh and Brig Creagh and the team at the HOC Cell, particularly MAJ Graham Anderson, have been strong supporters of the regional associations and the development of the RAEME National Association. Without their support, the Associations would not be as strong and vibrant as they are today.

My thanks also goes to the many other members of the RAEME Queensland Association Committee, and loyal members, whose support is vital to the Association future. Just on this note, it is critical that you continue to support this great organisation and I urge you to do so into the exciting future of this great Corps and Association.

The RAEME National Association is one of the unique organisations within the Corps and I am confident it will continue indefinitely as long as we have our people behind us – both serving and retired. I encourage all individuals and RAEME groups to become affiliated with the national association through their state and territory associations. As we all know there is strength in numbers and I know we are valued by the Head of Corps and the Colonels' Commandants.

For the period 2012/13 I will remain as the President of the RAEME National Association and the plan is then for me to step down after the Corps Committee Meeting 2013. Thank you one and all. Your support is, and always will be, greatly valued and forever appreciated.

Regards and best wishes for the future

Raymond G. Norman OAM
Chairman 07 5476 6254
chairman@raemeqld.org



Chairman Raymond, and His Most Loyal Supporter, Karen, on Holidays Recently in the UK

FROM THE COL COMDT

As usual the year is rushing past and before you know, it will be time again for the Corps' birthday celebrations. This 70th anniversary year, being a significant milestone.

As I mentioned at last year's SE Qld Birthday Celebration, the ADF continues to suffer from a double whammy of overseas operations winding down and an environment of budget constraints and reductions across Defence. The Army will not escape lightly from these budgetary restrictions. Introduction of new equipment capabilities are likely to slow significantly, with the flow on effects of Army being asked to do more with less.

For the foreseeable future, the reliance on our Corps will increase noticeably. We will be required to maintain and manage the availability of ageing platforms, systems and equipment in increasingly difficult times. This will call for ingenuity and commitment on our part, but I have no doubt that our serving members will respond in their typical "bring it on" and "get on with the job" attitude that has become the hallmark of our reputation. Personally, I believe this challenging environment is a great opportunity to continue to build our reputation, while providing Commanders' with serviceable and reliable equipment assets and sound advice to enable them to complete their tasks / training / mission, whatever that may be.

With unit budgets so tight this year, the HOC made a difficult decision to cancel the corps conference. The Corps Committee will however meet as usual in mid-October. Among many agenda items to be discussed will be the Corps History Project. The CHP is gaining momentum and the project team is enthusiastically embracing the tasks and activities required to formally launch and implement the project. With endorsement from the Corps Committee in October, the project is aiming to have the history published by late 2013. This is very exciting and has/will involve a tremendous amount of effort from all involved.

I again urge all of you that have an interesting story or anecdote about a corps member, sub-unit or unit to submit it soon. All the details regarding submission of these stories are to be found within the RAQ website. A picture and 1500 words, in a simple caption format is all you need.

This will also be a great chance for all those out there, who believe that our Corps' exploits have been unrecognised, or overlooked, for some time, to get a story to the editors for inclusion in the eventual book – no matter how old the story. This publication

promises to be a cracking read and become a collector's item not only to serving and ex-serving corps members, but all those that have been associated with the Corps.

Finally, if you have an opportunity to attend a Corps birthday activity in 2012, may I encourage you to do so. They are always well organised, well attended and enjoyable and you are sure to meet someone you know. I look forward to seeing you there.

Arte et Marte

Richard Kluckhohn
Colonel
Commandant – Queensland
rkluckho@bigpond.net.au



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our membership has improved marginally this last quarter, but we still have a few outstanding renewals of subscriptions. So please get your subscriptions into the treasurer as soon as possible.

Don't forget we have streamlined the application process and it is working well, but please remember we also require a positive response, when renewing membership, that you wish to continue receiving relevant and pertinent information from your Association, whether by e-mail, 'snail' mail, or any other medium. Please tick the box on the membership form if you wish to continue receiving information. Without putting any pressure on you, a negative or non-response MAY affect HOW we send you further information. Remember it is all about the Association complying with privacy legislation and anti-spam rules. We take your privacy seriously, and in return, you need to let us know you are happy with how we are doing things.

