

**Edition 3-19**

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## Spanner News

Published three times per year, "Spanner News" is the Official Newsletter of the RAEME Association Queensland Inc

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PO Box 41 Hamilton Qld

Spanner News

# Spanner News

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome, "Spanners", to the final Spanner News for 2019.

In the period July through October, the RAQ has held two successful gatherings on the Gold Coast (GC) and the Sunshine Coast (SC), respectively, as well as our successful Annual General Meeting (AGM). It is great to see year on year, the GC and SC functions making their mark and being well supported. My thanks go to Eddie (Beans) Bevans and Barry Skinner, the GC lunch convenors, and Mike Prain & Ross Grant, the SC lunch convenors, for producing two great functions.

On 4 Sep 19, the RAQ AGM was held at the Kedron-Wavell Service Club. The Committee and members acknowledged Tony Borg, who took-on the role of Secretary in early 2019, filling a casual vacancy on the Executive. Thank you, Tony, we really appreciate your efforts. MAJ Angela Langdon, the current OC 106 Fd Wksp, has now been elected RAQ Secretary, a very selfless act for a very busy person. Please accept my thanks – the RAQ could not exist without people like Angela, Steve Howells and outgoing Secretary, Tony Borg.

Post the AGM, I am pleased to report the RAQ is once again in "strong" position financially, as highlighted in Audited Financial Statement of Affairs and Auditors Report 2019. Please go the RAQ website for more details on the AGM and Executive Committee Reports.

I am also pleased to advise that the RAQ is looking the best it has for quite some time in North Queensland (NQ), and following a very productive get together in August, the RAQ-NQ is making great strides with the first NQ activity to celebrate our Corps Birthday, to be held in December. I would like to welcome the RAQ-NQ Sub Committee Brian Robb, Tank Pontifex, Mick Harris and Doug Merry – we look forward to enjoying your ongoing successes in the north of our wonderful State.

As the year draws to a close and our All Ranks Luncheon at the Port Office Hotel looms large on 1 Dec 19, I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at this function, or another RAQ function, soon.

### Arte et Marte

**Jeff Maurice**  
Chairman RAQ

[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



### RAEME Association Queensland – What we are about?

The purpose of the RAEME Association Queensland is to promote and reinforce the spirit, reputation, image and competencies of the Corps through its past, present and future members.

The goals of the RAEME Association Queensland locally are to:

- promote the Corps' identity and reputation;
- recognise and celebrate achievements of members of the Corps; and
- provide a focal point for Corps activities.

To gain RAQ membership benefits, join for \$10/year, or upgrade to Life Subscription for \$100. All proceeds support and promote the goals of the Association.

RAEME Association Queensland Inc

## EXECUTIVE CHANGES – NEW SECRETARY ANNOUNCED AT 2019 AGM

Thank you to all who attended the RAQ Monthly Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 4th September. Once again, we were able to effectively manage a smooth transition of vital positions in the RAQ Executive.

I have great pleasure in announcing MAJ Angela Langdon as our new Secretary of the RAQ. Most people will know Angela as the OC 106 Fd Wksp, within 7 CSSB. The RAQ Executive is very pleased to have Angela as our new Secretary and the organisational skills she brings to our Association. We wish her well in this important role.



**MAJ Angela Langdon & Vietnam Veteran, Mr Des Kearton, who recently visited 106 Fd Wksp at Enoggera**

The RAQ Committee offers its thanks to our retiring Secretary, COL Tony Borg, who has been kept busy over the last two years, but is now stepping down to continue his busy business life. Thank you, Tony, for all your work over that time.

### Arte et Marte

**Jeff Maurice**  
**Chairman RAQ**

[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



## RAQ MEMBERSHIP – WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

I am pleased to report that membership of the RAQ has continued to grow solidly over the past 12 months. Our strong membership is testament to the spirit of the serving and ex-serving members of the Corps who look to continue their association with the Corps long-term.

For those who may not be aware, membership is available in two categories:

- **Life Membership** is \$100.00 – a one-off payment on joining; and
- **Annual Membership** is \$10.00 – paid on joining, and renewed annually at 30 June each year.

Membership can be paid by either PayPal or EFT when filling out the membership application form on the website. New members receive a welcoming letter and a RAQ Badge. They also receive other benefits, including:

- “Friday Files”, a weekly e-newsletter detailing the coming RAEME events and activities in Queensland, as well as historical articles and general news of the Corps, but in particular, activities within local units;
- receipt of “Spanner News”, The RAQ’s tri-yearly newsletter covering the wider happenings in RAEME;
- members’ only on-line discounts on merchandise purchases;
- members’ only discounts to all events such as the ANZAC Day function, Gold Coast Luncheon, Sunshine Coast Luncheon, RAEME Birthday Luncheon and when available, approved functions in North Queensland; and
- complementary Life Membership of the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Lifesaving Club.

