



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RAEME Association Queensland members – welcome to Edition 1/18 Spanner News. Who could have imagined how successful all the events of 2017 would be, as we celebrated our Corps 75th Anniversary throughout the year – we enjoyed a momentous and fitting string of activities, gaining maximum participation from our Associations’ members. For me, the highlight of the year, and our local celebrations, was the magnificent site of the then Head of Corps (HOC), Brigadier Haydn Kohl, leading a very large body of RAEME soldiers, through the streets of Brisbane on ANZAC Day 2017, in the presence of the Prince Philip Banner, accompanied by a very large contingent of past members of the Corps.

I was particularly proud of these large contingents of serving and ex-serving members of the Corps who came together to show Brisbane, who we are and how we celebrate. My congratulations to all who were involved in one way or another – I can tell you there were many involved in planning and participating in the day, and the image (shown below) is emblazoned in my memory.



ANZAC DAY 2017 – WHAT A DAY!

May I also highlight the wonderful moral, material and financial support of several HOC over the years preceding and during the commemorative events, as

well as the current HOC, BRIG Andrew Freeman, REP COL COMDT, BRIG David McGahey, CSC, the COL COMDT QLD, COL Tony Borg, the two Deputy HOC, LTCOL Bouloukos and LTCOL Brett Nelson, and their respective staff, and staff of the HOC Cell in Bonegilla – it was a great team effort and very much appreciated.

The RAQ has another big year planned for 2018, including our regular activities and functions – see the list of RAQ Events on page 4 of this newsletter and our website. 2018 will also see the RAQ Constitution undergo revision, which will be put to the membership within the next 6 weeks – please take time to read it and offer comments or suggestions to improve our constitution to the RAQ secretary.

2018 has commenced with a flurry of activity and planning is now complete for the 2018 RAQ ANZAC Day march and private function at the Port Office Hotel. Please go to our RAQ Website www.qld.raeme.org.au, log onto the “Events” page and purchase your tickets – “Early Bird” purchases provide a real SAVING, so don’t miss out.

I look forward to another great year and hope to see you at one of our RAQ gatherings or Functions.

Best wishes,

Jeff Maurice
Chairman RAQ
07 3268 2148
chairman@qld.raeme.org.au



FROM THE COL COMDT – COL TONY BORG

May I add my congratulations to all for a tremendous effort in celebrating our 75th Anniversary in 2017. Whilst I’m anticipating a slower pace with respect to our gatherings and celebrations this year; I am sure your daytime work will continue at a frenetic pace in 2018.

At the time of writing, and for the first time in a long time, Australia has escaped reasonably unscathed from natural disasters over the holiday period, although many of you will have recently been supporting the recovery of the cyclone damage in Darwin, the fires in southern NSW and the earthquake damage in PNG. Hopefully, most of you will have had a decent break with your family and friends over the holidays.

As is the case, however, QLD based RAEME personnel remain in the thick of things with deployments to the Middle East, Afghanistan, and a number of operational

deployments, including the Commonwealth Games, scheduled for April. For some of you, your recent deployments have occurred whilst your families were still getting to know their local environment, commence new jobs, new schools and in some cases, settle into new accommodation. My advice remains: “keep your families informed so that the “big changes does not get bigger”.

Whilst 2017 is rapidly becoming a memory, it would be remiss of me not to recognise firstly, your efforts throughout QLD in celebrating the Corps’ 75th Anniversary last year; and secondly, the mammoth effort that culminated in our birthday celebration at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 1 December 2017. Well done to all – we can all be very proud of our efforts. I also wish to extend my thanks to the respective chains of command for permitting you to participate in the activities.