Stu Bowles
Membership Committee
asstmembership@raemeqld.org

REPORTS ON RECENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Spanner Club at 7 CSSB – 27 July 2012. SGT Torben Pedersen provides the latest update on the recent Spanner Club event held at the 7 CSSB Borlace Club.

I want to start by thanking the large number of sponsors who gave freely of their time, provided raffle prizes and equipment displays to make the

afternoon a great success – it was appreciated by the organisers and the large number of attendees.

In this regard, special thanks must go to Aussie Auto, Eco Flow Exhausts, ADCU, Vertical Horizon, Austscapes, Mild to Wild, Tools Direct, Hairlogists and UV 4X4 for providing the very generous number of raffle prizes for the day. An extra special thank you must go to CFN James ‘Jim’ Donovan for being the driving force for the activity and organising all the sponsors and encouraging them to be part of the day.

I’d like to report that a “Fitter”, WO2 Brian Morris, won the very special prize provided by Eco Flow Exhausts, courtesy of Bruce ‘Gonzo’ Agate, in the form of ‘Pit Crew for a day’ on his Toyota Aurion 2JZ-GTE 3.2 litre 6 cylinder 1324 KW methanol drag car.

We also had a “blast from the past” in the form of good old RAEME scrub-basher, REMUS ROVER, making its presence felt, especially when its engine started, and the air reverberated with a wonderful noise coming from the ‘slightly’ modified Land Rover engine and exhaust. It reminded some of the good old days when it was tearing up the scrub tracks. Many people unfamiliar with REMUS had their interest piqued by the possibility of being able to support or work on it and possibly seeing it race again. Come on RAEME, C’mon, C’mon, and let’s get the old girl humming again. You can befriend REMUS and follow its exploits on Face book.



CFN Jim Donovan’s Photograph of REMUS Being Discussed Earnestly

Amongst the frivolities of the day many an ale was consumed and the atmosphere was enjoyable for all. Many tales were told, and many ears were “bent”, of years gone by and what the future may hold for individuals, and the Corps. Many had a chance to catch up with friends, or acquaintances from previous service or postings, rekindling the service networks we all hear about in trade promotion courses – they are valuable. Indeed, new networks were forged through association with the sponsors, providing RAEME members with diversified advice.

Suggesting avenues for experience, supply of critical services and general knowledge.

All in all it was a successful day further supported by representatives from the RAEME Association Queensland; and Colonel Richard Kluckholn, Colonel Commandant Queensland Region, who applauded the terrific turn-out and explained his pride in the conduct of the Corps in today’s operational environment. He also encouraged everyone to consider contributing to the RAEME Corps Fund and to get behind the Corps History Project (CHP). All information is on the RAEME Homepage on the intranet, through the information section, and the RAEME Face book.

Details of the contribution rates are as follows:

- CFN to SGT – \$1.00 per pay, \$26 annually;
- WO2 to CAPT – \$1.50 per pay, \$39 annually; and
- MAJ+ to BRIG – \$2.00 per pay, \$50 annually.

Finally, my thanks to all the support staff and people involved in organising and running the day and we look forward to seeing you at the next Spanner Club.

RAEME Res/CMF Reunion 2012. John Parfitt has provided the following report on the recent reunion at the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch on 19 August. Approximately 50 people attended including former RAEME, Infantry and Transport personnel and their partners. Although the numbers were down on previous functions, everyone appeared to have a great day with much reminiscing and swapping of stories bringing the event to life.

We had the support of three Sub-Branch members who manned the bar and gave assistance with the catering. The help of these members, George Krishna who has served at Bulimba Workshops (ex RAEME), Mick Rockett a former 6 RAR member and Roscoe Garry (ex 25 RQR), was very much appreciated.

Those attending had the opportunity of enjoying some entertainment. This consisted of a slideshow played on the TV with photos from previous Reunions, a video of a Trooping of the Colour for the Queen’s Birthday Parade in 2009, and of all things, after a request from one member, a segment from the James Last Orchestra. I can hear most of you saying “Who the heck is James Last”. Maybe you will have to Google him!