Members are also encouraged to attend RAQ monthly meetings held on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except January) at the Kedron Wavell Services Club, commencing at 1730hrs, and later join other members for a meal and “Bluebell” fellowship.

With North Queensland coming under the auspices of RAQ, those members who were Life Members of North Queensland are deemed to be Life Members of RAQ and are eligible for the same benefits outlined above.

So, if you know of any serving or ex-serving RAEME members, who have not joined this great association, please encourage them to join.

### Arte et Marte

**Kingsley Pocock**  
**Membership Member RAQ**

[membership@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@qld.raeme.org.au)



## EVENT REPORTS

**Army Maintenance Effects Conference (AMEC) – Brisbane 15-17 Sep 19 – New Master Artificers Appointments.** On 17 Sep 19 at the AMEC 19 All Ranks Dinner, HOC BRIG Andrew Freeman announced the appointment of the Corp’s first RAEME Master Artificers. The concept of each trade having a Master Artificer was raised at the 2018 RAEME Corps Conference, discussed and further investigated by the HOC Cell. Since then the concept has been progressed and the program’s implementation has been approved by Chief of Army.

The main focus of these Master Artificers and Trade Sponsors is to regularly provide reports on the state of their trade, and recommend to HOC ways of modernising

RAEME trades within Army's modernising maintenance environment.

These appointments are voluntary appointments performed in conjunction with the duties of the incumbents' posted positions. A selection committee consisting of the HOC, both DHOCs and the Corps RSM considered a large number of applicants. The list of successful candidates and their trades are listed below.

ECN 146 – Fitter Armament	8229967	WO1	Michael Waters
ECN 226 - Mechanic Recovery	8254888	WO1	Peter Marron
ECN 229 - Vehicle Mechanic	8526571	WO1	James Grant
ECN 235 - Metalsmith	8233138	WO1	Keith Brown
ECN 411 - Technician Aircraft	8255392	WO1	Cameron Kerr
ECN 412 - Technician Avionics	8259188	WO1	Tony Jenner
ECN 418 - Technician Electrical	8265686	WO1	Wayne Davis
ECN 421 – Technician Electronic Systems	8262852	WO1	Roger Smith

## NOTES FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND

**Townsville Shines Again.** The NQ RAEME Association has been inactive for many years. A number of locals recently approached the present Chairperson, Gus Angus, about reinvigorating the association. Soon after our first meeting, we were approached by RAQ Exec Committee in Brisbane with a proposal to become a sub-branch of the RAQ.

Consultation between the new committee members saw us accept the proposal made by the RAQ chairman, Jeff Maurice, and deputy chairman, Peter Matthews, during a visit to Townsville on 26 Aug 19. During that visit some 50 RAEME and ex-RAEME members from across NQ met and enjoyed each other's company at the Dalrymple Hotel, Townsville.

Townsville enjoys one of the largest cohesive groups of serving and ex-serving members of the Corps in Australia, so the RAQ is now looking forward to working with the NQ Team, and is very optimistic about future growth and support for local events.

Being a sub-branch of the RAQ is attractive to the NQ committee due to an existing strong RAQ network, allowing us to get our messages to local members, as well as giving our sub-branch the autonomy to run activities

which meet the needs of local members. Importantly, RAQ also agreed to accept previous NQ Life memberships where proof of membership is provided.



**Local members enjoying a relaxing couple of hours at the RAQ gathering at the Dalrymple Hotel**



**L to R Tony Borg, Doug Merry, Rocky Hema & Brian Robb enjoying a laugh**

At a subsequent teleconference held on 16 Oct 19, the following NQ Sub-Branch people were elected:

- Brian Robb- Sub Committee Chair/ Finance
- Robert Pontifex (Tank) - Functions
- Doug Merry – Functions
- Mick Harris (Harry) - Communications/ Membership/ Merchandise
- Peter Mathews - RAQ Deputy Chair/Webmaster
- Steve Howells – Treasurer.

A number of initiatives were dealt with, with the RAQ Executive members offering assistance as follows:

- Transition of NQ Life Members to RAQ Life Subscribers.
- Updating the NQ Membership Database.
- Supporting the 2019 NQ RAEME Birthday Celebrations.
- Provision of Merchandise - the team will have its own Corps merchandise to sell at Functions/Events.



- Provision of Pull Up Banners - two banners will now be made available for display purposes.
- Planning for 2020 Functions.

The RAQ Executive are pleased to see the great team assembled in NQ and is confident it will promote and support the goals of the RAQ. That team will also be able to attend the RAQ Monthly meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month, via video-conferencing. So if you're interested in learning about, or wish to support the work of the team in NQ, I encourage you to attend a monthly meeting.

The RAQ Executive and the new committee of the NQ Sub-Branch would like to thank Gus Angus for his efforts with the NQ association over many years.

If you'd like to contact the NQ Team directly, see the details below:

- Email - [north@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:north@qld.raeme.org.au)
- Contact FORM via the [RAQ Contact page](#)

Now is a great time to get involved with the Association in North Queensland. If you're not member and want to join, simply go to the Membership Tab and complete the online registration.

