



**RAEME ASSOCIATION –
QUEENSLAND**

SPANNER NEWS EDITION
2/14
30 JUN 14

CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Greetings Spanners, welcome to the 2nd Spanner News for 2014. The year has started with its usual flurry of activity and your Committee has been hard at it, working to provide additional opportunities for RAEME Assoc Qld members to reinforce and renew their bond and galvanise support for new gatherings and activities in locations other than the greater Brisbane area. In the coming months, we anticipate there will be an association gathering in the Sunshine Coast Region and planning is underway for yet another gathering on the Gold Coast. Most importantly, we are looking at an important event at Oakey to celebrate the 25th Birthday of the Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) on 25 Jul 14 – members of the Association have been invited to this event and it provides an opportunity to visit and share the company of our folks, who call the Darling Downs home.

One of my key priorities is to ensure that the future of the association is secure, including covering off activities that have become part of our traditions. We are very fortunate to have exceptional members (both new and long standing) who devote enormous energy into growing our activities, which see our members enjoying the company of our RAEME people, both retired and serving. The strength and success of RAEME Assoc Queensland is dependent on the planning for the future and continued growth of membership. Amongst other things, this growth will bring in new willing hands to carry on the processes of serving and strengthening our association allowing us to enjoy life together.

We particularly appreciate the support we receive from our COL COMDT, COL Tony Borg, our Patron BRIG Ross Grant, and several local commanding officers and officers' commanding, who regularly attend our monthly meetings. Our monthly meetings have gone from strength to strength. Remember our meetings only take an hour, and are followed by dinner, in the pub opposite Victoria Barracks – so please join us and enjoy the company of our association members on the first Tuesday of each month – you are most welcome.

I ask you all to offer both your point of view (in a positive manner) and your support to plan and put into place the structures to make our activities successful, and most of all, enjoyable.

I'll finish by thanking all those who celebrated the sacrifices of all our serving and past veterans and commend those of you who joined the ANZAC Day Parade and the function at the Port Office. Your contribution and participation to another successful day's organised by Ian Hartshorn and his team is much appreciated – I believe it was the best ANZAC Day event we have organised to date.

Kind regards,

Jeff Maurice
Chairman
07 5476 6254
[**chairman@gmail.com**](mailto:chairman@gmail.com)



FROM THE COL COMDT QLD

Greetings everyone. The first six months of my appointment have certainly flown by and I want to thank everyone who has assisted me in settling in. The year started well with the first Spanner Club gathering being held at 8/9RAR in March, which certainly got the ball rolling in the right direction. Well done to all who contributed to making the event so successful. In addition, I would remiss in not thanking the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) and all who took part in this year's ANZAC Day activities in Brisbane. Whilst numbers were down on previous years, this year's post-march activities, hosted by the RAQ at the Post Office Hotel, were something to be proud of.

While there are no significant Corps matters arising since the last newsletter, I wish to again acknowledge the tremendous work that our soldiers are continuing to do on a daily basis. The Corps is in good shape with our soldiers continuing to "maintain" the Army on a daily basis in often difficult circumstances and within a busy exercise schedule. Whilst for many the prospect of large-scale overseas operations has reduced (for the time being), the tempo of preparing for the next operational requirement remains high, with a great number of soldiers on exercises all over Australia. The re-structuring of the Army – Plan Beersheba (working towards creating three "like" Brigades) is continuing, as are the preparations for conducting amphibious operations from the Landing Helicopter Docks (LHDs) due to commence over the next few years. So as you can see there is plenty to keep our soldiers busy!

Of particular note, the Corps Committee meeting will again be occurring in late October, as will the Corps Conference. These conferences have been and will continue to be an excellent opportunity for serving officers and senior ranks of the Corps to contribute to discussion about the Corps' future generally, and its framework, trade structure,

doctrine and training focus specifically. It is also about fully understanding the Corps strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and shaping and influencing the Corps future vision and development. I am very supportive of this event and encourage your attendance.

Arte et Marte,

Tony Borg
COL COMDT – QLD
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MEMBERSHIP

Hello again from the membership team, or should I say “Membership Member”, as my team has recently diminished to one. Sadly, our assistant membership member, Desley Lingard, tendered her resignation a couple of months back, due to work commitments.

I want to thank Desley for her hard work and dedication to the Association. I’m sure many of you (like me) would have received a nice welcome package from Desley, when you first joined the Association. So, Desley, thank you for your tireless efforts and contribution to the Association.