Mention must be made of the partners of the committee members and in particular, committee

member, Errolyn McKenna, for their work ensuring the success of the function.

The raffles were well supported with some lovely prizes being donated. A very pleased Janet Dawson won the much-coveted RAEME Cane. Unfortunately there is only one donated each year so if you haven't been successful come along next year and try again.



The Raffle Underway at the Reunion

Corps History Project (CHP). The Corps History Project (CHP) has made significant progress in the last three months culminating in a meeting of the project teams from Victoria and Queensland on Saturday 15 Sep 12 at Enoggera's Blamey Barracks, courtesy of 20 STA Regt, and MAJ Keirin Joyce, to discuss progress and re-align our work effort as a team.

While the intent of the project still remains to celebrate the achievements of individuals, sub-units and units of RAEME Corps during warlike, non-warlike operations and peacetime training activities, a number of changes have been made to our approach to gathering articles and photographs for the book.

As you know, the project team have been encouraging members of the Corps, both past and present, to write articles and contribute photographs. However because many are reticent, the decision has been taken to assist some contributors, simplify the submission process and ramp up the publicity. The CHP Book will also be officially launched at the 70th Anniversary Luncheon on 1 Dec 12, in Brisbane; and at the Corps Dinner at the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School, on 30 Nov 12. In addition, the meeting will recommend to the HOC, the use of additional resources to undertake targeted interviews of individuals as part of an oral history initiative.

Given the other important aspect of the project 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 was also decided to facilitate the following initiatives:

- Continue to support the current development of a RAEME National Association website with the help of two members of the Corps providing the grunt and expertise. In time, this more complete website will link all other "RAEME" websites including the RAEME Face Book. This will be a major step forward, but in the interim, go to www.raeme.org.au and click on the Facebook banner for details of how to get your stories to the project team.
- Continue to support the CHP face book site, in particular for the younger members of the Corps, and enhance the promotional work with more simple messages. Remember the email address for contributions is raemebookproject@hotmail.com.
- Focus the author in the early stages of the project on writing the opening chapter about the history of the Corps up to the Vietnam campaign, while concurrently editing individual contributions as they are submitted.
- Continue evolving the "straw man" tabled at the meeting, which is based on the "Army in Profile" publication. The meeting were delighted with the format proposed and believe it is a very sound way to develop the final "coffee table" book.
- Finalise a production and publishing schedule for the book, which sees the official launch being on or around the various RAEME Birthdays events across Australia, with a deadline for all individual articles and photographs being 1 Apr 13. It is our intention to publish the book to coincide with RAEME Birthday celebration 1 Dec 13.
- Undertake a "self-publishing" exercise and manage the distribution along the same lines as the Annual Corps Port program coordinated by the RAEME HOC Cell and using the RAEME Regional representatives to get the book to those who purchased a copy.
- Undertake an exercise to obtain funding from private and corporate donors to offset the costs of writing and publishing the book and keep the cost of the book down. It is hoped that the RAEME National Association may assist in this regard.
- Increase the promotional activities over the next six months including a feature article about the CHP in the next issue of the "Craftsman" magazine to tie in with the 20th Anniversary of the publication of the "Craftsman" and the HOC writing to all RAEME Regional Reps seeking their support for contributions.
- Investigate the ability to undertake the collection of oral histories, and converting these histories into stories for the book, by seeking funding from the AWM and Dept of VA.

- Seek suitable photographs or artwork that could be used on the front cover of the book – it was agreed that ideally a new contemporary scene of RAEME in action like the Vietnam era operational scene, would be a good selling point. Action is underway via the CHP Promotions Team to elicit suitable photos from Corps members who have been on operations – see more below.
- Finally, the team will target some members of the Corps who have been involved in particular operations or activities which have built the reputation of the Corps in Recent years and seek their contributions.

A number of other initiatives were agreed to but critically we ask our readers to remember you all have a stake in this book and we want your stories and photos – any stories. If you have a story, with good supporting photos, then send them to raemeprojectbook@hotmail.com. Hard copy can also be sent to:

HOC Cell – RAEME
Latchford Barracks
BANDIANA, Vic, 3694

See the flyer at the back of this edition of the Newsletter for more detail.