**Regards,**

**Brian Robb**  
**Chairman NQ Sub-Committee**  
[north@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:north@qld.raeme.org.au)



## NOTES FROM THE SOUTH

**Report on the RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Luncheon – 31 Aug 19.** The RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ), Sunshine Coast Chapter, again put on a very enjoyable and well attended luncheon at the Maroochy RSL. With 90 currently serving and retired “Bluebells” in attendance, we had the largest turnout to date. It was heartening to see so many serving members in attendance.



The RAQ's Patron, Ross Grant, acted as MC for the day and the recently appointed Honorary Colonel Commandant, Queensland, COL Steve Evans, was the

Host. Our Head of Corps (HOC), BRIG Andrew Freeman, was the guest speaker. Notables in attendance were Bert Barker (BRIG Rt'd), a foundation member of the Corps when it was first formed in 1942 as the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and John Kingston (MAJGEN Rt'd) and Dave McGahey (BRIG Rt'd).

Other Corps icons in attendance included Les Edis, Jack Smiley, Pat Fergusson, John Bensley and Ray Norman. Of course, the following well known “characters” of the Corps, also present, should not go without a mention: Brian “Buck” Jones, Ian “Ernie” Hartshorn, Pieter “Fred” Rues, Barry Skinner, “Johnno” Johnson, Joe Owens, shown below, and Gary Sargent (not shown in the photo below).



Having been introduced by the Patron, COL Evans provided a short summary of his background in the Corps, expressed his pride in being appointed Honorary Colonel and thanked his predecessor, COL Tony Borg, for the exceptional job he had done whilst holding the appointment.

BRIG Freeman's address, the 'Emerging Role of RAEME as the Result of Changing Technology and Operational Requirements' left no doubt that the Corps was well prepared for the challenges ahead, with smart young officers and soldiers being well trained and very much up to the task.

The RAQ Chairman, Jeff Maurice, took advantage of the HOC being present and fittingly recognized the following Members for their contribution to the success of the Association with the presentation of the Chairman's Award to each of the following:

- Bert Barker – for his long-time contribution to the Corps in general and to the Association;
- Ross Grant – for his continuing contribution to the RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter and organisation of the luncheon;
- Mike Prain – for his contribution to the organisation of the Sunshine Coast luncheon over the past five years;
- Barry Skinner – for his long-time contribution to organizing the Mermaid Beach luncheon; and
- Eddy Bevans – also for his long-time contribution to organising the Mermaid Beach luncheon.



The Chairman also presented Tony Borg (see above) with a well-deserved Honorary Life Membership for his enthusiastic and ceaseless support whilst Honorary Colonel and then as the RAQ's Committee Secretary.

The Maroochy RSL again provided an excellent venue with feedback from those in attendance being very positive. A special thanks goes to Cora, who oversaw the day, and Gwen, who provided the bar service. Of course, the behind the scenes Chef and kitchen staff cannot go unrecognised.



**BRIG Andrew Freeman, HOC Addressing Attendees**

**Arte et Marte**

**Ross Grant & Mike Prain**  
**RAQ Sunshine Coast Chap**



**Report of the RAEME Res/CMF Reunion 2019.** We had 55 people in attendance for our 2019 Reunion – a great success, with many friendships being renewed. It was also encouraging to see many new faces, particularly ex-Regular Army members, establishing new relationships and enjoying the company their ARES colleagues. Past members were remembered, and sadly I learned that one of our loyal members, Ian Finch, had recently passed away. Ian had been a regular attendee for many years.



During the day members enjoyed the screening of the Trooping of the Colour ceremony for 2019, which is held in London on the Queen's birthday each year. The "Poms" certainly know how to put on the "Pomp and Ceremony".

This year we were honoured by the attendance of the COL COMDT-QLD, COL Steve Evans, who spoke of recent Corps events and current activities. Also present was the President of the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch, Glenn Mostyn, who welcomed all to the Sub-Branch and spoke of the Sub-Branch's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which was celebrated with a concert in September.



**Brian Daley cuts the cake**

Another notable attendee was Brian Daley, who has been a member of the Reunion Committee since its inception 20 years ago. Brian is a tireless worker for RAEME and many other community organisations. We were very pleased to see him awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for his superb efforts. Congratulations, Brian.

The raffles again were a highlight of the day. Chip Gorman, who won first prize last year, again won first prize this year. However, he re-donated the prize which was then won by a jubilant Geneve Hague. The prize was a handcrafted quilt donated by Mia Myler.

This year we had two RAEME canes as prizes. The two winners were Bill Dixon and Bruce Hermann. Bruce, as the RAQ merchandise member, attends each reunion to



sell memorabilia – we really value his commitment. We look forward to him attending our next reunion in 2020.