The RAQ membership numbers continue to grow slowly. Our numbers grow best when you, as member, recommend the Association to a mate, or when newcomers leave their details with the organisers of our various activities. E.g. the ANZAC Day function, or the RAEME birthday function. So keep up the good work and ensure you ask the question of those RAEME mates you occasionally catch up with: “Are you a member of the RAEME Association Queensland” and if not, “Why haven’t you joined?” I would be interested in hearing responses as to why they haven’t joined, we can monitor these views, and if there are trends, the committee can look at ways to rectify the issue?

If you are reading this, and you are not a financial member, please consider becoming one. There are a number of dedicated people working tirelessly to ensure the association remains viable and relevant. One way this dedicated bunch can assume they are appreciated, and meeting our members’ needs, is to see the membership numbers growing.

The joining process is simple – log on to www.raemeqld.org and then click on the "Membership Application Form" Quick Link on the left hand side of the home page. Fill in all the relevant boxes, take note of how to pay the annual subscription of \$10 per year (or \$100 for Life Subscription), print a copy for your records, and then click "Submit by Email". As long as you have

completed all the mandatory fields, the form will be sent to the relevant committee members for processing.

Finally, may I again endorse the “Mates for Mates” program, in which your Association is participating, see below.

Regards,

Steve Howells
Membership Member
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MATES 4 MATES

“The Power of Mateship”. Mates4Mates is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing holistic welfare and treatment programs that give direct support to current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have suffered physical or psychological wounds, injuries and illnesses as a result of their service, either in Australia, or overseas. Integral to supporting our brave mates is the provision of support to their families.

Mates4Mates provides a wide range of services including psychological counselling, career coaching programs, wellbeing workshops, family support meetings, physical rehabilitation and conditioning programs including individual recovery plans and physical training sessions for adventure challenges.

For help or to support our wounded, injured and ill ADF mates, visit www.mates4mates.org or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

EVENT REPORTS

ANZAC Day Activities. Once again the Brisbane RAEME ANZAC Day Commemoration was one of the best. Rightfully, it has become the place to be for RAEME personnel on ANZAC Day. Our numbers were slightly down on previous years. This was due to a number of circumstances out of our control. It has also been reported that other Corp Associations had the same problems.

Putting that aside, if you attended, you are to be congratulated for the way you conducted yourselves, your dress, your bearing and your overall esprit de la Corp on parade and off!

The Port Office Hotel has once again commented on the conduct of our people. They have said we are without a doubt the best group that they cater for,

time and time again. For this I thank you. Remember next year is a BIGGIE – we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. This is NOT to be missed so put it in your calendar NOW.

Also this will be my last ANZAC Day event for a while. I am hanging up the spurs to give the caravan a bit of a work out. We have pressed-ganged WO1 Nick Rees, HQ 7 BDE Brigade ASM, to be my assistant for 2015 and hopefully he will take the reins and produce a bigger and better event for you. Thank you for your support – it makes the effort worthwhile.

Regards,

Ian Hartshorn
ANZAC Day Organiser



COL COMDT, COL Tony Borg, Welcoming Everyone to the Port Office Post ANZAC Day March Event



Association Chairman and Treasurer in Deep Discussion about ANZAC Day

Report on the Annual Reunion of the South East Queensland Army Apprentices' Association – Bulimba 9 Jun 14. Once again, we were blessed with glorious weather for the 15th Annual Reunion of the Army Apprentices Assn – South East Qld. The event was held at the Bulimba Barracks, Quarry Club (old Sgts' Mess), Bulimba, on the river and under the “Tree of Knowledge”. In excess of 100 apprentices attended along with their wives, partners and families. The numbers included both instructors and apprentices from all trades, including Instructor, Doug Croft, who was happy to recount many stories of his time with us during our training at Balcombe.

The youngest member attending was Jeff Dagan (43rd). The oldest included Bob Wright (8th), Roly Pritchard and Les Edis (both 9th) and Ian McVeigh and Mike Muirhead (11th). Apprentices came from far and wide with Mark Phillips (35th ET), who came from Orlando, Florida. The stories flowed freely and the bar was drunk dry of light beer, champagne and wine! Although Joint Logistics Unit (SQ) (the old 1 base Workshop Bn) at Bulimba is in the process of closing and moving to Amberley, we hope there will be time for at least one more Appy Reunion on site. We will keep you posted on the emerging situation.

NEW EVENTS

Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA). The AAAA is pleased to announce that it is planning another gathering of the brotherhood over the period 23 Oct–25 Oct 2015 in the Albury/Wodonga / Bandiana area – so put this event in your diary!

