



**RAEME ASSOCIATION – QUEENSLAND**

**SPANNER NEWS  
EDITION 4/13  
7 DEC 13**

**CHAIRMAN’S DESK**

Greetings to all our RAEME QLD members. As we draw close to the end of another successful year, I would like to thank all members, both new and long term, for the wonderful support that the Association has enjoyed throughout 2013. Support to the Association comes in many forms including: routine attendance at the events organised by your committee; financial support to assist in the subsidisation of events; participation as committee members in all manner of activities; and work as sub-committee members organising our association’s administration and special projects.

Sub-committees are appointed from time to time to undertake special or focused tasks, which usually require significant planning, and later, execution to achieve our desired outcomes. One such task in 2013 was the incorporation process, which saw Peter Snowdon appointed as sub-committee chair, to oversee the process and coordinate the work of others together to ensure the association successfully gained incorporation. Peter was able to draw from a rich pool of experience within our membership to form his working group. The outcome was successful and RAEME Assoc Queensland Inc was born. Thank you Peter, Max, Ray, Gary, Ross and others who contributed to the work. A job well done!

Two loyal committee members organize our major functions, ANZAC Day and the RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon. The first event is organised by Ian Hartshorn, and the second, is organised by Raymond Norman. Both deserve acknowledgement for their outstanding efforts which are clearly indicated by the success of each activity. A common theme in these events is the availability and support of the Port Office Hotel, which I am happy to say, continues to grow in importance and remain critical to the success of our Association’s celebratory life.

RAEME Association–QLD Inc has enjoyed the support of many other individuals and organisations, including our current and previous Heads of Corps. May I offer my thanks to BRIG Andrew Mathewson, BRIG Dave McGahey, CSC, BRIG Dave Creagh, AM, CSC, and our Patron, BRIG Ross Grant, AM (Rtd).

Next year will bring new challenges for all of us. I particularly refer to our younger members, who are still serving in RAEME, including the changes in service they will experience as the Army draws down from operations. As an association with considerable numbers of retired members, who have been through these difficult times before, may I suggest we are uniquely placed to assist those still serving, but perhaps, considering their futures? I encourage you to offer what assistance or guidance where you can; or if you know of a situation or difficulty, which is arising, please raise it with one of the committee or our Welfare Member John Parfitt.

Lastly to our members, thank you for our continued support. Both Suzanne and I wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas. We will be enjoying a relaxed time in Fiji for seven days & probably experiencing some internet connectivity issues!

Keep Well

Kind regards,

**Jeff Maurice**  
**Chairman**  
**Mob 0404 033 324**  
[\*\*chairman@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:chairman@gmail.com)



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**MEMBERSHIP**

On taking up the appointment as Membership member, I firstly want to thank Ray Norman for fulfilling the duties over the past many months. I’d also like to thank Ray for his excellent guidance to the team, especially given the number of hats he wears or has worn on behalf of the Association! It has really been an exceptional effort.

I also appreciate the detailed handover Ray has provided – I’m sure my time as membership member is going to be made much easier as a result of his efforts. I would also like to thank the team that works so closely together to ensure that membership administration “just seems to happen”, including Desley Lingard - Assistant Membership Member, Ian Leabeater - Treasurer and Gary Sargent – Secretary – thanks guys and I hope that you continue the great work. I look forward to emulating your efforts to date.

The RAEME Association–QLD has continued to grow over the last few months with several new members signing up. As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013, we have issued 479 memberships consisting of:

- Life subscribers 282
- Financial Yearly Members 44
- Non-Financial Yearly Members 130

The non-financial member numbers may seem large but this is because they are made up of military personnel, who signed up whilst posted to Qld, and then let their membership expire, when they were posted interstate. The membership team will continue to make contact with these members in an attempt to renew their membership.

Critically, the committee will continue to promote the Association at events like the Spanner Clubs held at Gallipoli Barracks and elsewhere, in an attempt to attract more members. If anyone has ideas that may assist in getting the word out to misplaced members of our CORPS, please get in touch with me – all ideas are welcome. Remember we are all part of the membership team, so if you know someone who is, or once served, in RAEME (once you are in the CORPS, you are always part of it) and not a member, then try and convince them to join up?

