

EDITION 2-24

# SPANNER NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC

JULY 2024



Featuring | AVN REGT TSS Darwin



Edition 2-24

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### Spanner News

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Bracken Ridge Qld

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome everyone to the second edition of Spanner News for 2024! We've had another eventful period filled with moments of reflection and celebration.

Sadly, we learned of the passing of Brigadier Bert Barker in June, who was a founding member of our proud Corps in 1942 and proud RAQ member. With few original members left, his loss is deeply felt. His funeral, held on 1st July, was attended by COL Martin Griffiths, COL COMDT VIC, DHOC LTCOL Tim Soper, Corps RSM WO1 Jon Tynan, along with retired MAJORS, Garry Swan and Barry Skinner, who were very close to Bert and his wife Nona. Their attendance is a testament to the camaraderie and respect that defines our community and undoubtedly brought comfort to his family.

Our attendance at the ANZAC Day Parade March in Brisbane has been organised by Max Walker since 2017. Max has done an outstanding job liaising with the parade committee and assisting our older veterans. He recently announced his decision to step down from the role to focus on leading Kokoda Treks in PNG. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Max for his exceptional efforts and dedication to the role.

Deputy Chair, Paul Gibbs, has been instrumental in establishing a youth member role within our executive. I am pleased to announce that CFN Tyler Pidgeon has accepted this position. Tyler will help bridge the gap between Corps veterans and the younger generation of serving soldiers, fostering engagement and collaboration. As a Recovery Technician at 8/9 RAR, Tyler has already provided valuable insights on how we can better represent or support our members. Welcome Tyler.

One of the benefits of being Chair is the honour of recognising Association members who make significant contributions. I recently presented Kingsley Pocock with a Chairman's Award. Kingsley's dedication and proactive efforts have been key in driving impressive membership growth. We are deeply grateful for his efforts – this award is well-deserved, congratulations, Kingsley!

We have several craftsmen deployed to PNG, as well as Operation Lilia, the ADF's contribution to the Solomon Islands. They ensure operational readiness by maintaining and repairing equipment and responding rapidly to technical issues. The RAEME National Network, via Operation Spanner Pack, recently supplied "Spanner Packs" to these deployed troops. The packs contain some favourite delicacies and much-loved items from home, which help our soldiers live more comfortably. Big thank you to Ray Norman for his good work.

The newly relocated Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Kokoda Barracks, Canungra will play host to the laying of Regimental Plaques on 18 August 2024. This ceremony will honour the fallen and commemorate the service of Vietnam Veterans. The Corps is involved and will unveil a plaque on the day, attended by either the Corps DHOC or RSM.

Following the successful inaugural Women in RAEME event last year, we've had significant interest in the next one. Members Suzanne Shipp and Bec Rasmussen, along with Elise McKenzie, are working on a plan, which I look forward to announcing shortly.

August will be another busy month with the RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion, Darling Downs Luncheon, and the Gold Coast lunch at the Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC. Please take the time to attend an event near you.

Thank you all for your continued support and involvement. Let's keep up the momentum as we move forward in 2024!

Arte et Marte

**Peter Matthews**  
**Chairman RAQ**

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



## MESSAGE FROM COL COMDT QLD – COL STEVE EVANS

G'day Spanners, one of the challenges facing the COL COMDTs around the country is to bridge the gap between the current serving members and the ex-service associations. I am incredibly blessed in Qld to have a very proactive and enthusiastic association which has helped me bridge that gap but also keep striving to improve the ideal of a seamless RAEME community. It helps that Qld also has two full time Brigades and other full time organisations in our region; along with a host of busy Reserve organisations. So there is a large enthusiastic and active RAEME pool to draw upon.

During my tenure as COL COMDT, I have watched the RAEME Association of Qld (RAQ) expand significantly in numbers but also with regards to their geographic footprint. In addition to the central hub of Brisbane, the RAQ now has chapters on the Darling Downs, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Cairns. Also, during my tenure, I have noted the changeover of the entire committee of the RAQ with the next generation bringing fresh ideas and new energy to the Association. This is not to belittle the enormous achievements of the previous committee who built a solid foundation of ideals, processes and finances which the new committee has exploited. I was delighted to see the previous Chairman, Jeff Maurice, receive recognition for his excellent work with the awarding of an OAM on Australia Day this year for his work with the RAQ over ten years – that's a long time to be a volunteer on the executive.