Many will recall our previous Commemorative event in 2013 at Balcombe, for the excellent turnout, which made the event such a success. The 2015 gathering is still in the early stages of planning, however I can advise the broad outline of events will include:

- Friday – a ‘Meet and Greet’ at a local venue with finger food, registration, merchandising of memorabilia and other goodies.
- Saturday – a visit the trade training facility at Latchford Barracks (ASEME), a function in Albury in the afternoon structured around the AAS “Freedom of the City of Albury” and the Gallipoli Centenary and Reunion Dinner.
- Sunday – a remembrance service at the AAS Memorial, Bandiana South Barracks, followed by brunch and dispersal.

Just keep a close watch on the AAAA website and Facebook. Your comments /suggestions/ offers of assistance are most welcome, so contact [Frank Maloney](mailto:frmal@bigpond.com), on frmal@bigpond.com or 0418 728 181.

The Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations Queensland has much pleasure in extending an invitation to attend the 26th Annual Memorial Church Service for Ex-Servicewomen. This service commemorates and acknowledges the sacrifice and contribution made by all ex-servicewomen to our nation. The invitation is extended to the Executive Committee and Members of the all ex-service women's associations:

The service will be held on Sunday, 27 July 2014 at 11.30 am at St John's Cathedral, 373 Ann Street, Brisbane. After the service, a light lunch will be held in the Darnell Room, adjacent to the Cathedral, at a cost of \$16 per person. **RSVP: Lunch Tickets are available from Andrea O'Leary, Treasurer, 12/188 Church Road, Taigum, 4018 (Phone: 3162 2825). Payment by 14 July, with no refunds after 21 July 2014. Payment by Associations only please.** Cheques/Money Orders made payable to the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations Qld or by EFT/direct deposit after requesting Council bank details from our Treasurer. Please advise any special dietary requirements to Treasurer. Association Banners will be marched into the Cathedral. Medals may be worn.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Operation Spanner Pack. Our Spanner Pack operation continues with a further fifty "Spanner Packs" sent to our troops in Afghanistan and Southern Sudan in mid May 14.

The total number of packs sent since Operation Spanner Pack was initiated is 3098. Additionally, approx 300 care packs were sent by RANSW prior to "Operation Spanner Pack" commencing, and even more were sent by other Associations, and individuals – a great combined effort from all concerned.

This operation will continue whilst RAEME troops are on deployment, so your continued support is welcome. They are still valued very much as the following letter suggests!

Dear Raymond,

Your Spanner Packs arrived in JUBA today. Bloody awesome too. The team was most impressed although when the tri-colour stubby coolers came out the "tankie" in the room said "bloody spanners". That made me chuckle, because I have lost count how many times in a workshop I have heard non-RAEME mutter those words.

The best thing about your pack contents is that most of it is what you would eat at the boozier, so on Friday night when the

contingent has "Pub-Night" I am going to get the munchies out and make sure they all know that the Spanners back home are thinking of them.

I am not on Facebook, but my wife is and she has access to the RAEME Facebook page and she tells me all the time about the lads getting pictures of the colours all over the place, so I was wondering if you might know where I could purchase a RAEME flag (not the banner) to fly it above Australia House and possibly at UN House in JUBA. I am sure the boys would enjoy it.

Today you have made me a proud Spanner and I sincerely thank you, the members and the Associations for thinking about all of us over here.

*Arte et Marte
Adam B. Hogan
LTCOL
DCOMASC/J4 (Logistics) Chief
Force Headquarters UNMISS
Juba, SOUTH SUDAN*

Raymond G. Norman OAM
Spanner Pack Coordinator
rgnorman1944@gmail.com



RAEME National Association (RNA) Development. I am very pleased to report that we have achieved great progress in the further development of the RNA's administrative procedures, especially with the launch of the RNA website www.raeme.org.au. Additionally most RAEME State and Territory Association sites have been rebuilt and have the same look and feel and all are part of the new RAEME Associations' network.

It is very important to acknowledge the wonderful work put into the new sites by Dean Ellis, Richard Legge, Alex Smithers, Craig Mahoney, Pat Marley and Peter Mathews, all webmasters and masters of technology in different parts of Australia – very well done gents, a credit to each of you and your love of the Corps.

I would encourage all readers to check out these sites especially the RNA site and offer any constructive suggestion on improvements, or items

you would like to see on your National Association website. Some of the additions that are in the wind are a Corps Shop, on line sales page and a Corps History page.