Work permitting, I’m hoping to visit NQ and the Darling Downs to meet with folks in and around Townsville and Oakey respectively, in addition to Amberley and Brisbane. Additionally, the Corps Conference has been tentatively scheduled for Oct 2018, however dates and timings are yet to be finalised. I look forward to catching up to you during the year

Arte et Marte,

Tony Borg
COL COMDT – QLD
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M 0459928914



NEWS FROM THE ARMY SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERINGS (ASEME)

New Badge and Flag for the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. Army and Air Force personnel at the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME) assembled on the 8 Aug 18 to conduct a Unit Insignia, Flag and Unit Shoulder Patch change ceremony. The changes from the RAEME insignia to the current unit symbology have been brought about to cement the bi-service nature of training to RAEME, RAE and RAAF technicians. The reference to the Army Apprentices School insignia; which was also used for the Army College of TAFE, reflects on the school’s history and is symbolic of the values that are required of all military technicians, values which still remain unchanged to today.



The meaning of the badge shown above is as follows. At the apex of the badge is the Crown of the Sovereign, expressing allegiance to the Sovereign, Superiors, Duty and Country. Superimposed on a cogwheel, which represents trade and technical training, is the English Cross of St. George, depicting the virtues and development of character. The St. George’s Cross is then overlaid with crossed, doubled-edged swords, representing military qualities of courage, discipline and physical fitness. Superimposed upon the swords and the cross is a flaming torch of learning.

Prior to becoming ASEME, RAEME Training Centre was the Corps school, which all members of RAEME attended throughout their career to develop technical mastery. Today ASEME conducts initial training for ground technicians, as well as Army aviation technicians, as they progress through their careers. In the future, ASEME may also include elements of the junior officer training. It will continue to have an important part to play in the provision of maintenance management training and development.

Nigel Kent
LT ASEME

Message from ASEME OJT Cell located at Enoggera. For many of our readership, you may not be aware of the role played by the ASEME OJT Cell located at Enoggera. Courtesy of the Trade Training Management Officer (TTMO), WO 2 Allan Stephenson, and one of his charges, in this article we get a glimpse of the work done at this Enoggera outpost of ASEME. Here is short outline from CFN Cameron, who is completing his technical training at Enoggera:

“Prior to commencing training at ASEME, I spent 7 years in the army as Infantryman posted to 6 RAR, before deciding to learn a technical trade which will be useful to me and the Army.

On arrival at ASEME Bonegilla/Bandiana, I was confronted with a four-week block of Common Induction Training (CIT) which included Mathematics, English and Military Writing as well as RAEME history. For a simple infantryman that had been out of school for 10 plus years, I found the course challenging, but the civilian and military instructors provided enormous help through every step of the way.

Once CIT was completed, I moved to Vehicle Technology Wing (VTW), to soak up as much information and knowledge as I could. For someone who is a kinaesthetic learner, it was rather challenging to learn 80% of my trade from a text book. I managed to fumble my way through the theory side of things so I could get my hands dirty on the practical tasks and learn more. Morale was high as I regularly updated my Manager after completion of every MLO and slowly watched that yellow bar creep all the way to the end of the course modules. This was followed by our “March-out parade”, observed proudly by family and friends, and then off to “Brisvegas” to begin my OJT.

At the start of OJT, my excitement at being 100% hands on with trade and learning, had me jumping out of my boots, so high that I was shocked when I received a logbook that was the size of a Mack truck. From almost 8 years in Defence and being deployed overseas, OJT would have to be the highlight of my career thus far. With a new detachment every month, with a combination of military and civilian organisations, I feel like the quality competencies I have gained over the last year have been second to none. For me, the best detachments were Mack VCV and Rocklea Diesel, where I learnt the most and quickly achieved the required competences for my log book. I enjoyed every detachment working my hands to the bone every day and taking note of what jobs I completed so I could transfer them into my large log book each night while it was still all fresh in my mind.

My best advices for anyone beginning this journey is to hit the ground running and smash out as much work as you can and not just chase “sign-offs”. That approach simply overlooks the whole point of OJT, which is to learn and gather as much knowledge and understanding as you can. You only get one opportunity at it, so make the most of it.”