**John Parfitt**  
**RAEME RESERVE/CMF**  
**Reunion Convenor**



**Army Apprentice's Report.** The Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Canberra on 19 Oct 19. Two important things came out of this meeting:

- Planning for 2020 reunion at the Maroochy RSL on 23-25 Oct 20 is well underway. Details will be on the AAAA website shortly.
- Recognition of a “50th Intake” of the Army Apprentices scheme was agreed unanimously. This gives long overdue recognition to those young men and women recruited into the Army as Apprentices on 16 Jan 95 as an intake in their own right – the last Intake!

Most people were unaware there was a 50th Intake, given the untimely demise of the Army Apprentices scheme, but after much research it was confirmed that it was recruited – it could be described as a “ghost intake”.

For the information of readers, Army's recruitment program for the 1995 Army Apprentices Intake commenced in June 1994. Subsequently, 112 young men and women enlisted with the rank of Apprentice arriving at Army College of TAFE (ACOT) Bonegilla on 16 Jan 95 and were allocated to Alpha Company. Upon completion of a recruit training course conducted at ACOT, these new Apprentices were allocated to several corps. Those who were 17 years old were designated as Signallers, Sappers or Craftsman respectively. Those who had not reached the age of 17 years retained the rank of App. They remained as Alpha Company ACOT until ALTC came into being on 1 Dec 95 and all were reallocated to the trade wings. Clearly it was the Army's intent that the January 1995 Intake of Apprentices would be subject to a different training regime to those of previous Intakes, however, as evidence shows, this was poorly communicated to those affected, and belatedly in some cases, to departments within the Army's structure.

**Early Warning for 2020 South East Qld Army Apprentices Reunion.** This event will be held on 6 Jun 20. As per previous years, the event will be held at the Bulimba Bowls Club, Quinn St, Balmoral and will take the form of a Sausage Sizzle BBQ lunch.

**Brian Daley**  
**Army Apprentices Reunion Convenor**



## **CORPS ACTIVITIES, HISTORY & MEMORIES**

**ASEME Mil Skills Competition 2019.** ASEME conducted its Military Skills competition on 18 Sep 19 at Latchford Barracks. The purpose of the event is to build resilience; test soldiers' knowledge of Army history, customs and traditions; and develop teamwork and camaraderie. Their knowledge of field craft, navigation, F88 weapon handling drills, and first aid responses were also tested.

The activity was conducted in two stages. On 17 Sep 19, ASEME Students presented at Latchford Barracks in marching order in the vicinity of the running track as part of the preparation stage. Weapons and 24-hour ration packs were issued. Platoon Commanders were given orders and allocated separate zones in their respective Wings, where they slept overnight.

Reveille at 0400 marked the start of the second stage. The first of the platoons, 1 IPI, began with an 8km pack march around Latchford Barracks at precisely 0500, which commenced the 10-minute stagger between platoons. The pack march served as the pre-fatigue activity before starting the Mil Skills session. Subsequently, the platoons assembled back at the running track while waiting for the start of Mil Skills at 0830.

Mil Skills competition comprised of eight stands. At each stand the competitors were required to apply Basic Soldier Skills, navigation skills, casualty evacuation; complete the obstacle course; understand service customs and traditions; participate in military a floatation task, tyre drag, trailer push and weapons' handling. Platoons were given 10 minutes travel time between stands and 30 minutes to finish each stand's objective. Each platoon battled it out to achieve maximum points, in the attempt to be declared as the winner.



**“The Section Commanders of 33PI extracted information from the map (with Grid references) and subsequently translated this information into a Navigation Data Sheet to aid their section's navigation to various locations on the map.”**



**“The trailer push was the last stand. Here we are approaching the finish line. Our section had packed the trailer in a way that there was very little to no weight on the draw bar ensuring it was well balanced and easier to push. As the clock counted down, we pushed harder and dug deeper trying to make the finish.” CFN Samuel Ryan-Winn**

At the completion of activities, the School assembled at the ASEME Sports Bar to relax and unwind after the long day. The ASEME Regimental Trust Fund is sincerely thanked, for providing everybody free snags! As we enjoyed our snags, the overall score was tallied. At 1530, CO ASEME addressed the school and congratulated the participants and organisers for a top effort and a successful day.

Armament and Construction Wing (ACW) was announced the winner of Mil Skills 2019. This put ACW in good position for the race to be crowned Champion Wing 2019, which will be determined after the final event for the year, Mil Float.



**“One of the activities - The Mil Float’s objective is to build confidence and resilience in the trainees. Platoons complete as many laps as possible with their packs, utilising a leap frog method. This develops teamwork and communication between platoon members.”**

**5th Aviation Regiment Ground Equipment Repair Troop.** 2019 has been a busy year for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avn Regt. The following story tells readers some of the activities in which the Regiment’s Logistics Support Squadron (LSS) was involved.