The new Corps History Book will soon be available for pre ordering, using the RNA on-line shop at www.raeme.org.au . Keep an eye on this site, shortly everyone nationally will be advised when the CHP book is released for pre ordering electronically. Alternate arrangement will be made available for those without electronic means.

A couple of additional task to be completed in the near term are the finalisation of the RNA Constitution and the email contact system for all members, especially the full time serving members contacts. This task is vital for the longevity of the RNA.

I might add, for your information, that all RAEME State and Territory Associations are affiliated with the RNA and also includes the Head of Corps organisation. This is a very pleasing arrangement and brings the RAEME family even closer together.

You are invited to contribute to the RAEME National Association Facebook which can be viewed at the above web site address.

Regards,

Raymond G. Norman OAM
President
RAEME National Association





CORPS HISTORY

Corps History Project (CHP). The fourth draft of the manuscript is currently being proof read in preparation for printing shortly. The aim is have the book printed by the 1 Oct 14, in time for the RAEME Corps Conference to be held at Bandiana from 29-31 Oct 14. This will allow the first editions to be sold hot-off the press to attendees and allow the project team to start distributing books to those who have pre-ordered and paid for their book soon after the conference.

The RAEME National Association (RNA) and several members of the project team are looking for ways of electronically pre-ordering and selling the

book on line through its website, so keep an eye out for this facility. The decision on this will not be made until the cost of printing and distribution is finalised and that work is underway now. Early indications are that the prices previously advised will rise and the cost of postage and mailing will have to be considered. Also, all the printers who have responded to date have advised that a soft cover version is not viable, so we may have to limit the sales to “limited editions” and hard cover versions only – more to follow on this aspect.

To heighten your interest, I have included an abridged excerpt from the book for your enjoyment:

“CRUSADER’S GONE DOWN”

“Rotary Wing aircraft played a major role in Afghanistan, providing mobility and fire support for ground forces. During June 2012 a Downed Aviation Recovery Team (DART) led by WO1 Cameron Kerr was tasked to recover a downed Chinook helicopter, A15-103. The decision to conduct the first battlefield aerial recovery of an Army aircraft since the Vietnam War signalled a fitting farewell for an aircraft affectionately known as ‘Crusader’ and would test the very tenets for which Australian and RAEME soldiers are renown.”

“22 June 2012 started like any other day, but in the early hours of the morning, Rotary Wing Group 7 (RWG 7) was advised that A15-103 had ‘gone down’, sustaining minor damage. Immediate concern was for the crew’s safety and to understand the extent of damage to the aircraft. Dozens of scenarios raced through our minds until the damage reports were received by radio from the Kandahar Airfield (KAF) Tactical Operation Command (TOC).



Crusader’s “Gone Down” A15-103. (Photo by C Kerr)

There was considerable relief at RWG when word came through that only minor injuries had been suffered by the crew and

passengers. Our relief increased when reports indicated that damage to the aircraft seemed surprisingly minor; apparently it was leaning to one side with landing gear damage and a suspected minor rotor strike.

Within hours, DART members were flying in two Task Force Hammer Head (TFHH) UH-60 Black Hawks along the Haret Main Supply Route (MSR) to FOB Sarkari Karez. Initially, this DART consisted of eight RAEME Aircraft Technicians and three Aircraft Support personnel

The handover from the aircrew of A15-103 was hardly ideal; a muffled enquiry regarding the health of the crew was conducted just beyond the noisy rotor disk of the Black Hawk before the DART members found themselves hastily holding down equipment as the US aircraft hovered for departure. The Black Hawk's departure was followed by deafening silence and a degree of shock as our assessment of the damage began. Not a word spoken during the initial walk around, just grave looks with raised eyebrows that spoke volumes of the task ahead and the initial assessment!

Next, the RAEME crew began the painstaking task of recording all structural damage and hypothesising a possible cause for the hard landing. The initial damage report was akin to delivering bad news of a relative. I explained that the aircraft had sustained significant torsional damage to the main cabin area; severe sudden stoppage of the rotor system, which compromised all transmissions and drive-line components; and major damage to all landing gear components and associated airframe structural areas. Additionally, the ramp area located at the rear of the aircraft had received a significant impact which severely weakened the airframe structure supporting the aft transmission and aft pylon area.

Strict time constraints, 50 degree heat, frustrating coalition logistical issues, airframe structural integrity concerns and a numerically limited workforce contributed to what seemed to be an insurmountable task to prepare the aircraft for timely aerial recovery. If we failed to use the contracted aircraft to recover the aircraft, there was a potential delay of up to eight days, which could significantly impact mission outcomes.