CFN Cameron
(on behalf of)
A STEPHENSON WO2
TTMO - BRISBANE
ASEME



NEWS FROM THE ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SCHOOL (RAMS). RAMS capped off a successful 2017 with some great events. Firstly, the RAMS Dinner on 24 Nov 17 was very well attended with about 130 past and current serving members of RAEME. We were fortunate to have Head of Corps RAEME, BRIG Andrew Freeman, join us and deliver the address to the dinner. Notable farewells were COL Rob Crowe, LTCOL Heath Smith, WO1 Craig Walker and WO2 Dave Smith.



RAMS Celebrating the Corps Birthday Dec 2017



Traditional Cutting of the Birthday Cake at RAMS

The Monday following our dinner, many of RAMS' staff and trainees hit the road to travel down to Canberra for the RAEME 75th Parade and Dinner. With only a couple of days of rehearsals, the members of RAMS, RAAF STT and ASEME pulled off an exceptional parade in front of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on Fri 01 Dec 17. This was followed by a formal dinner in the AWM, with the trainees having an opportunity to meet Chief of Army.



Ready for the Corps 75th Anniversary Parade



Time Well Spent with the Chief of Army at Dinner

Finally, we also recognised the dedicated performance of four members of RAMS:

- SGT Tyrone Tynan – AAvtTC Instructor of the Year
- PO Aaron ‘Davey’ Crockett – Silver Commendation
- CAPT Andrew Buckley – Bronze Commendation
- SGT Richard Channell – Bronze Commendation

As for 2018, we have welcomed a number of new staff to RAMS and everyone has thrown themselves back into training (in between mandatory training commitments). It promises to be another busy year as we bed in CH-47F training and prepare for the significant task of transitioning 6 Avn Regt technical workforce onto MRH. More to follow on these fronts in future articles.

**LTCOL Brett Nelson
CO/CI RAMS**



COMING EVENTS

RAQ EVENT	DATE
Commonwealth Games Brisbane	5 – 15 Apr 18
Army Apprentice School 70th Anniversary Reunion Canberra	24-26 April 18
RAQ Anzac Day March & Post March Function Brisbane	25 Apr 18
106 Fd Wksp Reunion Brisbane	25-27 Apr 18
SE Qld Annual Army Apprentice Reunion Bulimba Bowls Club Brisbane	3 Jun 18
50th Birthday Celebrations of Australian Army Aviation Corps Maroochydore Surf Club	29-30 Jun 18
RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Luncheon Maroochydore RSL	28 Jul 18
RAQ Gold Coast Chapter Luncheon Mermaid Beach Surf Club	18 Aug 2018
RAEME ARES/CMF Annual Luncheon Sherwood RSL	19 Aug 18
RAQ Annual All Ranks Luncheon Port Office Hotel Brisbane	11 Nov 18
RAEME Birthday Celebrations	1 Dec 2018
RAEME ACFT MAINT SCHOOL Annual Corps Birthday Dinner Oakey	30 Nov 18

RAEME GOLD COAST ANNUAL LUNCH – 18 AUG 18. Recent Friday Files have started to provide detail on the next RAEME Gold Coast lunch for 2018. Your organisers have been in contact with the Mermaid Beach (AEME) SLSC venue and have confirmed details as shown below:

- Lunch date: Saturday 18 Aug 2017
- Venue: Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Lifesaving Club
- Timings: 1200 hours till you get kicked out

The organisers of the 2018 Gold Coast lunch invite ex and serving RAEME people, their friends and partners to join us in an iconic venue, built by AEME people in 1945, to a pleasant lunch. This notice is purely a 'heads-up' to enable anyone interested in coming along to mark their calendar now. However, at the beginning of May, we will seek returns from people, who would like to attend.