After a high tempo start to the year, assisting North Queenslanders with Defence Aid to Civil Community (DACC) tasks, as a result of the North Queensland floods, Ground Equipment Repair Troop (GER) of the LSS continued to provide close logistic support to the 5 Avn Regt, as part of JTF 646, providing flood relief to Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Winton. This support included heavy vehicle convoy support throughout the operation.

Shortly after the redeployment of JTF 646, Tech Elec CFN Trotter deployed with B SQN on OP Solomon Island Election Assist (OP SIEA), establishing and maintaining field power for to the deployed force. CFN Trotter was awarded the Soldier’s Medallion for Exemplary Service for his performance on this task.

GER has been heavily involved supporting a smooth roll out of the new Land 121 vehicle fleet into 5 Avn Regt. This fleet replaces the Unimog and Mack fleets with Rheinmetall MAN 40M and HX77 heavy vehicles. Routinely, members of GER support the Regiment’s driver training program, preparing vehicles and providing instructors to G Wagon vehicles and trailer courses.

A significant Test & Evaluation (T&E) activity in the Regt this year has seen several phases of the MRH90 Taipan Gun Mount trial. This required an on-call armourer to support the trial in case of weapon malfunction on the range and to provide configuration and mounting subject matter advice. Following the identification of an issue at the interface between the weapon and the mount, the armourer promptly conducted remediation maintenance to all M134D minigun weapon systems held at the Regt.

The Regt’s contribution to Joint War fighter Series 2019 (made up of the Sea Series exercises and Talisman Sabre) was an embarked aviation combat team and a CH-47F troop deployment into Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA). Prior to the commencement of Sea Series, GER provided heavy vehicle drivers to support the biggest L121 heavy vehicle convoy the Regt had deployed to date with these new vehicles. Of note, no recovery support was provided as the Regt does not yet have its L121 recovery vehicle in operation and is reliant on a contracted solution.

Ex Talisman Sabre followed Ex Sea Series with GER supporting the Road Self Deployment for the CH-47F Troop to SWBTA. On arrival, GER established field power, rectified vehicle faults incurred during the convoy, and then returned at the end of the exercise, to redeploy with the road party.





**This heavy convoy delivered stores for embarkation on LHD HMAS Adelaide at Fleet Base East ready for Ex Sea Series.**

The Troop will see the year out continuing to support driver training, in barracks, and yet another phase of Taipan Gun Mount trials. Our sights are now firmly fixed on 2020's main logistic activity: Ex Hamel 2020.

**LT Jonathan Mackenzie**  
**LSS 5 Avn Regt**

## **CORPS HISTORY IN BRIEF**

**Bushmaster – a story behind its success.** Given the much-publicised success of Bushmaster as an Australian designed and built armoured fighting vehicle, some readers may find this story of the vehicle's genesis interesting – in particular the involvement of RAEME personnel (serving and retired) in the early stages of the project.

LTCOL Pat Fergusson RAEME (R'td) who was for a time a Staff Officer in DGEME-A and Field Force-Army, commenced his Army career as an Army Apprentice, in 1960, as a 15th Intake Fitter and Turner. Pat was later commissioned via the Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea graduating in 1964. After a tour of SVN and normal regimental appointments, he completed a MSc (Military Vehicle Technology) at the RMCS Shrivenham UK in 1977. He retired from the Army in 1983 as Commander I EME Group, Brisbane.

On leaving the Army, and after positions with the South East Queensland Electricity Board and a National Elevator Company, Pat was appointed Divisional General Manager of Boral Engineering and Services Division from 1995 - 1997. This Division consisted of seven Companies one of which was Perry Engineering (PE) located at Mile End, South Australia. PE was one of two heavy engineering operations in Australia at that time, the other being Evans Deakin in Brisbane.

A very important niche business conducted by PE was the manufacture of Defence hardware. One project undertaken at that time, was the Truck AirCraft Loading

and Unloading Off Pavement vehicle (TACLOP). It was designed to assist the loading and unloading of C130's from "Bush" airstrips. Other major work carried out by PE was the welding of the internal superstructure for Collins Class Submarines for the Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC); and the manufacture of five pulverising mills for the Collie Power Station in Western Australia – heavy engineering at its best and all done in Australia!

PE also had a talented Mechanical Engineering Design section, headed up by mechanical engineer, who was the major design engineer for the Bushmaster Project. The Bushmaster proposal resulted from a response to a Defence Request for Tender/Interest (RTF/RTI) for the development of an Infantry Mobility Vehicle (IMV).

In early 1995, Pat was in Canberra on Boral business, and, being a keen coffee drinker, paid a visit to a past RAEME associate, then, Maj Gen John Kingston. John was then Assistant Chief of Materiel – Army (ACMAT-A). Amongst the many topics covered that morning were concerns that the major contenders for the IMV, were the British FOXHOUND and the South African TAIPAN (both coincidentally based on the Mercedes Unimog chassis), and there was no Australian contender!