Regards,

**Steve Howells**  
**Membership Member**  
[membership@raemeqld.com](mailto:membership@raemeqld.com)  
Tel(W): (07) 3354 0572  
Tel(H): (07) 3264 3967



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**FROM THE COL COMDT QLD**

Greetings to All. As many will appreciate, these last few years have passed very quickly. It seems like yesterday that I attended my first Corps Committee as the incoming Colonel Commandant – Queensland. This year’s Committee Conference in October was again an excellent opportunity to meet with the Head of Corps, the Representative Colonel Commandant, other Colonel’s Commandant and Corps representatives.

My report to that meeting highlighted the reestablishment of 106 Fd Wksp in 7 CSSB, the continued success of the Spanner Club events, and most importantly, the charity initiatives of 102 Fd Wksp Coy and 6 Eng Spt Regt. The National RAEME Association President detailed the progress of the establishment of the national website. This website when fully functional will provide an excellent resource for all serving and ex serving corps members. In addition, it will give each state association an ability to enhance their own activities utilizing this important communication tool.

The Project Director of the Corps History Project (CHP) book, BRIG Grant, briefly provided an update on the CHP. The Committee shared my excitement at the prospect of seeing our Corps’

history being published in 2014. Annual disbursement of corps funds to the regions was another topical discussion point. I look forward to observing how the SE Qld region units use their annual disbursement allocation to enhance the upcoming Corps Birthday celebrations. These celebrations will of course culminate in the excellent RAEME Association–Queensland’s Corps Birthday luncheon at the Port Office Hotel in Brisbane.

Sadly this will be my last newsletter submission as Colonel Commandant. As of 2014, COL Tony Borg will step up and take over the baton. I wish Tony well and know if he gets half the guidance and support I have received from those associated with the corps in Queensland, his job will be very fulfilling. It is especially encouraging that a 35th class apprentice should pass the reigns onto another 35th!

I wish all our Corps members and their families a happy, prosperous and safe holiday season and look forward to meeting with you and yours in the future.

Arte et Marte,

**Richard Kluckhohn**  
**COL COMDT – QLD**  
[rkluckho@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rkluckho@bigpond.net.au)



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**GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE – RON McELWAIN OAM, RFD, ED, RSL REPRESENTATIVE.** Earlier this year, one of our longest serving RAEME Association members, Ron McElwaine, was awarded the Medal of the Orders Australia for service to the Returned & Services League (RSL) of Australia. So what do you know about Ron’s part in the association, or more importantly, his contribution to the RSL in Queensland.

As President of Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch Inc since 1999, Ross McElwaine, through his leadership, guidance and direction has given outstanding service to veterans in a variety of ways. He has established the reputation of his sub-branch, throughout the Returned and Services League in Queensland, as being highly effective in the delivery of welfare and social support for its members, and in its superior standards of governance and financial management.

In the welfare and social support areas, Mr McElwaine has expanded members' social support programs to include a weekly "Drop In Centre", computer lessons, “Happy Hours” for Vietnam veterans and more recent conflicts, an extensive military-oriented library, an extensive memorabilia

collection and the reintroduction of regular liaison between Sherwood Indooroopilly Sub-branch and neighbouring sub-branches.

He also oversaw the creation of the Western Suburbs Veterans Support Network which included Sherwood Indooroopilly, Kenmore and Centenary Sub-branches. He introduced a Vietnam Day (Coral Balmoral) commemoration to the annual schedule of commemorations as a vehicle for finding and delivering welfare support to suffering veterans from that conflict. His success in the area of members' morale is exemplified by the fact that his sub-branch's membership, most unusually across Queensland, has not declined from close to 600 over more than ten years of his stewardship.