**Ed (Beans) Bevans
& Barry Skinner
Convenors
RAQ Gold Coast
Chapter**



**Brian Daley is the contact – 0412 721 761 or email
bjdaley14@gmail.com**

**ARMY APPRENTICES 70TH Anniversary Event –
Canberra 24 -27 APR 18. The following reunion
programme summary and UPDATE, as of 31 Mar
18, is offered for your information:**

**RAEME SUNSHINE COAST ANNUAL LUNCH –
28 JUL 18.** Recent Friday Files have also provided detail on the next RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Sunshine Coast Chapter Luncheon. Your organisers are hard at work putting together an interesting and enjoyable up lunch up to the standard of previous years.

We are pleased to announce that we will have another distinguished serving member of the Corps as our guest speaker this year – LTCOL Liz Stephens. Liz is an Aeronautical Engineer, but has a broader background, recently relinquishing command of the 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1RTB). Currently she is the Integration Manager in the Army Aviation Projects Office in Helicopter Systems Division in the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) in Canberra.

Important details are as follows:

- Lunch date: Saturday 28 Jul 18.
- Venue: Maroochy RSL Memorial Avenue,
- Maroochydore, QLD.
- Timings: 1200 to 1700 hours.

The broad outline for the afternoon sees attendees being greeted by the convenors and pre-lunch drinks at individual's expense from the bar, followed by a three-course lunch with a two-plate drop. At the end of lunch, the MC will invite LTCOL Stephens to address the audience and talk about her career experiences to date, her recent position in 1 RTB and her impressions of the young men and women passing through that important training institution. She may also have time to talk about her important work in CASG managing modern fleets of helicopters. We are expecting another great roll-up, so book early and guarantee your seats. Make up tables with friends and enjoy a wonderful day on the Sunshine Coast.

**Ross Grant & Mike Prain Co-Convenors RAQ
Sunshine Coast Chapter**

ARMY APPRENTICES NOTICES

**Annual South East Queensland Army Apprentice
Reunion 3 Jun 18.** The annual South East Qld Army Apprentices Reunion will be held at the Bulimba Bowls Club, Thynne Rd, Balmoral commencing at 11.00 hours. Come along and join us.

- **Tuesday 24 Apr 18.** 3:00pm to 8:00pm – Registration and Meet & Greet, National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Ave, Canberra, ACT 2601. Bar open from 3.00pm to 8.00pm - drinks and snacks at own cost. Welcome and official opening at 6.00pm.
- **Wednesday 25 Apr 18.** 5:30am to 6:00am – Dawn Service, AWM, Anzac Parade, Reid, ACT. It is most advisable to arrive early as it is a very popular public event. In 2017, the best vantage spots were already occupied by 4:30am. Association caps and medals to be worn. 7:00am to 9:00am – Gunfire Breakfast, AWM, Poppy's Café rear terrace.
- **Wednesday 25 Apr 18.** 9:30am to 1:00pm – National Anzac Day March and Service. The march commences at approximately 10:30am, followed by the Service. Please check with AWM website closer to Anzac Day 2018 for seating details. Website is located at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac-day/national-ceremony>
- **Note.** The Association is not responsible for seating at the event. People with reserved seats are encouraged to occupy their seats early. March participants form up on Anzac Parade as indicated on the map to be supplied in registration packs.
- **Wednesday 25 April 18.** 1:00pm to late – free time. Participants may participate in intake/unit/corps activities or individual sightseeing around Canberra.
- **Thursday 26 April 18.** 9:00am to 1:30pm – free time to visit points of interest under your own arrangements;
- **Thursday 26 Apr 18.** 2:00 to 4:45pm – visit the AWM under your own arrangements. Tour guides will be requested.
- **Thursday 26 April 18.** 4:50pm to 5:30pm – Last Post Ceremony, AWM Commemorative Courtyard. Form-up on either side of the Pool of Reflection. Dress: Association caps and medals (optional). 18797, CPL Ronald John Engstrom, 18th C&J, 1 Fd Sqn RAE, killed in Vietnam 30th Jan 1970 will be honoured.
- **Thursday 26 Apr 18.** 6.30pm to 11:00pm – Reunion Dinner, National Convention Centre.