Ross L.G. Grant

Operation Spanner Pack – June 2012. Here are the latest responses to the recent Spanner Pack distribution:

Sir,
 My name is CFN Noble, from SOER. Currently I am deployed with MTF-5, in FOB Mirwais Afghanistan. I am 1/3 way through my deployment and I recently received a spanner pack. I just wanted to say thanks to all involved for getting the packs to me and the boys spread throughout Afghanistan. Your efforts are much appreciated,
 CFN L. NOBLE

G'day Sir
 My name is Maciej and I am an electronics technician currently serving with 3RAR TG in Afghanistan. This is just a quick email to say thank you for the Spanner Pack that we received recently. I and the other boffins really enjoyed the package and all the goodies inside. The spanner hat and the Allens lollies were the biggest hit in our workshop. Thanks,
 CFN Filipinski

Sir,
 My name is CFN Mark Andrews; I am one of the Vehicle Mechanics currently deployed to East Timor with TLTG-4. I am a reservist from 8 CSSB in Sydney. This is my second deployment, having deployed to the Solomon Islands in 2009 in Op Anode.

Thank you for the Spanner Packs that were sent to us, they were greatly appreciated and are a great initiative by the RAEME Association. I know that all the other members of the CSST from other Corps were quite jealous of us when they arrived. The stubbie cooler was my favourite item and was put to great use on ANZAC Day. Thanks,
 CFN Mark Andrews

A Labour of Love from Afghanistan. No doubt the followings story will be featured in other publications, but it deserves to be published widely, so an excerpt is included here for our local readership. It clearly demonstrates the pride and initiative our serving soldiers display when on operations. The Association received the following story from WO2 Jason Beale. The photos tell you much, but the story that follows really warms the heart.

“Thank you for your interest in the construction of what we now call the "Corps Centrepiece". Until this term was coined by COL Evans, the sculpture / structure shown below did not really have a name, or a clearly identified purpose, other than to demonstrate esprit de corps for those of us deployed in Afghanistan. We have now adopted the name .and think the structure or sculpture would look good back in Australia some day.

The “Corps Centrepiece” was constructed in Camp Russel, Tarin Kowt, between December 2011 and July 2012. Up to this time, each Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) workshop rotation manufactured a plaque to mark their deployment, and these plaques hang in the General Engineering shed. The plaques have become something of a tradition, and each one is unique, creative and novel.





Corps “Centre Piece” Under Construction

Our team (rotation XVII) took a different approach and constructed an item which is unmistakably RAEME! The "Horse Forcene" was built by CPL Mark Wood. It was his original idea, and he did almost all of the work designing, scrounging and fabricating the finished article. Many a frosty evening was spent in the General Engineering shed of the SOTG, during Rotation XVII, tacking and tweaking the evolving form. It was built from hand tools, weapon parts, vehicle components, recovery tackle and all manner of random engineering artefacts and appropriately, its heart is a turbocharger.



CPL Mark Wood at Work

Unfortunately CPL Wood returned to Australia, due to a family matter and was unable to see his idea through to completion. However, SGT Andrew Williams took up the task of continuing the build. The "globe of the world" was conceived by SGT Williams, and is fashioned from steel wire rope wrapped around a form cut from steel plate.

It does not feature the traditional continents; rather it sports a representation of the Southern Cross made from sheet metal. SGT Williams (assisted by CPL Anthony Lia) also fabricated the "Lightning Flash" based on a CAD model, generated by me.

The structure is mounted on a fabricated steel "pallet" which enables it to be easily moved by a forklift. This is both a convenience (it can be positioned anywhere it is needed) and problematic (it was stolen, and damaged, on one occasion by a jealous member of another corps). Although not completed (the sculpture still requires a crown, a coronet, a scroll and a chain), it has been photographed extensively and used at a number of important events.

All who have seen the structure produced by CPL Wood and SGT Williams have asked: "What are you going to do with it?" This is also true of all the SOTG workshop deployment plaques. The obvious answer is to get them back to Australia and display them in an appropriate location. Much needs to be done to achieve that aim but I am confident that RAEME will prevail!