In 2007 he was appointed to the RSL Qld Futures Committee in which he assisted in defining goals to be addressed in the subsequent Qld Branch Business plan. In addition, the President of the Queensland Branch of the RSL, Brigadier (Retd) Doug Formby, AM, selected him to chair the National Boer War Memorial Committee for Queensland which is responsible to raise Queensland's share of the \$34 million that will be needed for this memorial to be erected in Canberra. Various events have been conducted and good progress is being made.

Since April 2009, Mr McElwaine has been a member of the RSL State Ethics tribunal, which has a quasi judicial function within the RSL, and which requires both special skills and a high degree of personal respect from the general membership.

In 2009 he was awarded the RSL's Life Membership and Gold Badge in recognition of consistent and outstanding service to veterans. He was volunteered as a member of the RAEME Association-Queensland, where he has been given special responsibilities for member's welfare and for liaison with the RSL. He was also deeply involved in the design and development of a project which raised funds for and built the RAEME Bulimba Memorial. Well done to you Ron for your contributions to the community.

**Acknowledgement: We wish to thank Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch for content in this article.**

**GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE – GERRY POLKINGHORNE – ASSISTANT SECRETARY.** At the most recent AGM in October, Geraldine (Gerry) Polkinghorne, was appointed the Assistant Secretary to assist Gary Sargent. For those that may not know Gerry, the following summary is provided for your information. Gerry spent 15 years as an officer in RAEME, reaching the rank of Major. During her career, she served in a variety of positions including

Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster and Training Adviser. Her later career saw Gerry undertake long-term schooling and completing a Master of Science - Instructional Systems, Florida State University, Tallahassee and Treasurer, Masters / Doctors Students Association and later working in HQ Training Command, Georges Heights. Please welcome Gerry to the Committee.



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**GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE – RAEME ASSOCIATION QLD WEBMASTER – Mr PETER MATHEWS.** Peter served in RAEME for many years before joining the RACQ as a Roadside Assistance Patrol. For the past 23 years he has worked in variety of positions within the organisation and is currently the Queensland Battery and Car Electrics Manager of RACQ. He is married with two adult daughters and came to the Corps via the Army Apprentices School as a 37th Class VM (2 Platoon).

Peter is a life member of the RAEME Association-Queensland and very recently volunteered to look after the Association's website. He doesn't claim to be a "computer geek", however he does have a keen interest in the values of the Association and is looking forward to helping establish the new website, and making it more functional, accessible and comprehensive, a task he has already commenced. Currently he is helping Ray Norman get the functionality, look and feel of the new website right, but plans to keep us all abreast of other developments. His plan is to ensure the site is maintained correctly and then provide regular updates on progress of both the National website and the Queensland website in the next edition. If you have items for the website, to improve it usefulness and functionality, then please email Peter at: [webmaster@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:webmaster@qld.raeme.org.au).



## EVENT AND REPORTS

**Spanner Club – Hosted by 20 STA Regt Tech Support Squadron.** Another successful SE QLD Spanner Club gathering was hosted at Enoggera by 20 STA Regt on the afternoon of 20 Sep 13. Hosting the Spanner Club is an honour and the Tech Spt Tp (TST) worked hard to make the day count as a good event. LT Chapman, the Aviation Workshop Commander, led the charge (or the committee) with a number of personnel, from both the aviation and ground workshops, rolling up their sleeves.

The location for the event was the Ground Workshop, with parts of the Shadow 200 Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) on display, showcasing the integral maintenance support the TST provides for the Army's Tactical UAS capability. The capability isn't just the Air Vehicle flying around, or the Ground Control Station where the operators are located. It is a much broader capability, and includes the generators, which power the ground equipment as well as the Unimog trucks, which provide the vital ground mobility. Therefore, the capability is truly unique in the way the aviation and ground maintenance worlds come together to collaborative support the operational missions.



### Paying Attention to the ASM

The day was officially opened with a few words from the ASM, WO1 Wallace, amidst the aroma of sizzling BBQ. The large crowd mingled well, with beverages in hand, of course, accompanied with the essential and distinctive RAEME stubby holders.