The RAQ attends most RAEME events at Army bases throughout Qld. This involvement also bridges the gap by providing current serving members with assistance for funding sponsorship, trophies, raffles, birthday cakes and merchandise. It is wonderful to also see the current serving members leaning forwards into the RAQ meetings and activities. I attend most RAQ meetings in Brisbane and there is typically 5-6 OCs, ASMs, or other unit representatives in attendance. I applaud the fact that these folk aren't just sitting in the corner either. They are volunteering for jobs, offering up ideas and truly making the RAEME community just one big family. I also recognise the significant efforts which WO2 Jason Ballard has been putting into the RAEME community in Nth Qld with a similar aim of uniting the holistic RAEME community.

I believe I'll soon be handing over my role as COL COMDT. I'm confident my replacement will enjoy the job as much as I have, due to the energy and proactiveness of all elements of the RAEME community in maintaining the "family ethos" and our esprit de corps.

Arte et Marte

**Steve Evans**  
COL COMDT – QLD  
[steve.evans@defence.gov.au](mailto:steve.evans@defence.gov.au)



## KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

### Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)



**Major Kevin John HEYNE.** For meritorious service in the fields of safety, logistics and modernisation within the Australian Army Cadets.

**Warrant Officer Class One Craig Antony WEBB.**



Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division for meritorious service across multiple RSM positions in the Australian Army. A former RAEME Corps RSM, WO1 Craig Webb citation reads:

*Warrant Officer Class One Webb is a remarkable soldier who has provided meritorious service in a range of Regimental Sergeant Major positions. He has consistently demonstrated leadership, initiative and devotion, acting as an agent for change, an advocate for soldiers and enhancing organisational culture. Warrant Officer Webb's meritorious service has shaped a generation of soldiers by ensuring that significant organisational changes have been successful, resulting in enhancement of Army's capability.*

WO1 Webb, held a variety of trade and regimental positions across Australia before being appointed as the RSM of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (ASEME) in 2013. Concurrent with this posting, WO1 Webb was also appointed at the Corps RSM of RAEME.



## Conspicuous Service Medal

### Sergeant Leighton Barnet WILSON



Awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal for meritorious conduct as acting Artificer Sergeant Major of the 7th Signal Regiment:

*Sergeant Wilson demonstrated meritorious achievement as the acting Artificer Sergeant Major, 7th Signal Regiment. His dedication and technical excellence significantly contributed to the maintenance of the Australian Army's Protected Mobility Vehicle – Electronic Warfare fleet, and improved the reliability of Headquarters on the Move vehicles.*

Sergeant Wilson's leadership and determination to bring together multiple Army and Non-Army Group stakeholders to remediate issues and improve engineering and logistics accountability for the fleet have improved the Australian Army's combat capability.

**The RAQ offer our congratulations to members of our Corps for their awards.**

### RAQ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) continues to grow with a further 79 new members from 1 Nov 23 until 30 Jun 24. The RAQ has also seen an increase in Annual Subscribers upgrading to Life Subscribers. A highlight of this year has been the naming of our 1000th subscriber, Rion Senior.

The RAQ continues to either sponsor events or subsidize members at events. A recent successful Spanner Club at Kedron Wavell RSL was attended by over 120 local serving personnel, with another one planned for September this year. We also subsidized gatherings and lunches in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast as well as Brisbane thus the RAQ achieves another one of its goals to give back to our members. We are also pleased to see increasing numbers of members taking advantage of event and merchandise discounts.

Another recent innovation was the installation of a Junior Member on the RAQ executive. We welcome the appointment of CFN Tyler Pidgeon, a recovery technician from 8/9 RAR, to this important position. He is tasked with advocating to other serving soldiers on behalf of the RAQ to show that it is not just made up of retired "Old Spanner News

and Bolds". By encouraging younger soldiers to join, the Association hopes to strengthen and guarantee its longevity for the next generation and become more relevant to younger men and women of the Corps while serving or upon retiring.