A15-103 in situ, emphasising failed landing gear (Photo by C Kerr)

The hidden structural damage proved worse than initially assessed, which immediately placed the recovery mission at risk. The options available were very clear cut at that stage; postpone the mission; cut away or remove the damaged structure; or find a means of supporting the failing structure. After much deliberation and hasty rudimentary calculations, the failing airframe structure was 'tied' back into the solid bulkheads located directly above the fracture line using heavy duty military cargo straps.



A15-103 during last hover (Photo by C Kerr)

"Tensions were high as the MI-26 rotor disc started to 'cone' under the weight and the slings began to stretch and with an unruly lurch skyward, A15-103 was on its way. It was an agonising 80 minutes before we received notification that A15-103 had returned safely to KAF. The relief was immense and the RAEME guys celebrated with the typical Aussie humility. Despite the bitter sweet result, a sense of satisfaction and achievement reverberated through our team of highly skilled tradesmen. Against the odds, we had accomplished an historic aerial recovery."

Conclusion. This excerpt clearly illustrates there is much to be proud of in our Corps activities – there are many more stories like this in the book, both in peace and war, from the ground, air and maritime components our Corps supports. So I can assure you the book will be a good read.

We have conducted a survey to seek expressions of interest in the book, and the response has been very positive, with in excess of 800 members of the Corps and public responding positively. So your task now is to look out for the order forms on the RNA Website in the near future. You will be able to place your orders, pay for the book and you will be advised when the books will be distributed. I ask you to be a little patient while the project team sets up arrangements. Our team is an all-volunteer group from serving and retired members of the Corps, who continue to do a great job.

Kind regards,

Ross L. G. Grant
PD CHP
raemebookproject@hotmail.com



COMING EVENTS

RAMS 25th Anniversary. The Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on the 25 Jul 14 at its home, the Army Aviation Centre, Oakey. This is an important occasion, when considering how many RAEME personnel have passed through its “Hallowed Halls”. To celebrate this important occasions, CO RAMS has invited a large number of people to attend a formal dinner on the evening of the 25 Jul 14, and the opportunity exists for former students and staff to attend, together with other special guests. Please see the advertisement at the back of this edition of the Newsletter if you are interested.

REUNION NOTICE – 106 FD WKSP ASSOC INC – HOBART 3-5 OCT 2014. 106 Fd Wksp RAEME Assoc Inc started off purely as a SVN veteran’s association. In recent years the Association’s rules have been amended to cover any soldier of RAEME, RAAOC or AACC, who served in the Unit (or the workshop company of 7 CSSB Enoggera - recently redesignated 106 Fd Wksp) in either SVN, or any of its Australian locations over the last 40+ years.

The Association has conducted reunions bi-annually in various Australian locations over many years. The 2014 reunion in Hobart gives an opportunity for old and new to catch up with Army mates and holiday in a great location at the same time.

Accordingly, ex 106ers, and their partners, are invited to attend our unit reunion at Hobart’s Wrest Point Casino function facilities this October. For detail on the event, including accommodation, please visit the 106 website at:

www.106fdwksp.com or send an email to either sectreas.association@106fdwksp.com, or president.association@106fdwksp.com to have detail sent directly to you. Alternately, contact Pres: John Strachan – 0419 786 501, or Sec/Treas: Phil Bond – 0418 735 642, or Hobart Organizer: Pat Downey – 0417 336 218.

VALE

It is with regret that we advise of the following:

- Bruce Clive **EKLOM** (18th Electrician) served in Vietnam with 106 Fd Wksp. Bruce passed away on 15 Mar 14, in the Gold Coast Hospital from complications consequent to quadriplegia from which he has been suffering since an accident in 2008.
- Philip J **FERGUSON** served with RAEME in Malaya, WA at Bellevue, RTC Bandiana (Armament Wing) and South Vietnam with 102 Fd Wksp. Phillip was in the latter stages of terminal cancer and recently suffered a few minor strokes and passed away on 21 Mar 14 in Campbelltown Hospital.
- Sean **CARTLEDGE** (39th C&J) passed away in Wodonga on ANZAC Day.
- Alex **MCMASTERS** passed away on Thursday 3 Apr 14 after a short illness. Alex spoke highly of his time RAEME and his enjoyment as a member of the RAEME Assoc QLD. Alex’s funeral was held at Pinnaroo Bridgeman Downs on Wednesday 9 Apr 14.
- Veronica **HENDERSON** (nee Smith) passed away on 15 Apr 14 following a long illness. Veronica served with RAEME as a Reservist in various Units at Bulimba Barracks.
- Alexander Graham “Boris” **BOURNE** (16th VM) passed away 20 Apr 14 after a long battle with oesophageal cancer, followed by a stroke.
- Chris **GANZER** passed away peacefully on Saturday 19 Apr 14. Chris has been unwell for some time, deteriorated very quickly and was placed in palliative care in early April 14. Chris served in 5 Base Wksp Bn and 173 Gen Support Squadron.
- Dave **HUTTON** (ex-REME and RAEME) passed away on 22 Apr 14 after a long battle with cancer. Dave was a wonderful friend to many and supported the RAEME Association Queensland in many ways. He will be missed by his family and his