A number of sponsors, who supported the event with the offer of raffle prizes, were also present. As part of their support, some of them brought “shiny toys” with the main attractions being a V8 supercar, customised motorbikes and two speedboats – one of the raffle prizes drawn that day included a ride in one of these speedboats. For the camping and four wheel drive enthusiasts, there was a business providing face to face advice and information. Surprisingly, they were also popular with non-

camping and four wheel drive enthusiasts, but it is suspected that it was due to their show bags. The V8 supercar didn't move too much during the event, but there was plenty of fast car and aerobatic action going on, albeit they were smaller and radio controlled. Finally, there were also the usual tool businesses and we, RAEME, just love good tools.



### Displays on the Day

The day ended with a large number of raffle prizes being won by some lucky folk, with plenty of shouts of “redraw” and “bullpoo” from the unlucky ones. Over many beers, all attendees enjoyed banter between the old friends (and new friends). Spanner Club functions like this are always a success. They provide perfect opportunities to foster the RAEME Esprit de Corps and show it off proudly to the rest of the 7 Brigade. The 20 STA Regt's Spanner Club gathering was no exception and it was a huge success with absolutely no hiccups. Well, perhaps there was one. In the Admin Instruction, it was advertised that there was going to be a spit roast. This was a honest mistake by the good LT and the few complainants were swiftly dealt with by the ASM.



### Still paying Attention as another raffle prize is drawn!



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## RAEME NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

**Progress Report on the RAEME National Website Development.** Your National Association has achieved a lot behind the scenes over the past twelve months. One of the most important objectives this year was to establish a national website with all other State and Territory Associations linked, eventually becoming part of the RAEME National network.

Work is progressing very well thanks to the efforts of Dean Ellis, Richard Legge and other State/Territory Web Masters and Presidents. We hope that all will continue their support and see this important work to its conclusion for the benefit to all.

The current old RAEME National website can be found at [www.raeme.org.au](http://www.raeme.org.au) but you can also see the new site evolving concurrently.

The National Facebook page can also be found on the website at:

[www.facebook.com/RAEMEAassociation](http://www.facebook.com/RAEMEAassociation)

Our next important step is to involve the serving soldiers, senior ranks and officers of the Corps in the process of improving the communications of the National Association. The three main reasons for establishing this Association are to bring together the full time serving folk, the Head of Corps organisation and all of the Associations around the nation as one RAEME family.

We are well on the way to achieving our goals here, but need the support of all individual full time serving members. How?? Our full time members may not realize but you are automatically a member of the National Association, free of membership fees, because you are currently serving. What the association needs is for each member to provide his or her email address, so as we can communicate directly with you.

The Email address for the RAEME National Association is [raemenational@gmail.com](mailto:raemenational@gmail.com) . Please send your email details to this address to assist in the communications process nationally.

**The RAEME Casual Tie.** You all would have seen the “casual tie” design in the flyer enclosed in last Spanner News. The Association will take pre orders and pre-payment as per that flyer or email [rgnorman1944@gamail.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@gamail.com).

The letter below is a typical comment received from our very happy customers.

**Raymond G. Norman OAM**  
**President**  
**RAEME National Association**



*“Giddy Raymond,*

*Just got the ties. Very impressed. The people involved in the design and associated process are entitled to ten minutes on the back patting machine for the finished product.*

*Regards,*

*Eddie Bevans”*

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## OUT AND ABOUT

**“The Spanner Man”.** Have you ever asked what happens to spanners when they finish their useful life – I mean the tool, not the people? Well here is a story about Spanners – large numbers of them – being used in a manner for which they weren’t designed, but none the less, in a very imaginative way. Let me introduce you to Mr John Piccoli (known colloquially as “The Spanner Man”) who lives on the family property at Barraport in the Boort area near Bendigo in Victoria.

John was born in 1941 and when he was eight years old contracted Polio. When he came out of hospital three years later, after pretty torrid time, he found he was severely disadvantaged from a lack of formal education and found it hard to catch up at school; so, like many people of his generation, he taught himself a number of skills, using his passion for creating things, as a prime motivator.