As we know, "timing is everything", and Pat saw an opportunity to satisfy Army's requirement at "arm's length", and fit for purpose IMV proposal, with a design from PE using its well-known design and manufacturing skills, to produce an all Australian design and have the vehicle manufactured in Australia.

The risk for PE was assessed as high and "economically weak". However, major points in gaining approval from the BORAL Board to proceed, were supported by the knowledge Bushmaster would be judged objectively on "its merits"; was a strong and practical design; could compete well against other contenders; and would be supported by a personal commitment to "close management" by PE.

To get the process underway quickly, a contract was let to an Irish Computer Aided Design (CAD) firm, Timoney Engineering, which had the requisite CAD skills and expertise. Rockwell, a French firm, supplied the four torsion bar suspension stations. The torsion bar suspension, along with 'run flat' tyres, were bolted to the outside of the hull, allowing for ease of maintenance/removal. This design also facilitated cross country performance and 100kph road speeds.

Stewart and Stevenson (who produce the power packs for the majority of the US Army B vehicle fleet) provided several power packs. This deal was sweetened by a contractual condition that saw Stewart and Stevenson being awarded the power pack orders for the fleet if the Bushmaster vehicle was the successful tenderer. There



was common agreement that the Bushmaster would have automatic transmission for ease of driver assimilation. Also, to facilitate simple and quick engine changes, the engine needed to be rail mounted and have hydraulic connections – preferably only one hose – but it ultimately became two.

To keep the focus on the prototype manufacturing process, and meet the deadline set by Defence, the design team (two engineers and two fitters) was metaphorically “locked in an empty shed on the PE Mile End site and not allowed out until they came up with a viable vehicle!”

In late 1996, a small complication arose, when the decision was made by Boral to sell PE. After discussion with the Boral CEO, it was proposed that the Bushmaster package (prototype, drawings and existing contracts) be sold separately to the PE. This allowed the Bushmaster to remain “live” in the process, ensuring a suitable (to Defence) Australian manufacturer existed.

There was previous history between PE and Australian Defence Industries (ADI) in Bendigo, both as collaborators and competitors. It was known that ADI had a large vertical milling capability (to machine the hull armoured plate), a capable manufacturing operation, a good knowledge of the Defence materiel contracting processes and procedures, a working relationship with Materiel Branch, and was looking for a credible engineering project for the future. ADI was contacted and negotiations commenced with the then General Manager of ADI and his team.

Another very interested and major contender for the Bushmaster package was the Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC); but ultimately, ADI was the successful bidder for the Bushmaster Package.

A significant issue still to be resolved, on the handover to ADI of the Bushmaster package, was the shape of the hull to enable compliance with the requirement for effective IED/Mine blast protection. While this component of the project is nearly a story in itself, it was resolved by ADI recruiting and employing the South African engineer involved with the TAI PAN vehicle. He went on to become a senior manager of ADI before it was later acquired by Thales.

The Bushmaster package sold to ADI Bendigo by PE was composed of three elements: an upfront payment for the prototype vehicle, CAD drawings, jigs and fixtures and Intellectual Property. This included a secondment arrangement from PE to ADI for the Bushmaster design team key people; secondly a further payment to Boral Ltd if the Bushmaster was selected at the end of the Trial; and thirdly a further payment to Boral Ltd if Defence placed an order for more than a Battalion/Regiment number of vehicles. As it transpired BORAL received all three payments.



**End Note.** “Bushmaster resulted in part from a collaboration by a group of RAEME/Ex RAEME people in Defence and key players in industry with the desire, enthusiasm and manufacturing skill sets to provide an Australian designed and manufactured Vehicle”. The ultimate benefits can be seen over recent years on operations, and even today, as the Bushmaster continues to proudly and effectively serve the ADF.

**Pat Fergusson, LTCOL (R’td) RAEME.**

## OPERATION SPANNER PACK

**Quick Update.** In this edition we wish to acknowledge the generosity of several people, who have donated a total of \$600 towards our important Spanner Pack Program. In the last month, the RAQ received donations from the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association, Victoria; the RAEME Reserve Association; and one individual and strong member of the RAQ, Cedric Payne. Thank you for your assistance – the next delivery, 60 Spanner Packs – departs for foreign shores on 10 Nov 19.

For readers, who may wish to assist, please note we do need your help, so if you can donate items, or money, please visit the shop on the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Website at [www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) where you will find a “make a donation” tag.

### Arte et Marte

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



### VALE

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

- **Tink**, Douglas, (17th VM) passed away on 19 Jul 19, after a battle with cancer, in Perth Hospital. His funeral was held on 26 Jul 19. Doug completed two tours of Vietnam, firstly with 3 Cav LAD, and a secondly, with 1 Fd Sqn Wksp.
- **Bryant**, Clive Dudley, (9th VM) passed away peacefully 1 Aug 19, aged 81 years. Beloved Husband

of Jill, devoted Father and Father-in-Law of Jason and Jayne, Wendy and Richard and Scott and Gina, proud Poppy of Alex and Christie, Julia, Max, Bronte, Beth, Ellen, Luca and Arlo.