Seating will be by Intake tables. Arrive 6:30pm for a 7:30pm dinner commencement. Please be seated by no later than 7:20pm. Dress: Men: Jacket and tie preferred, miniatures as appropriate. Ladies – after 5pm wear. A music ensemble will be provided by RMC Band Duntroon. Drinks will be at own cost.

- **Friday 27 Apr 18.** Dispersal, under own arrangements.

Updated taken from
“The Apprentice About”
Brian Daley
AAS REUNION Convenor



MANAGING OUR CORPS’ BRAND

Army Brand Management is updating and modernising all Army logos and badges – all the Corps badges have been standardised. Below is an example of the new RAEME badge compared with the original version. The most noticeable change is the block colouring now used instead of the older graduated colouring. This is done to make it easier to represent the correct colouring in an embroidered representation. Graduated colouring will now no longer be used in Army logos.



A Depiction of Old and the New RAEME Badges

CORPS HAPPENINGS – PLAN CENTAUR



Plan CENTAUR, while making progress during its implementation phase, now has a broader focus that captures Army’s goal of “improving land materiel effectiveness”.

Program Director General, BRIG Dave McGahey, said “That while the program will continue to have a

RAEME focus, it is now ready to engage wider land materiel reform efforts with the tools and data developed through the initial stages of the Project.”

“Much of what CENTAUR has been doing in the early phases has been to understand Army’s materiel management requirement and the tactical-level change vital to maintenance system effectiveness,” BRIG McGahey said.

“One of our focus areas over coming weeks is the need for operator and maintainer synchronisation in planning as well as the development of a Capability Realisation Plan to engage the likes of CASG, JLC, CIOG, and Army HQ agencies to achieve structural reforms,” BRIG McGahey said.

CENTAUR is aligning its projects and activities around three Lines of Operation (LOO): enhanced decision making, reducing the cost of ownership, and modernising the maintenance system. Each project for the remainder of the current stage, and into the next financial year (subject to approval), will be strongly linked to the LOOs.

The program’s current focus areas include:

- Implementing the first phase of a new maintenance enabled Vulcan dashboard that integrates ACMS and MILIS data to enable decision making at all organisational levels;
- Determining options for Army to reduce the cost of ownership of major platforms; and
- Training/mentoring commanders, operations staff and maintenance personnel to drive improvements in equipment forecasting and maintenance planning.

Following the completion of a Mid-Point Review and executive consideration of the Capability Realisation Plan, the program will strive to ensure the long-term benefits it is driving are realised.

For more information on CENTAUR projects and to get involved, contact the team via email to plan.centaur@defence.gov.au

Regards,

BRIG D.F. McGahey
Program Director General
Plan CENTAUR



2018 RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

- Date: Sunday, 19th August 2018
- Venue: Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSLA Sub Branch, 2 Clewley Street CORINDA (Next to Corinda railway station)
- Time: 1100 – 1600.
- Dress: Casual
- Cost: \$5/ person
- Catering: BBQ (Yummie Burgers) drinks at bar prices
- Great raffle prizes including:
 - Books
 - Scratchie Tree
 - Gift Vouchers
 - See the **Trooping of the Colour on the Big Screen** and bring your photos and be ready to 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. Ex cadre staff members most welcome. If you know of anyone interested in attending who may not be aware of the function please pass on this information.

RSVP by 12 Aug 2018 for catering purposes to: John Parfitt Tel: 33761778 Email: lparfitt@bigpond.net.au

FORMER HOC, BRIG HADYN KOHL, IN AFGHANISTAN



After leading our ANZAC Day parade in Brisbane in April 2017, Brigadier Kohl, our former HOC, deployed

to Afghanistan as the Operation Resolute Support Deputy Director Sustainment. Here he is shown touring FOB Gamberi in November 2017 and inspecting the readiness and capability of the 201st Corps maintenance facilities and warehouses. The walk through was an opportunity for Brigadier Kohl to get a first-hand look at how the 201st Corps conducts repair operations and provides logistical support to their soldiers.