John was always interested in welding. It is something he finds easy to do. He owns a good workshop on his property and over the years accumulated tens of thousands of spanners. In the early eighties he began making his garden sculptures using these spanners, which he welds together in three-dimensional shapes.

John’s rusty (or rustic) sculptures are rather like iron lace pieces. Using a photo of the animal, or other subject, he creates a piece in a similar style. He visualises how he is going to create the finished article and then proceeds without the use of drawings. Because he is now confined to a wheelchair, John works mainly on the ground and manoeuvres the pieces around with the use of ropes and overhead pulleys. It is a truly remarkable workplace and personal effort.

He has taken pile of spanners like this .....



And constructs things like this .....



Another passion is John's love of animals and birds and all of his life he has kept pet birds. He has also bred stud Dorset Horns and stud Poll Dorset sheep. He also has turkeys, squab pigeons, Wagyu and other breeds of cattle, deer, goats, ostriches, camels, pheasants, peacocks, Guinea fowl, finches, various breeds of ducks (including Mandarin and Scaup), different kinds of quail and also meat rabbits.



**John Piccoli and Friend**

“Bryngoleu” garden, at his home, is a lovely setting for John’s sculptures. He is a truly amazing man and an example to us all in what you can do to overcome adversity – a true genius in his own field. If you happen to be in the Boort area, it is worth contacting John to see if you can visit his property and view his wonderful sculptures.

Story reproduced from with the kind permission of Mrs Piccoli. For more images go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushie/sets/72157622756331032/>

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***Our Country's Call*** - A poem of Remembrance by Mr Alan Winter.

*He was a black kid from the Alice, born along the river Todd  
He was a chaplain from Balmain who felt quite sure he went for God  
A “Gun” shearer from out “Back of Burke”, who knew he felt “the call”  
An accountant from North Sydney, they signed up one and all.  
His parents came from Cyprus but he felt he was “True Blue”  
The Chinese kid from down the street said “Mate, I’m coming too”  
They even let the pommies serve, they filled the upper ranks  
And tellers came from far and wide, who wants to work in banks.  
The nurse from Cabramatta heard her country’s call to arms  
And the debutante from Melbourne wielded all her many charms  
The nanny from Mount Isa gave her notice in a flash  
Saying “sorry, duty calls me, and I simply have to dash”  
They fled the cities and the bush for military life  
And put on hold their plans to have a child and be a wife  
They flew they drove and nursed our troops and took on any chore  
They tilled the soil and grew our crops so Fred could go to war  
The carpenter from Bondi and the clerk from out of Perth  
Became airmen in our forces and would “slip the bonds of earth”  
The trawlerman from Hobart found his fate in submarines  
While the barrister from Adelaide, commanded troops it seems  
From far and wide, all walks of life, they rallied to the call  
The barrister from Adelaide was the very first to fall  
He lies somewhere in Flanders fields, in company with some mates*

And looks down with amazement, while a later war abates  
 "Twas the war to end them all" he said and bowed his head down low  
 And said an unheard earnest prayer, for the black kid, next to go  
 His body lay, friends by his side, no more to feel life's pain  
 In a dried up wadi like the Todd, but this, at Alamein  
 The debutante from Melbourne gave her life in Singapore  
 And the nanny from Mount Isa on some other foreign shore  
 Our servicemen who gave themselves to tender gentle hands  
 Found the girls of Oz' were Angels in so many far off lands  
 The shearer fell in Vietnam, the time for shearing past  
 He waited while his country showed their gratitude at last  
 It took a while but time restored a smile upon his face  
 As we watched a war unfold on every TV in our place  
 Afghanistan, a costly place, in terms of sacrifice  
 As we impart some freedom and a "dinkum way of life"  
 They rise to the occasion, the young people of this land  
 As they take on board the duties that they never would have planned  
 So take some time, reflect on how our Nation's pride has grown  
 Through those who served our country for our history's surely shown  
 That their background or their colour didn't mean a thing at all  
 For the Girls and Guys of Oz' have always answered to the call.