“Horse Forcene” In Tie-Down Mode

Ed Note. I have asked WO2 Beale for good photos and stories, from his team’s time in Afghanistan, in particular photos of members of the Corps in action, similar to the current Corps Painting from the Vietnam era, which could be used for the CHP Book, in particular for the cover.

This request extends to all members of the Corps who have a contemporary depiction of the Corps on recent

operations – it doesn't just have to be in Afghanistan. So look in your digital or hard copy cameras, memory sticks and albums and find suitable pictures, which should be sent to WO1 Nick Rees at nick.rees@defence.gov.au. He will collate them and assist the Corps Committee to select the best for the cover of the book.

COMING EVENTS



RAEME 70th Birthday All Ranks Luncheon 2 Dec 2012. It is getting close to that time of the year again – celebrations for the Corps Birthday and the launch of the Corps History Project.

All our members are invited, together with your partner and guests, to attend the FIX Restaurant in the Port Office Hotel for the 70th RAEME Corps Birthday Luncheon, at 1200 hrs 2nd December 2012.

This celebration is always a very special occasion, but this year with the launch of the Corps History Project, it promises to offer a bit more for attendees. We will also be joined by many of our sponsors of Spanner Pack as well as recent returned veterans, whom we would like you to meet.

The Port Office Hotel opens especially for us on this day and we have exclusive use of the premises. However, numbers are restricted to one hundred and twenty diners, so you need to book early for this very popular event in our calendar. We hope the Head of Corps will have time to join us together, with our COL COMDT Queensland Region, COL Richard Kluckhohn.

To make a booking, simply send an email to rgnorman1944@gmail.com with your contact details and number of seats required. Tables of eight or ten are available. The cost will be advised shortly, but we believe the cost for financial members and partners will be approximately \$55 to \$60 per head, and non-members, approx \$70 per head. If we can manage it we will try and provide some refreshments on the day courtesy of the RAEME Assoc Qld.

You should note this is one benefit you derive from being a member of the Association, at just \$10 a year, or \$100 for a life subscription. This would be a saving of at least \$20 on the day. Please go to www.raemeqld.org for membership application forms. Completing this form will save you \$290 on the day. Please note payment must be made by 1 Nov 12. Dress for the day is smart casual.

Raymond Norman

Army Apprentices School Balcombe Barracks Commemoration – 2013. This event is planned for 3rd to 5th May 2013, at Balcombe, in the area of Mace Oval and adjacent to the old Army Apprentices School parade ground.

This commemoration is a joint project involving the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and the Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) and supported by the other Balcombe unit associations / representatives. The relative new Balcombe Grammar School (it's located up behind the old Metal Trades area) is also a very willing participant and has offered some of their facilities to assist us.

Between now and May 2013 the task is to refurbish existing heritage pieces, principally the Gates on Nepean Highway, and to produce story boards for all of the units / training schools, including the 1st Division United States Marine Corps, so the public can be better informed about where this precinct fits in with the military heritage of Mornington Peninsula region. The USMC Association are aware of and supports the project.

Coupled with this major event, other activities include a Meet and Greet, a celebratory dinner, and a remembrance service at the Mornington War Memorial following a short march through Mornington.

This will be a big event for all those who served as students or staff at one time or another, thus bookings are essential – as usual, first come first served.

Initial details and a registration form are available to be downloaded from the AAAA website www.austarmyapprentice.org in the "what's new section". I strongly suggest that you make your bookings early.