colleagues at Logistic Solutions Australasia.

- Ian **BROWN** passed away on 27 Apr 14. Ian served with 102 Fd Wksp in 1969 in SVN. He also worked in 1 Base Wksp Bn at Bulimba and Enoggera, and served with RAE units in the ARA. He also served in the ARES.
- Brian "Darky" **LAUGHLAN** passed away on 5 May 14. He was 86 having started his career as a Workshop Apprentice in the first intake at Bulimba Workshop. He became an Armament Fitter and also served in Bandiana Area Workshops and Victoria Barracks Brisbane.
- Russell Gordon **HARRIS** (13th VM) passed away on 20 May 14 after a long illness. After his service life, he served as a civilian at the RAEME Workshop at Bulimba.
- Frank **ROCA** passed away around 25 May 14. He served in 102 Fd WKSP Vietnam from 6/6/67 to 2/7/68. He later served at 106 Fd Wksp at Coopers Plains as an Art Armament
- George **ELLIOT** BEM passed away on 1 Jun 14 after a long and valiant fight against cancer. He is survived by his wife Gabriel (Gabby), son Alexander and daughter Grace.
- Ronald Arthur Leslie **NEW** passed away peacefully in the John Flynn Hospital at Tugan, QLD, on 5 Jun 14. Ron served with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt from 25 May 1966 until 24 April 1967.
- Don **REID** (7th Intake) passed away on 7 Jun 14. No further detail available at this time.
- Brian Edward **FLETCHER** (17th VM) passed away in Bangkok, Thailand on 4 Jun 14. No further detail available at this time.
- Clive Martin **SMALL**, late of Maleny, formerly of Tingalpa, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 10th June, 2014. Aged 86 Years.
- Glen **FUCHS**, late of Bentley Park passed away peacefully at Cairns Hospital on 17 Jun14 aged 68 years. Glen had a long association with the Corps through his time in several Workshops, LADs, 1 MD EME Services Unit and 1 Base Wksp Bn.
- Curley **CURTAIN** (7th VM) passed away 21 Jun 14 at Mollymook NSW. He was buried 27 Jun 14 at Ulladulla, NSW.



Some of the Attendees at the Funeral of WO1 George Elliot (Rtd)'s on 6 Jun 14 – Mr Mick Byrne, Mr Lee Stevens, WO1 Clive Parsons, Mr Michael Warke, Mr Mark Doran, WO1 Tony Hills and Mr Dave Noble

SICK LIST

The following members are in hospital or recovering from illness:

- Trevor Hawkins has been in Greenslopes but now recovering.

Regards,

Mr John Parfitt OAM
Welfare Officer
RAEME Association Qld
welfare@raemeqld.org



SELF EVIDENT TRUTHS OR MILITARY SECRETS

A lot of life's problems can be explained by the application of the common sense inherent in these recently declassified "Military Secrets":

- 'Don't draw fire. It irritates the people around you.' - advice to a new guy.
- 'If the enemy is in range, so are you.' - Infantry Journal.
- 'Tracers work both ways.' - Army Ordnance Manual.
- 'Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer for anything.' - US Navy Manual.
- 'The only time you have too much fuel, is when you're on fire.' - Unknown Author.
- 'Nothing is as good for the morale of the troops as to occasionally see a dead general.' - Field Marshal Slim.
- 'Friendly fire - isn't.'



- 'Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two of these are always necessary to successfully complete the mission.' - Basic Flight Training Manual.
- 'Any ship can be a minesweeper - once.' - Naval Ops Manual.
- 'If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him.' - Infantry Journal.
- 'Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable or understanding or doing anything about it.' - Emergency Checklist.
- 'Cluster bombing from B-52's is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground.' - US Air Force.