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### **SPANNER PACK – OCTOBER 2013**

As of October, Operation Spanner pack can report that we are just two packs short of delivering 3000 comfort packs to our troops and support staff on operations. The Christmas/New Year packs will push the numbers past 3000. Because we sometimes send a pack to two soldiers to share, the numbers of Corps members, who have received packs to date, now numbers well over 4000.

We wish to thank our sponsors for their continued support. We have already received a number of responses from our grateful colleagues and friends overseas as a result of most recent delivery in July – here are a couple for your enjoyment:

*"Raymond,*

*Thank you kindly for your Care Package that I received today (25 Oct 13). The mail here is quite slow and I notice your letter is dated 03 July 2013.*

*However, the thought is what counts and some small luxuries from home are well received. I was only thinking the other day how I would like to have stubby cooler and behold there is one in my package.*

*I have passed on to my RAEME Detachment your request for photos for the Corps History Project and trust they eventuate.*

*Thank you once again.*

*Travis Holt*

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*"CAPT  
 ADJT FEU  
 SVOIP: 63906*

*Hi Ray,*

*I'd just like to pass on my sincere appreciation for the 'Operation Spanner Packs' we received in the mail today. As the ADF continues to draw down in Tarin Kowt and conditions become more austere, I'm sure the boys will really appreciate the items you and your team have prepared and provided.*

*The ASM here, WO1 Stephen 'Slim' Brett, has indicated that one of the guys will be preparing an article for submission for either the Corps History Book Project, or if it's too late for that submission, for next year's Craftsman Magazine.*

*Once again, thank you and kind regards,*

*Buddha*

*CAPT B.A. BOUVILLE  
 OC CSST / TF66 (SOTG)"*

*"Dear Raymond,*

*It is with great delight I write to inform you that your Spanner Packs have arrived safely and I have dispatched them to all the RAEME pers in the MEAO. You will be happy to know they were received with great excitement and a few jealous looks from the other Corps members.*

*As my tour is coming to an end, I would like to personally thank you and the RAEME National Association for putting a smile on the faces of our hard working guys & girls. It means a great deal to us knowing we are not lost in the thoughts back home. My replacement is WO1 Ian Moorhouse, who will be sitting in the EMEWO position as of 31 Oct. MAJ Harvey will remain into 2014.*

Kind regards,  
Shaun Murray  
Warrant Officer Class One  
EMEWO HQJTF 633”

The “Spanner Pack” Team will remain on the job as long as one RAEME soldier remains overseas. We look forward to continuing to support our troops as long as one remains overseas. May I thank the team and sponsors of this great program on behalf of the RAEME National Association.



Regards,

**Raymond Norman**  
Spanner Pack Coordinator  
[rgnorman1944@gmail.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@gmail.com)

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**Corps History Project (CHP) – Progress Report.**

The table below provides a quick summary of the work the authors and editors have undertaken over the last three months since the last report and the CHP Planning Workshop held on Saturday 7 Sep 13, at Enoggera.

I can also report that we have now received another generous sponsorship from a major defence supplier, in the form of Raytheon. My thanks to the company – it is much appreciated.

Chap	Title	Issues addressed	Status
1	Forward from the Past	From colonial period, the Boer War, WW1, up to immediate pre WW2 period	First draft complete. Editorial amendments yet to be addressed.
2	A New Army	Early WW2, the raising of AEME, WW2	First draft complete. Editorial review of first

		AEME operations, and post war period up to 1959.	draft underway
3	The Sixties	Operations, organisations, and activities at home during the decade of the sixties	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft underway
4	South Vietnam	RAEME operations and activities in South Vietnam	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft complete. Editorial amendments yet to be addressed.
5	The Seventies	Operations, organisations, and activities at home during the decade of the seventies	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft underway
6	DCP	RAEME support to the variety of DCP operations and missions.	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft yet to be addressed.
7	The Eighties	Operations, organisations, and activities at home during the decade of the eighties.	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft underway
8	Wild Geese - the First Gulf War	RAEME involvement in the	First draft complete. Editorial