**Deputy Chair Paul Gibbs presents Tyler with his first \$100 gift voucher on behalf of the RAQ for accepting the Youth Member Position**

Another innovation was a successful gathering of Women in RAEME late last year and another one is planned for later this year – watch for news on this event.

I would also like to remind financial member that they are entitled to Life Membership of the AEME Mermaid Beach SLSC by simply filling out a member request form from our website and forwarding it to me.

Arte et Marte

**Kingsley Pocock**  
**RAQ Membership**  
[membership@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@qld.raeme.org.au)



### FEATURING 1 AVN REGT TSS - DARWIN

**A Brief History and Introduction.** The 1st Aviation Regiment (1 AVN) is the oldest serving aviation unit in the Australian Army and has been officially operating since 18 December 1964. Over the years, the unit has proudly represented the nation on numerous deployments overseas. Significant campaigns include initial deployments for 161 Reconnaissance Flight in South Vietnam (Dec 1965 – Mar 1972) during the Vietnam War; and 182 Reconnaissance Flight in Malaya, Borneo and Singapore (Oct 1965 – Oct 1973) during the Malayan Confrontation. Other significant deployments include 161 Reconnaissance active operations supporting OP TANAGER in East Timor (2000) and 171 Operational Support Squadron's contribution to OP BEL ISI in Bougainville (1997 – 1998).

Over the years, the unit has operated many aircraft such as the Bell 47G Sioux, Bell 206B-1 Kiowa, Bell UH-1H Iroquois, GAF N22 & N24 Nomad, Pilatus PC-6B Porter and the De Havilland DHC-4 Twin Otter.



### 161 Recce SQN Kiowa on Operations

After years of operating from numerous locations (Oakey, Townsville, Holsworthy, Goroka PNG, Singapore and Lae PNG), the unit was reorganised in 2004 to prepare for the new Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, EC665 Tiger. During this restructure 171 Operational Support Squadron and 173 Surveillance Squadron were placed as direct command units of 16 Brigade and later formed the 6th Aviation Regiment.

Between 2005 and 2006, the remaining Squadrons were consolidated to one location, Gaza Lines, Robertson Barracks Darwin, for the first time in history. The reorganisation saw four primary sub-units, 161 Reconnaissance Squadron, 162 Reconnaissance Squadron, Technical Support Squadron, and the Logistic Support Squadron,

The ARH Tiger has remained ready and deployable from 1 AVN since 2015, in support of land, joint and special forces. In recent history, ARH Tiger has extended its capability to littoral operation on the Navy's Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) in support of the Amphibious Combat Element (ACE).



### ARH Tiger embarked on a LHD

Within the next 12 months, 1 AVN will again be asked to adapt as it embarks on a significant transformation with a relocation from Robertson Barracks to RAAF Base Townsville and the Introduction into Service (IIS) of the Apache (AH64E) helicopter.

The relocation will commence in Jan 2025 with ARH Tiger continuing to operate in Darwin while the AH64E is fielded in Townsville. 1 AVN's Technical & Logistic Support Squadrons will be critical enablers to the successful transition of Army's attack and reconnaissance

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capability. The RAEME element are trusted to maintain the legacy ARH fleet capability in Darwin while Technicians and Logisticians are sent forward to establish new facilities, develop theory and practical training, and commence maintenance operations on AH64E in Townsville.

I am proud to share our journey with the wider RAEME community and look forward to our continued Regiment success and future in Townsville.

Arte et Marte

**MAJ Juan Peters,**  
**Officer Commanding**  
**Technical Support Squadron**



### Recent Operations and Exercises – Joint Task Force Operation – Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023.

In June 2023, the members of 161 Technical Support Troop (TST) supported the air-self-deployment of six ARH Tigers across the country from Darwin to Townsville to participate in Exercise Talisman Sabre 23 (EX TS 23). Our RAEME Technicians provided an aircraft recovery support capability from Darwin to Townsville and made the move, via road convoy with few recoveries.