Frank Maloney
AAAA Events
0418 728 181
frmal@bigpond.com

106 Fd Wksp 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

VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- Leslie Hyde, passed away peacefully in St John's Hospital in Subiaco, WA, in the early hours of Tuesday 3 Jul 12.
- Vincent Paul Olivieri, 14th Vehicle Mechanic passed away peaceful on 14 Jul 12. Vince spent most of his career in RAEME Aviation through 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron and was posted to Vietnam with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt.
- John Curtis, RAEME Association WA, stalwart and editor of the "Horse's Mouth", passed away recently.
- Clyde Cook lost his battle with a bad infection and passed away on 25 Jul12 in his home at age 81.
- Ian McGrath, passed away in 28 Jul 12 after a long illness.
- Peter Burns, 10th Intake Apprentice, passed away in August 2012.
- Colin Hill, passed away last 9 Aug 12.
- Bruce Williams, Life Member RAEME Association Victoria, passed away peacefully on 15 Aug 12 after a long battle with cancer.
- Ted Spargo passed way on 2 Sep 12, from prostate cancer.
- David George Polwarth, 34th Technician Electronics Systems, passed away on 19 Sep 12.
- John (Chips) Shay, 20th Vehicle Mechanic, passed away in Brisbane 21 Sep 12, after a long battle with cancer.

ED Note. When providing details of the passing of our friends and colleagues, please provide as a minimum the location, date of passing and details of the cause of death – some reports are a little sparse. To place welfare notices in the Spanner News please contact:

Mr John Parfitt
Welfare Officer
RAEME Association Queensland
Or send them to:
welfare@raemeqld.org



TRADITIONS, FACTS AND FIGURES

The Ceremony of the "Inspection of the Guard of Honour". Have you ever wondered how many of our customs and traditions started given the importance they play in Army life? Take, for example, the familiar ceremony of the "Inspection of the Guard of Honour".

We have all seen the Inspecting Officer arrive and pass along the ranks, in some cases it seems, displaying very little interest in the soldiers he is inspecting. Actually the ceremony originated in circumstances, which compelled the Inspecting Officer to not only make a close scrutiny of every man's face, but to be ready for an attempt on his life as he passed along the ranks.

Evidently it happened this way. When King Charles II returned to England to claim the Throne, one of Cromwell's cavalry regiments decided to switch its allegiance to the King. The regiment was encamped at Reading, and on hearing that His Majesty had landed, the commanding officer dispatched one of his squadrons to meet the King and beg leave to serve under the Crown.

When contact was made, the squadron commander explained the purpose of his mission. The King was more than a little suspicious, but lack of courage was not one of his shortcomings. Leaving his coach, and accompanied by only one attendant, he strode forward to the squadron drawn up on the side of the road. Charles passed slowly along the ranks, keenly scutinising each man's face to determine his attitude from his facial expression. Satisfied with his inspection, Charles accepted the squadron commander's offer of allegiance and ordered him to act as his escort on the journey to London.

In making this and similar inspections King Charles little knew that he was establishing a custom that was to come down through the centuries, though it has long since ceased to be performed with any vestige of its original purpose.

When Charles accepted the allegiance of the Coldstream Regiment, the unit was drawn up in two ranks. The command "present your weapons for service under His Majesty" was given, whereupon every man, in accordance with a rehearsed exercise, held forward at arm's length, and at the "high port" position, his musket or his pike. The order "ground your weapons" was then given, followed by "in his Majesty's cause, recover your weapons".

The King was so pleased with this ceremony of surrendering weapons into his service that he ordered the "Present Arms" to be a feature of all future inspections as a mark of respect. It was not until 1917, however, that the position of the musket was changed from the "high port" to the present position in the "Present Arms".

Army Apprentices School (AAS) – Some Facts and Figures. The following facts and figures were kindly provided by LTCOL Wally Rotow (Rtd) and will be of interest to all who attended the AAS:

- **Number of Tradesmen Enlisted.** 9,296 young men and women enlisted into the Australian Army for service as Army Apprentices.
- **Non-graduates.** 1783 did not graduate, which included 25 apprentices who died whilst at AAS, but with 446 non-graduates going on to serve in the Regular Army.
- **Graduates.** 7513 apprentices graduated into the following trades:

- Architectural Draughtsman – 12
- Blacksmith – 61
- Bricklayer – 52
- Carpenter and Joiner – 781
- Clerk – 118
- Electrical Fitter – 335
- Electrical Mechanic – 365
- Electrician – 88
- Fitter and Turner – 1213
- Musician – 385
- Plumber – 287
- Radio Mechanic/Electronic Tradesman – 1584
- Vehicle Mechanic – 2224
- Welder – 8

- **Female Apprentices.** 115 female Army Apprentices were enlisted, of whom 49 did not graduate. For those who did graduate, their trades were:

- Electronics – 32
- Vehicle Mechanic – 28
- Fitter and Turner – 5
- Carpentry – 1
- One is now a Major, two are Captains and three have reached WO2.