Ed. My thanks to John Parfitt for these "Pearls of Wisdom".

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2014 – AWARDS TO RAEME PERSONNEL

Awarded the AM – Colonel Kevin Charles **PACKHAM** CSM, ACT for command and services to the Defence Support and Reform Group. "A highly professional, dedicated and selfless officer, Colonel Packham brings great credit to the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force. Also for exceptional performance of duty in the field of Defence Logistics and as Director of Operations and Training Area Management. Colonel Packham has, since 2004, served in three separate Joint Logistics Command appointments, as well as undertaking the role of Director of Operations and Training Area Management. Throughout, he has made an exceptional contribution to Joint Logistics."

Awarded the CSC – Lieutenant Colonel Niall Joseph **O'TOOLE**, Qld. For outstanding achievement as the Brigade Aviation Maintenance Officer for the 16th Aviation Brigade. "Lieutenant Colonel O'Toole has displayed professional excellence and outstanding dedication to duty in maintaining the Australian Army's helicopter capability. His self-certifying tradesmen initiative has produced outstanding efficiencies in Aviation maintenance and serviceability, ensuring fewer tradesmen are required to rectify aircraft faults and placing fewer tradesmen in high risk situations."

DFWA COMMUNICATIONS

Roll on 1 Jul 2014 for those beneficiaries of the governments changes to the indexation of DFRDB pensions. Sadly this benefit is not universal to all pensioners, but we have not forgotten those who are still disadvantaged. We are still in the fight for the following:

- Restoring fair indexation to DFRB/DFRDB recipients under 55, particularly to those on invalidity pensions, so that their pensions also maintain purchasing power;
- Extending fair indexation to MSBS members;
- Portability of employer benefits on discharge for those with preserved MSBS entitlements;
- Abolition of MSBS maximum benefit limits;
- Extension of Military Superannuation to ADF Reserve Members; and
- Commutation – for commutation purposes we need immediate use of up-to-date life expectancy tables for calculating discharging DFRDB members fortnightly reduction amounts to repay commutation and rectify past injustices resulting from the use of out of date life tables.

MSBS will close on 1 Jul 2016. A new scheme will be introduced. The Government will establish "a modern fully funded, accumulation superannuation scheme for new members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF)". Details will become known soon.

Compare the Pair. A comparison of ADF on MSBS against someone on an Industry Super Fund has been posted on the ADSO facebook site, and in eight hours, it has been seen by almost 21,000 people. It is also posted on the ADSO website. A full summary of things which impact on ADF people generally can be found on the ADSO website <http://standto.org/fgcampaign>.

From 1 July 2017, MTAWA and the PBLCI will no longer be used in the indexation of Age Pension, Service Pension and Disability Support Pension. Indexation changes will align pension indexation with those for other social security payments. The change will flow through to affect the rate of Income Support Supplement, DVA Disability Pension, War Widow(er) Pension and equivalent MRCA payments. Note that DFRB/DFRDB superannuation indexation payments are not affected by the Government decision to change the Age Pension and Service Pension indexation.

Now the Commercial. DFWA needs your support. The Association exists purely to protect the welfare of Regular and Reserve soldiers, whether serving or retired, and they need your help to fight on, so go to: www.dfwa.org.au/branches/qld and browse.

The fight for better super (and other things) is being waged by the **Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)** of which **DFWA** is one of the senior partners – your help is needed if we are to win the bigger fight.

Visit www.standto.org to see the full gambit of 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



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The year has started well and the first Spanner Club, ANZAC Day activities and the Apprentices Annual Reunion have all come and gone with much to be pleased about. The latest Spanner Packs have been despatched to our brothers and sisters on operations overseas, and plans are well in hand for the next round of events – indeed just look at the number of advertisements in this issue for coming events – especially on the Sunshine Coast in August.

This is your committee in action – delivering things we think you value and need. However, if you have other ideas, please get in touch with Shad Marsh, the Committee's Events Manager at functions@qld.raeme.org.au or his mobile: 0433 106 690 – he has some new ideas, which he is keen to try out, and he is always interested in your ideas. Events just don't happen, so he is also interested in people, who wish to help with our work. If you feel you can assist, please get in touch with Shad, the Chairman, or one of the committee. Please join us and share the spirit of the Association with your RAEME colleagues.