- **Fuller**, Robert “Bob”, (12th VM) passed away 10 Aug 19 after battling illness. He served in Vietnam with 101 Fd Wksp, and on leaving the Army worked for the Department of Defence. He was the inaugural Vice President of RAEME Vietnam Vets and later Secretary of Southern Chapter.
- **Foster**, Robert William “Bob”, OAM, passed away peacefully 17 Aug 19. Bob is survived by his wife Fay, daughter Dianne, son, Jeff, and their extended families. He served in Vietnam with the Australian Army Training Team (2 Feb 66 until 18 Jan 67) and was RSM 5 Base Wksp Bn from Oct 72 to Nov 82.
- **Holden**, LCPL Darrel “FJ”, 45th F&T, passed 25 Aug 19, after a short battle with cancer, aged 45. FJ served in the ARA before transferring to the reserves. His funeral was held at Manilla cemetery.
- **Edwards**, Darren, MAJ (Retd) passed away suddenly on 22 Sep 19 aged 51 years. Darren was the CA RAEME at SCMA circa 95-96 and OC 101 Fd Wksp in 1999 before deploying the CSST to support 5/7 RAR in Timor. More recently he was GM Boeing Australia.
- **Findlay**, James, passed away on 17 Sep 19. He served in SVN with 102 Fd Wksp from 19 Feb 68 to 4 Oct 68 and then 106 Fd Wksp from 05 Oct 68 to 3 Dec 68. A graveside service was held at ay Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Minden, QLD.
- **Long**, Robert “Bob”, passed away in Selangor Private Hospital, Nambour, Sunshine Coast on 15 Oct 19, at age 75 years, following a battle with prostate cancer. Bob served as an aircraft fitter in Australia and New Guinea, both in uniform and as a civilian.

## WELFARE

RAQ has been advised of the following:

- **Hawkins**, Trevor “Trev”, whose health has been poor in recent months, wants his friends to know how much he appreciated their best wishes. He was initially admitted to Mater Private for four to seven days to have a brain tumour removed. Due to complications, he stayed for five and half weeks and endured three further operations. Specifically, Trev, wishes to thank Noelene, his wife, and good friend, Jock Fraser, for their ongoing support over the last few months.
- **Bond**, Phillip, recovering from prosthetic knee operation, should be back on deck November/December.

I can only advise our membership on welfare matters if they have been supplied to me. Even if you only have a little information, it all helps to keep our members

informed. So please email me at [welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au) with detail of the welfare of our brethren and sisters.

**Barry Shipway**  
**Welfare Officer**  
[welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is the final edition of “Spanner News” for 2019. I want to pay tribute to the hardworking committee of the RAQ, all of whom have had yet another busy year. Not only do all these members hold down busy and demanding day jobs, but they also find time to organise our well attended and good quality events throughout the year. Don't forget the final event, the RAQ All Ranks Luncheon at the Port Office Hotel on 1 Dec 19.

I also want to thank the many contributors to “Spanner News” – we do appreciate the breadth of stories we receive about the Corps' current activities, as well as its past exploits.

Most importantly, this year the executive travelled to Townsville to assist the NQ RAQ sub-committee to rejuvenate their association – I am really pleased, as your Patron, to see the progress being made in the north and although it is centred in Townsville, all NQ locals, are equally welcome to become involved. In 2020, I hope we can assist the NQ Sub-Committee to advertise your events in the north, as well as help you recruit new members. Please get in touch whenever you like on [commschair@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:commschair@qld.raeme.org.au).

Speaking of membership – if each reader encouraged one RAEME, or ex-RAEME, friend to join the RAQ, the NQ Sub-Branch, or the Gold and Sunshine Coasts chapters, this would be a fitting way to end the year. **See our RAQ Membership officer, Kingsley Pocock's article on page 3.**

Finally, I am looking for good stories on what the Corps has done in the past and what the current Corps, currently 4000 members, is doing as the Army continues to modernise to meet emerging requirements. Look for stories about you and your mates providing support to units with modern field and technical work practices, applying modern tools and technology, the development of new trades, innovative trade training and clever thinking – if you want a clue on how to structure the stories, get hold of a copy of the most recent Corps Memoir, “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsman of the Australian Army 1942-2014”, which is still on sale through the Head of Corps Cell, Bonegilla. **See the advertisement on page 12.**



Late news about DVA Changes – see the email from the Secretary DVA, Liz Cosson, on page 12

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

**Ross Grant**  
Chairman Comms Committee  
[commschair@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:commschair@qld.raeme.org.au)



## PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SPONSORS



## 1 DEC 2019 RAEME CORPS BIRTHDAY

### RAQ All Ranks Luncheon

An invitation is extended to all current, past and friends of RAEME to attend our Annual All Ranks Luncheon. This year we celebrate the 77th Anniversary of the establishment of the Corps and the luncheon provides an opportunity for all "Bluebells" to celebrate our achievements on our Corps Birthday.