- **Operational Service.** Many Army Apprentices have participated on overseas operational service, both warlike and non-warlike. Some Apprentices have been on multiple operations. The number of individual Apprentices who have partaken in all these operations totals 2561. Details are as follows:

- Afghanistan – 288
- Bougainville – 255
- Borneo – 198
- Sinai – 29
- Iraq – 227
- Korea – 34
- Malaya – 271
- Middle East – 18

- Balkans – 8
- Rhodesia – 5
- Rwanda – 40
- Solomon Islands – 94
- Somalia – 43
- Thai/Malay Border – 39
- Timor – 678
- Pakistan – 7
- Cambodia – 138
- Namibia – 131
- Vietnam – 1125 (includes 71 non-graduates)
- Western Sahara – 12
- Ethiopia – 2
- Mozambique – 3
- Sudan – 2

Note: These figures include 145 non-graduates who partook in 205 operations.

- **Officers.** 762 Apprentices later reached officer rank. This includes:

- 36 non-graduates.
- 6 padres in that total.
- 711 WO1s and 765 WO2s.

- **In the higher ranks** there have been:

- 1 x Lieutenant General
- 5 x Brigadiers
- 21 x Colonels
- 109 x Lieutenant Colonels

At the time of compiling this data and information, only 591 Apprentices remain in uniform – 351 in the ARA and 240 in the ARES.

COMMUNICATION AND CONTACTS

Progress on the Fair Indexation Bill – A Fight for Fair, Just and Equal Indexation. This update from our DFWA Representative, Peter Snowdon, gives our members a broad summary of the status of the current campaigns.

It has been a busy few months for DFWA since the last Newsletter. Unfortunately it has been “much ado about nothing”, in as much as we have fought and fought the Government on a number of fronts, but to date we haven’t achieved a better form of indexation for Defence Superannuation. Once more into the breach...!

There has been no success either on the question of the full flow-on of the disability pension. In 2007 when the Civilian Disability Pension was increased to 27.5% of the Average Wage, military Disability Pensions were held at 25%, a loss of some \$3000 pa. You could ask: “What is the difference between the

two disabled people – one in uniform and one in civvies?”

OP Aware 1 was conducted to coincide with the release of information related to the 3% increase in parliamentarians pay, to contrast that increase with the very poor 0.1%. CPI increase on service pensions For the “pollies”, this was a an average of \$50,000 pa, or \$960 per week increase compared to pension increases of roughly 0.47 cents!

OP Aware 1 was also conducted in selected electorates and consisted of placards, leaflets and a letter handed to the sitting member of Parliament. Not much publicity was achieved, unfortunately, because our campaign is not newsworthy enough, but at least the message is being given to Local Members.

OP Aware 2 was conducted in mid August with a lot higher profile with the offices of marginal Labor seats being targeted, again with limited success.

Letters continue to be written to those in power, interviews are being conducted on radio and television with the biggest on “Your Say” where the PM was asked questions on camera by members of the public. This included questions from the President of the DFWA, David Jamison. The PM gave the usual Party Line, full of government provided figures, but the worst part was the Moderator cut David off mid-sentence, when he tried to further quiz the PM. A poor episode and even though the organisers apologised, it was a lost opportunity.

OP Aware 2 was held as planned and from all reports it was successful with a lot of support being shown by passing pedestrians and motorists. Placards were to the fore, and leaflets on our grievance, were handed out and very well received. Even some sitting Labor members and/or their staff, when approached, were sympathetic. More action is being planned during the build up to the next Federal election.

Finally, again a plea for your help. Please consider joining the DFWA, if you haven’t already done so. Without your help DFWA cannot do its job and fight for your rights. The Association exists for both Regular and Reserve personnel. Join as an ordinary member and or as someone who is willing to help.

Check out the website www.standto.org and join today...please. It really is in your interest to do so.