OPERATION SPANNER PACK

Most readers would be aware of our Care Pack program called Spanner Pack in which we send packs to our RAEME soldiers on operation. The Spanner Packs are very popular and raise the moral of our soldiers during difficult times on deployment.

These packs are funded by donations from Head of Corps, Sponsors and individual RAEME folk both serving, retired/discharged. All can contribute to this great program by visiting the RAQ Web Site www.qld.raeme.org.au and visit the shop, see “Make a Donation”.

Kind Regards,

Raymond Norman
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator



VALE

It is with deep regret that we advise of the following:

- **Balsillie**, MAJ Andrew John “Jack” MBE (RTD), one of the first WW2 Army “workshop apprentices”, a program which was the prelude to the establishment of the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in 1948, passed away on 30 Oct 17 at the age of 89 years.
- **Hayes**, Arthur James (LOFTY) OAM passed away on 23 Nov 17.
- **Farrar**, MAJ Michael “Mick” (RTD), 17th VM, passed away 21 Dec 17 returning from his OCS Class’ 50th Anniversary celebrations.
- **Greentree**, WO2 Peter Darcy (RTD). Peter passed away on the 26 Dec 16. He served SVN A/C SQN 1 ARMD REGT LAD RAEME 13 Aug 70 till 30 Sep 71.
- **Tobin**, MAJ Leslie “Les” (RTD), passed away 5 Jan 18 after a long battle with cancer.
- **Campbell**, Darren, 37th class apprentice, passed away at this parents’ home in Tasmania.

- **Loch**, SGT John (RTD) passed away 17 Jan 18 after a battle with liver cancer at Caritas Christie in Kew. John served with 102 and 106 Field Workshops in Vietnam.
- **Cooper**, Brian Frederick (9th VM) passed away on the 22 Jan 18 after a short illness. Brian served with the LAD 1 Task Force Headquarters 19/11/69 to 18/6/70.
- **Nicholls**, Arthur ‘Arty’ Nicholls, passed away on 3 Feb 18. Arty had a short but distinguished career in the Army having served as a driver with RAEME from 1957 to 1960.
- **Kenny**, WO2 Michael Joseph (RTD), passed away on 14 Feb 18 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.
- **Duncan**, WO1 Wayne (RTD), formally Kingsley Wayne Duncan, passed away on 17 Feb 18.
- **Millican**, MAJ Lloyd Keith (RTD), (24th VM) passed away as the result of a stroke on 28 Feb 18 while undergoing long-term cancer treatment.
- **Putland**, WO2 Frederick (John) (RTD), late of Warrina, Innisfail, passed away on 8 Mar 18 after a long illness.

WELFARE

- **Frawley**, Kelly, was in Redcliffe Hospital to have his knees replaced. Operation was successful however he acquired an infection and is still recovering.
- **Ellis**, Jack has been admitted to Greenslopes Hospital, Brisbane. No further detail available.
- **Maloney**, Frank, still receiving treatment for various ailments but now at home.
- **Grant**, Ross Leonard “Drac”, underwent a minimally invasive surgery for Cancer 15 Dec 2017. Now clear of any metastasis but having a CAT Scan and review in early May 18.
- **Kennedy**, Graham has recently had a leg amputated because of diabetes. He currently has a artificial replacement but is still learning to walk with it.

Please remember to contact me if you hear of one of our RAEME folks is unwell or in distress.

Barry Shipway
Welfare Officer
RAEME Association Qld
welfare@qld.raeme.org.au



DFWA INFORMATION

Introduction. There are a lot of things going on at the moment where DWFA is trying to influence events at the National level. We are attempting to have the Royal Commission into banking and superannuation fund management scrutinise the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) that manages all military superannuation schemes. CSC is currently excluded from the TOR. ADSO with RSL National (working together) issued a statement on this.