For the serving officers and senior ranks, we have been advised that the HOC, BRIG Andrew Mathewson, is organising the first Corps Conference for some years. This is pleasing news for many reasons, but it again provides an opportunity for professional development, to share experiences and prepare for many potential changes in the way the Corps operates. This occasion will also allow the Project team to sell and distribute the new RAEME Corps History book – there are many lessons for all of us in that volume! I hope you can get there to be refreshed by stimulating discussion and the other activities.

Regards,

Ross Grant
Chairman Comms Committee
commschair@raemeqld.org



RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC – CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

July

- 1st – Monthly General Meeting-Vic Barracks
- 25th Association visit to Oakey

August

- 9th – Monthly General and AGM meetings-LA Hotel 1130 hrs. - Luncheon to follow w/partners.
- 16th RAEME Gathering Sunshine Coast (Maroochydore)
- 24th RAEME Reserve Reunion
- 1st Spanner Club 2GHB

September

- 2nd – Monthly General Meeting-Vic Barracks

October

- 7th – Monthly General meeting- Vic Barracks
- 29th RAEME Corps Committee Meeting – Bandiana & B-B-Q
- 30-31st Corps Conference-Bandiana
- 31st RAEME Corps Dinners- Albury

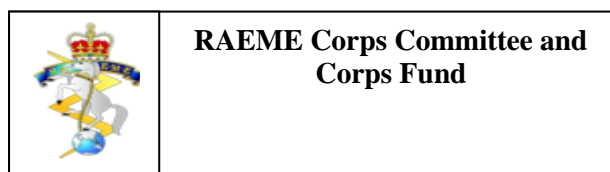
November

- 11th – Monthly General Meeting- Vic Barracks
- 16th Spanner Packing- Buderim TBC
- 28th RAEME Birthday- Oakey TBC
- 28th RAEME Birthday- Enoggera/Amberley TBC
- 30th RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon

December

- 1st – RAEME Birthday-Nationally
- No Monthly General Meeting

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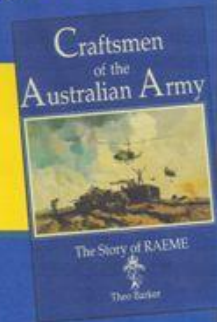
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RACQ

The RAEME Association – Queensland, Sunshine Coast Chapter, is holding a gathering at the Maroochydore RSL on 16th August 2014 – the invitation is extended to all current and past members of RAEME, partners and friends of RAEME, who live in the region or south east Queensland.

The purpose of the gathering is to hear about the forthcoming publication and launch of the new book containing stories and memoirs, written by members of the Corps of RAEME.

- Venue: Maroochydore RSL, Memorial Avenue, Maroochydore.
- Timings: 1600-1800 hours on Saturday 16 August 2014.
- Dress: Neat casual.
- Catering: Drinks from the bar and finger food.
- Parking: Available in the multi floor car park directly opposite the RSL.
- Cost: Approx \$10 per head, covers the cost of food, with drinks being available at bar at own expense.
- For catering purpose, please notify Leonie Grant via email at LeonieG21@icloud.com of your intention to attend by no later than 08 Aug 14. Payment will be on the day.



RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Date: Sunday, 24 August 2014
Venue: Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSLA Sub Branch
2 Clewley Street CORINDA



Next to Corinda railway station.

Time: 1100 – 1600. Casual. Cost: \$5/ person.

Catering: Bar-b-que. Try the delicious beef burgers.

Drinks at bar prices

DVD entertainment REME Band, REME in the Field, Recovery and more

Bring your photos and swap yarns

The reunion is open to all serving and ex members of RAEME (Army Reserve/CMF or Regular Army) or associated Corps who served with RAEME Res/ CMF units, their families and other people who were associated with RAEME and who wish to renew past friendships. Ex cadre staff members most welcome.

If you know of anyone interested in attending who may not be aware of the function could you make an effort to pass on this information.

If you have email access could you please advise for distribution of future notices.

RSVP 17 Aug 2014 **Please respond for catering purposes.**

John Parfitt Tel: 33761778 Email: jparfitt@bigpond.com 17 Elinga St Jindalee 4074

Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School

“Home of RAEME Aviation”

Army Aviation Training Centre

Oakey

Will be celebrating its 25th Silver Anniversary
with a formal dinner on

Friday 25 July 2014

Cultural Centre, Campbell Street Oakey

For further information and nomination
forms

Contact

WO2 W. Robinson

Ph 07 4577 9082

Email: wayne.robinson2@defence.gov.au

RAMS

ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SCHOOL



Army Apprentices Annual Reunion 8 Jun 14 – All Attendees