You could also write to your local Federal MP, regardless of their party affiliations, and put our case. The more letters the better. I would ask that

you are always polite (and I know you will be), but some letters have been disrespectful and I am sure you will agree that it doesn’t help our case.

Peter Snowdon
pm.snowdon@bigpond.com

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

The last quarter has been very busy for your Association’s Committee, who have started planning for some changes to the management of your Association. Many of these changes and other equally important considerations, will be tabled at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, to be held on 13 Nov 12. This is also an important opportunity for you to participate in your Association’s decision-making processes and play a part in its future.

It is fair to say that issues of incorporation, Association executive positions, improving the management of membership, funding for the future, the relationship with the RAEME National Association, the work of the Corps History Project Team and improving the local and state association websites are all items on the agenda. You may wish to add others, so please come along and contact the Secretary, Gary Sargent, on secretary@raemeqld.org

Most importantly we have to replace Chairman Ray, with as he says “...a younger member of the Association to hold the reins for the next period of our development.” As I write, Ray is returning from a well earned holiday having recovered well from his recent triple bypass and the recuperation period that followed.

Most importantly, may I put on my other Association hat, organising the project team to compile the next Corps history. This is being undertaken by the RAEME National Association, on behalf of the HOC, BRIG Creagh (soon to be BRIG Andrew Mathewson). May I encourage you to dig deep and search for photos from your past, write a simple story and get them to the HOC Cell before 1 Apr 13. The format of the book is now agreed and I can assure you with the addition of your stories and photos it will sell fast.

If you want to donate to the project, or know someone that does, please get them to contact me directly at the address below.

Ross Grant AM
Chairman of the Comms Committee
commschair@raemeqld.org



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The Museum of Australian Army Flying at Army Airfield Oakey is holding its "Annual Fly-In" on 6th and 7th October 2012.

Warbirds & current military aircraft, classic cars, classic motor-bikes, military vehicles. A great family day out with free parking and food stalls. Entry details are as follows:

- Adults - \$500 entry.
- Children free if under 12 years.

See more detail at
<http://www.161recceft.org.au/MAAF/Homepage.htm> OR Ring 07 4577 7666.

RAEME REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES 2012

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ACT DOCM-A CA - RAEME MAJ Elizabeth Stevens, Russell Offices, Russell, ACT. 02 6265 5777

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WESTERN REGION 13 CSSB S3 OPS MAJ David Goldsworthy Irwin Barracks, WA. 08 9269 4305

RAEME NEEDS



To all past and present members of RAEME,

You may not be aware but RAEME has entered its seventieth year of service to the ADF. To celebrate this achievement, I have asked the newly established RAEME National Association to take the lead in developing a new pictorial history of the Corps. This publication will build upon and complement the original history, “Craftsmen of the Australian Army-The Story of RAEME”, published in 1992.

The key difference this time is the RAEME story will be told from your perspective in a pictorial form.

We want you to help us tell the RAEME story by submitting your photos and stories. I have heard many amazing stories from past and present members of the Corps and it is time we used them to tell the world about our contribution to the ADF. What makes RAEME unique is the skill, resourcefulness and innovation of its members and who better to tell that story than you. We want you to share your stories and photos from your experiences at home and aboard both past and current, operational and non-operational.

Clearly the success of the book is highly dependent on the quality of photos and stories submitted. I encourage you to ensure they depict an interesting story, or specific activity, in which members of the Corps participated or more importantly led. Equally important is the written account that underpins the photo. The written component of your submission should focus on telling the story of the human element depicted in the photographed event. I am confident readers are interested in what you have to say, so don't hide your stories under a bushel.

Try and keep your submission to around 1500 words, but please ensure your submission covers the who, what, where and why of the event/activity pictured. The photo you submit also needs to be of sufficient quality for publication.

Closing date for submissions is 1st April 2013 but please start writing now! Submissions can be sent to HOC-RAEME Cell directly at raemebookproject@hotmail.com in an editable electronic form (.rtf, .doc, .txt), but they can also be provided in “hard copy” form. More information is available on RAEME Facebook and the RAEME National Association website at www.raeme.org.au

The success of this new RAEME history rests with you so get writing!

BRIG David Creagh, AM