**CLICK HERE TO BOOK**

**Venue:** Port Office Dining Room, Brisbane CBD (Port Office Hotel) Corner Edward and Margaret Streets.

Tickets	Price (Per Person)
Financial RAQ Member or Serving Soldier or one Member/Soldier guest	\$55.00
Email Affiliates, Non-Members & extra Guests	\$65.00

**Timings:** 1130 hrs pre luncheon gathering for 1230 hrs start, finishing at 1700hrs

**Meal:** Entree, Main (3-way alternate drop), desert (Corps Birthday cake) tea and coffee.

**Drinks:** Drink package included for the first hour once seated (after the first hour drinks are own expense)

**Dress:** Smart Casual - Gents Tie please

**RSVP:** Registrations close Sunday 24th November 2019

**Limited Numbers to a maximum 110 tickets.** RAQ Financial Members and up to one guest receive a discount of \$10 per ticket (Max \$20 per member).

**We're back at the  
Iconic Port Office  
Hotel**

**3 Course Meal  
just \$55 for  
Members &  
Serving Soldiers**

**Drink package  
included for the  
first hour once  
seated**

**Registrations  
close Sunday 24th  
November 2019**

**RAEME ASSOC QLD  
Inc**

[www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au)

**Port Office Hotel  
Brisbane CBD**

**1 Dec 2019 – 1130 for  
1230hrs Start**

## NEED A BATTERY? RACQ HAS YOU COVERED




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\*\$25 rebate on the purchase of any RACQ battery. Rebate is valid for QLD RAEME ASSC members only. Rebate is for the battery only. Redemption is to RACQ Batteries PO Box 4 Springwood QLD 4127. Member must post this voucher and a copy of the tax invoice from either the RACQ or the RACQ battery stockist clearly indicating the name of the supplier, battery part number, your name, address and ASSC member number only. A cheque will be posted to the address supplied. Voucher is valid for batteries purchased 1 May 2019 - 30 April 2020 and must be used by 30 June 2020.


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RAQ ROLLING EVENTS CALENDAR	DATE
NTH QLD Gathering - Dalrymple Hotel Garbutt	Fri 16 Nov 2019
RAMS Dining In Night Oakey	Fri 29 Nov 2019
All Ranks Luncheon Brisbane	Sun 1 Dec 2019
77th RAEME Birthday	Sun 1 Dec 2019
RAEME Birthday 106 FD WKSP	Mon 2 Dec 2019
RAEME Birthday 2 CAV REGT	TBA NOV/DEC
SE Qld Army Apprentices Reunion Bulimba	Sat 6 Jun 20
Australian Army Apprentices Association Reunion 2020	Fri 23 Oct to Sun 25 Oct 20

### **"WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING: CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1942-2014".**

For those yet to buy the Corps memoir, here is detail on how to obtain a copy. It may also be a great Christmas gift for someone who has served in the Corps. The Corps RSM, WO1 Richard Colefax, and the acting SO2 Corps Heritage, WO1 Reinhold Dekrell, are managing sales, so the best way to secure a copy is to go to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on "Shop" and then click on the photo of the book's cover.

*'To purchase a book, you will need to make a deposit of \$40.00 by electronic transfer to the following account:*

*RAEME Corps Fund*

*BSB – 833205*

*Acct – 20509705*

*Once payment is made, please send an email to:*

*[RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au) and add the CC address of WO1 Dekrell, [reinhold.dekrell1@defence.gov.au](mailto:reinhold.dekrell1@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.'*

**Note:** In the electronic transfer and proof of payment reference field, please include your surname and phone number. 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](mailto: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 2274, prior to ordering. Books should be despatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.

**Subject:** Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019 - ESORT Members [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment and support to ensuring veterans and their families receive the recognition and respect they deserve for their service and sacrifice to our country.

I am pleased to let you know that the Government's Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019 has passed Federal Parliament today.

This legislation formally establishes the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant which includes an oath, lapel pin and Veteran Card which are available for veterans and eligible reservists. With the passing of this legislation we will now start to send out the lapel pins and oath to those who have already registered via mail in the coming weeks.

The new Veteran Card, which is a redesign of the existing DVA health cards, continues to provide access to treatments and benefits and will soon provide access to thousands of offers from businesses across Australia as a part of a new benefits program.

We are expecting to launch the benefits program very soon and will be sending information packs in the mail to Ex-Service Organisations and RSL Sub-branches which includes promotional material and a set of frequently asked questions to help you support veterans to ensure they get the most out of the program.

Veterans and reservists can continue to register for the Covenant online through [MyService](https://my.service.gov.au), by calling DVA on 1800 555 254, or by visiting your local Veterans Access Network office. For more information about the Covenant, please visit the [DVA Website](https://dva.gov.au)