	and Operations in the Balkans	subject operations	review of first draft underway
9	UN Operations	RAEME involvement in the subject operations including Somalia, Namibia and Cambodia	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft underway
10	East Timor	RAEME involvement in the subject operations	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft underway
11	Regional Operations	RAEME involvement in PNG, B/Ville, Solomon Is and disaster relief ops	First draft complete. Editorial review of first draft underway
12	Second Gulf War	RAEME involvement in the subject operations	First draft complete. Editorial review underway
13	Afghanistan	RAEME involvement operations	First draft complete. Review underway
14	Technical Training	Training of AEME and RAEME personnel	First draft underway
15	The 1990's to 2013	Organisations, and activities at home during the decade of the nineties to the present	First draft underway

		day.	
16	Technical Solutions and the Procurement Process	RAEME addressing technical issues and procurement of equipment for Army	Yet to be commenced
17	RAEME Spirit	Provides examples of RAEME esprit de corps and concludes the work	First draft underway

So the work of the CHP continues and we certainly have enough stories to choose from. Many will be used in the forthcoming book, but those which we do not use, are being saved electronically in the RAEME Book Repository for future use. Eventually they will become accessible via the evolving RAEME National Association website. So if you have RAEME stories, photos, video clips, or other media material you want preserved, then send it to [raemebookproject@hotmail.com](mailto:raemebookproject@hotmail.com).

Kind regards,

**Ross L. G. Grant**  
**PD CHP**  
[raemebookproject@hotmail.com](mailto:raemebookproject@hotmail.com)



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### COMING EVENTS

**2014 Annual Reunion of Army Apprentices for South East Queensland.** Planning is in progress for the 2014 Annual Reunion of Army Apprentices for South East Queensland. Permission has already been requested for the use of the facilities of the old Sergeants Mess at Bulimba Barracks, now known as the "Quarry Club". As has become our custom, the event will again be held on the Sunday of the Queen's Birthday long weekend, hence the date will be Sunday 8th June 2014. The clock is ticking for our time of reunions at Bulimba, as by 2015 the workshop may be gone! So please gather as many mates as you can for what could be our last gathering at Bulimba.

## The 44th Intake of Army Apprentices' Reunion.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 44<sup>th</sup> Intake is being held in March 2014. Details are as follows:

- Invites are extended to ex apprentices, staff and partners.
- Place: Brisbane CBD – Venues TBA
- Date: 01-02 March 2014
- POC: Jamie Sharpe
- Email Contact:  
[44thappyreunion@gmail.com](mailto:44thappyreunion@gmail.com)
- Expressions of interest to attend: by Dec 15 2013
- RSVP: by no later than 30 Jan 2014.

Regards,

**Bryan Daley**  
Apprentice's Association - Qld  
[bjdaley@hotmail.net.au](mailto:bjdaley@hotmail.net.au)



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## VALE

The Association has been advised of the passing of the following:

- Gary Townsend, who was a RAEME instructor at Balcombe during 1972 and a trade repair officer at 3 Base Workshops in the late 70s early 80s, has recently passed away. Gary lived in Melbourne. No further details are available.

**Mr John Parfitt OAM**  
Welfare Officer  
RAEME Association Qld  
[welfare@raemeqld.org](mailto:welfare@raemeqld.org)



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## DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

Now that the coalition has gained Government, we have time to draw breath. The Government has agreed, and it is now policy, that our Defence Super will be indexed in line with the indexation of the Aged Pension. At least that is their policy and it should be implemented by 1 Jul 14. This will apply to DFRB/DFRDB for over 55s – disability and reversionary pensioners only. A reversionary pension is the widow's pension. The fight will continue for justice for:

- DFRB/DFRDB under 55s;
- disability pensions to get back the 2.7% we didn't receive when civilian disability pensions were increased in 2009; and
- the MSBS indexation, which is still tied to CPI.