In this Edition, I will just address the 3 AAT cases where veterans were challenging the taxation of superannuation Invalidity Benefit taxation.

The basic issue is the interpretation of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations (SISR) 1994 Reg1.06 Meaning of pension (Act, s 10), as applied to the Invalidity Benefits paid from military superannuation. SISR is complex but there are several clauses indicating that Invalidity Benefits should not be classified as an income stream (fully taxed at marginal rate) but as lump sums (reduced taxation rate).

One indication is that to be a fully taxed income stream “the total of payments from the pension in a subsequent year cannot vary from the total of payments in the previous year unless the variation is as a result of an indexation arrangement or the transfer of the pension to another person.”

DFRDB and MSBS Invalidity Benefits can and do vary. They are subject to review for life, and veterans can and do go from Class A (100%), to Class B (50%) and C (0%) payments and vice versa. This is unlike the public service equivalent payments which are not reviewable after two years. Most industry equivalents make a single untaxed lump sum payment.

Previous Action by Veterans. Since 2015, veterans have been requesting CSC, through MPs, for government to state which part of SISR they are using as basis for decision that Invalidity Benefits are an Income Stream. The question has been avoided. The stock avoidance answer has been provided from the Treasurer down. There have also been many requests for an ATO Private Rulings on this issue. ATO stalled (over 18 months) on granting private rulings. In early 2017, ATO contacted those veterans seeking a ruling and suggested they use alternative legislation provisions to classify payments as lump sums, but the ATO deliberately did not inform veterans that this was regarded as a loophole and had been closed. This effectively cancelled all requests for private rulings and avoided the SISR question.

To quell the media attention last year regarding taxation changes to the other legislation and many veterans being adversely impacted, the ATO offered three veterans who had Private Ruling requests, Test Case Litigation Funding in order to resolve interpretation of SISR. Although the three Veterans were affected by different super legislation, all were governed by SISR. Details are:

- Veteran A – covered by DFRDB Invalidation Benefit. Accepted funding. Represented by legal team.
- Veteran B – covered by MSBS pre-2007. Self-represented. Refused funding due to distrust of the ATO offer due to earlier duplicitous behaviour in deliberately not informing veterans that the tax “loophole” offered to them by the ATO was closing.
- Veteran C – covered by MSBS Post 2007. Represented by legal team. To reduce stress caused by an ATO legal red herrings concerning medical eligibility for the payments, this hearing will not be open to the public.

All three Veterans have had a compulsory Medical Discharge for many conditions including PTSD.

All Cases are to be heard 0930 on 28 (Veteran B) -29 May and either 30/31 or 1 Jun (Veteran A) consecutively by Presidential AAT (precedent setting) in the Federal Court in Brisbane. With the exception of the Veteran C, whose case is to be heard on 29 May, and is closed to public, all are welcome to attend. I am sure the veterans would appreciate your support. Go to the entrance and see location on the Notice Board.

John Lewis
President
DFWA(Qld)
Johnlowis2@gmail.com



LEGACY NEEDS YOU!

There are 49 Legacy Clubs throughout Australia caring for approximately 65,000 widow(er)s of veterans who have died during or as a result of their operational /war service. Legacy is dedicated to enhancing the lives and opportunities of our families through innovative and practical programs aimed at:

- the protection of individuals’ and families’ basic needs;
- advocating for their entitlements, rights and benefits;

- assisting families through bereavement; and
- helping people thrive, despite their adversity and loss.

On the Sunshine Coast, there are 1139 Legacy dependents comprising widows, families and disabled dependents. Chances are you’ve heard of Legacy, but you may not have heard of Legatees. A Legatee is a volunteer who makes the personal commitment to assist the widows, partners and families of deceased and incapacitated Servicemen and women cared for by Legacy.