MSBS super applies mainly to current serving members (the numbers retiring since it was introduced are increasing) but it is of concern that not a lot of these people are aware of the problem. If you know anyone who is still serving, talk to them about the effect upon their superannuation, down the track, with CPI indexation. This is a serious problem and the word needs to be spread far and wide. If anyone wishes to talk to me about MSBS, or anything at all about Defence Super, feel free to contact me on [pm.snowdon@bigpond.com](mailto:pm.snowdon@bigpond.com)

The fight will continue and progress will be made. The DFWA and ADSO will shortly commence the next phase of the program to encourage the Government to consider these issues. Work like this necessarily takes time; it has taken nearly 20 years to get this far. Now that the Government has at last recognised that the CPI was unjust and did not preserve the buying power for superannuants, the additional benefits should flow on.

**Now for a commercial.** DFWA needs your support. They exist purely to protect the welfare of Regular and Reserve soldiers, whether still serving or retired, and they need your continued support if they are to achieve their goals of helping others. Therefore please visit the DFWA website and browse: [www.dfwa.org.au/branches/qld](http://www.dfwa.org.au/branches/qld) .

The fight for better super is being waged by the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) of which DFWA is one of the senior partners, and again your help is needed if we are to win this long fight. Visit [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org) to see the full range of their activities. You can even check out how much pension you have lost over the years, become a member and even make a donation if you have a mind to do so.

Regards,

**Peter Snowdon**  
DFWA Rep  
[pm.snowdon@bigpond.com](mailto:pm.snowdon@bigpond.com)



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## AWARDS

**Warrant Officer Class One Steven Fields, CSM, 5 Avn Regt.** Warrant Officer Class One, Steve Fields, the Regimental Artificer Sergeant Major of 5 Avn Regt, and an Aircrewman Technical, received the award of the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) for meritorious devotion to duty as the Contract Authority Representative at Cargo Helicopter Management Unit, Army Aviation Systems Branch in support of the Army Aviation CH-47D Chinook capability.



**WO1 Steve Fields with the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, following the presentation of his CSM.**

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The year has finished with a bang – the traditional Corps Dinner at the Rotary Wing Aircraft School (RAMS) and the Corps Luncheon at our very well appointed Port Office Hotel Fix Restaurant were both successes again. With a **xx attendees** at the Dinner at Oakey, this unique all ranks event, ensures that some of the traditions of aviation RAEME are passed on to the younger members of the Corps.

By way of contrast, 120 people attended the Port Office Luncheon, which saw a large number of retired and senior all ranks, but with fewer traditions being passed on. Regardless of format and style of each function, both demonstrate that our Association is meeting a need for those who want to celebrate

the Corps and its activities and traditions. It is also clear that our members value the efforts of our loyal and hardworking Association committee members.

Both events were well organised and enjoyable – it appears that the only limitation is the space available to host the large numbers who are now attending these events and the ANZAC Day parade and after parade event – again at the Port Office Hotel.

Well done to the organisers – your efforts are truly appreciated. Having attended both events, I can only say that they are well attended, and the seats are taken up quickly – so look out for next year's calendar of activities.

However, as we look towards 2014, I am wondering if we can outdo ourselves and get a few more of our colleagues and friends, who have worn the RAEME badge, and continue to wear the badge, engaged and encouraged to join in the events that celebrate the Corps. Let's see if we can each all find a new face to bring to the various functions, especially on ANZAC Day in 2014. Remember the commemorations for the commencement of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of World War 1, for those who paid the ultimate price in that "war to end all wars", commence in April 2014. They will continue for the next four years culmination in 2018, the final year of WW1.

Finally, I'd like to mention that I witnessed two important retirement ceremonies at Oakey recently. After many years of outstanding service, COL Tony Borg was farewelled in the company of his peers and the aviation RAEME fraternity; as was MAJ Terry Johnson, CSC, – full stories to be printed in the March Issue of the Spanner News.


May I wish everyone a Merry Christmas for 2013 and I trust 2014 brings with it everything you'd wish for yourselves.

Regards,

**Ross Grant**  
**Chairman the Comms Committee**  
[commschair@raemeqld.org](mailto:commschair@raemeqld.org)



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