Legacy is currently recruiting volunteers who may have an interest in supporting its activities. The scope of your volunteering can be as broad or narrow as you wish, but you can expect to be engaged in any or all of the following:

- Personal contact with and support of, a number of our elderly widows in your local area, in conjunction with our Community Service staff;
- Visiting our dependants in nursing homes or hospital;
- Planning and organising our Legacy activities and events,
- Promoting Legacy through participation in selected events conducted by others; and
- Fund-raising for Legacy.

Please call the Sunshine Coast Legacy Office on 5443 9841 if you have:

- a commitment to the ethos of Legacy;
- a personal history of integrity and ethical standards;
- life experience and common sense;
- a keen interest in working with people;
- good communication and friendly helpful manner; and
- understand safe work practices.

If you reside outside of the Sunshine Coast, go to www.legacy.com.au/brisbane/BrisbaneLegacy for more information on how you can make a difference to Legacy.

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

2017 finished on a high for the RAQ. As your Patron, I must say how proud I was of the contribution made by all members of our Association, especially the Executive – it was a busy, but rewarding year for all and well worth the effort. May I single out an individual

for his dedication – Steve Howells, our Treasurer and Membership Member, made a very big contribution – he not only had to administer the financial and organisational work of the RAQ, but for his sins, he also had the complicated task throughout 2018 of managing and organising many aspects of the national celebrations and their financials on behalf of the REP COL COMDT BRIG Dave McGahey, in collaboration with the HOC Cell. Well done to Steve, but also all those who contributed to the regional and national celebrations.

For those who may not know, BRIG McGahey was the driving force behind the national celebrations throughout 2018, culminating in the parade and Corps dinner at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in December. He deserves a big vote of thanks for his hard work and commitment to the Corps and its many 2018 celebratory events.

From my perspective, the colourful celebrations in Canberra were a fitting finale to the 75th Anniversary celebrations. The parade was simple but impressive and a credit to all who organised and participated; the plaque dedication was conducted in a fitting manner; the dinner was most enjoyable allowing plenty of time for attendees to enjoy one another’s company and meet some of the older and more senior members of the Corps, Army and Industry (as well as the Chief of Army); the speeches from various dignities emphasised the Corps’ proud history, its people and their contribution to date, and hinted at where the Corps is now placed and where it may go in the future. For the young men and woman, who participated and attended these events, you did a wonderful job and I trust you have a clear picture of your Corps, and are encouraged and committed, to be part of its bright future.

2018 will be quiet year by comparison, although for all the Army Apprentices in the Corps, it will include an important celebration in Canberra as we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in 1948. I look forward to catching up with many of you in Canberra in April.

All the best for 2018,

Ross Grant
Chairman Comms Committee
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**HOW TO BUY THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED CORPS HISTORY –
'WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING: CRAFTSMEN OF THE
AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1942-2014'**

For those yet to buy the Corps History book, here is a great gift for a friend in our 75th Anniversary year. The HOC Cell, Bonegilla, still has a reasonable quantity of hard cover (HC) versions available, at \$80.00 a copy. The SO2 Corps Capability, MAJ Perri Hobbs, and his small team are managing sales, so the best way to secure a copy, before they run out in our 75th Anniversary year, is to go to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on 'Shop' and then click on the photo of the book's cover.

Please follow the instructions for payment shown on the website, and spelt out in part as follows. *'To purchase a book, you need will need to make a deposit of \$80.00 by electronic transfer to the following account:*

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Once payment is made, please send an email to RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au and add the CC address of MAJ Hobbs, perri.hobbs@defence.gov.au, together with proof of payment (a scanned receipt of deposit), point of contact details and an up to date delivery address. The HOC Cell will distribute the book upon confirmation of payment.'

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Please retain a copy of the deposit transaction, or ask your bank for a receipt, and then send a scanned copy to: RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.

In the email, please ensure you include your name, delivery address and contact phone number. Should you have any queries, please contact the HOC Cell directly on (02) 6055 4325, prior to ordering. Books should be despatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.



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THE CORPS ON PARADE IN FRONT OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL – 1 DEC 17