EX TS 23 involved 24-hour maintenance operations working closely with 16th Combat Aviation Brigade (16CAB) and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Working in a Joint Task Force (JTF) provided the opportunity for technicians to collaborate with international counterparts and gain an understanding and insight into the different maintenance processes and aviation regulations used by our allies.

Throughout the exercise, the tradesmen of 161 TST consistently enabled high aircraft availability whilst also conducting multiple simulated tactical aircraft recoveries, including the conduct of an actual aircraft recovery from the main taxiway of Townsville Airport post a heavy landing. The efforts of the members of 161 TST ensured that aircraft were available for all the operational training and mission requirements.



### 161 TST maintainers replacing a tyre on an ARH Tiger after a heavy landing

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While on EX TS 23, the Squadron was re-tasked to conduct a search and rescue mission on short notice. This saw the successful planning, preparation and deployment of two ARH Tigers, tooling, spare parts and an FRT to Proserpine, at short notice to conduct and support the search and rescue operation. Overall, the tradesmen of 161 TST gained valuable experience working in the JTF environment ensuring that the ARH aviation capability remains ready to fight.

**CAPT Darius Nooriafshar**  
Maintenance Aviation  
Safety Officer  
Technical Support Squadron



**Philippines 2023 and Exercise IPE 2024 Look ahead.** On 19 August 23, 162 Recce Squadron (162 SQN) deployed as TU MARLIN to the Clark Air Base, Philippines in support of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 23 (IPE 23). It was the first time for many of the members of 162 SQN TST and the attachment ancillary trades from Maintenance Support Troop (MST) to deploy overseas.

The preparation required to support four aircraft for deployment overseas was a complex task. The movement of tooling, support and test equipment (S&TE) and spare parts were some key considerations. Additional challenges were presented by balancing existing I AVN commitments to EX TS 23.

The short turnaround time between the two Exercises relied on maintenance personnel in Townsville to quickly switching focus in order to support the forward movement to Clark Air Base. 162 SQN deployed together with four ARH Tigers and the associated, equipment, spares and stores in five C-17 Globemasters over five days to Clark Air Base.

162 SQN TST provided unwavering support to TU MARLIN flying operations, which sought to integrate with the Philippine Air Force (PAF) through the conduct of a Combined Joint Live Fire Exercise at the Colonel Ernesto Rabina Air Base. Multiple typhoon systems off the coast of Luzon disrupted the exercise, resulting in a cancellation of the Live Fire Exercise (LFX). The exercise intent was still achieved, through JTAC-controlled dry serials of close air support to operations in complex urban terrain.

The maintenance team faced many novel and complex issues during the deployment of a scalable ARH Tiger capability element operating in support of an amphibious ground force. They were consistent and proactive in responding to changes. The successful deployment proved the effectiveness of support to ARH during an international deployment and was an excellent opportunity for the Army's attack aviation capability to deploy within the Indo Pacific Region and conduct International Engagement with allied partners.



**162 TST Maintainers loading a RAAF C-17**

162 SQN will once again support EX IPE in Q4 2024, as one of the final exercises conducted by ARH Tiger as the transition to AH-64E Apache commences in 2025.

**CAPT Alexandra Clark**  
Technical Support  
Troop 2 Commander



**Exercise DEVIL CRAWL 2024.** The re-consolidation of the flying Squadron's TSTs under direct command and control (C2) of TSS in late 2023 has provided an opportunity for enhanced sub-unit all-Corps training not seen within the Regt since 2017.

Exercise DEVIL CRAWL 2024 in May allowed all three technical support troops (TST), reinforced by SHQ and OPS, to revisit and enhance those All-Corps Officer and Soldier skills required to allow maintainers to conduct their tasks in a contested environment, as part of an Aviation Maintenance Task Unit.



**TST I conducting clearance patrol of Troop defensive position**

This successful exercise comprised of three key activities:

- Combat shooting refresh and practices
- Road deployment and occupation of a defensive harbour at Kangaroo Flats Training Area.
- Rotation through multiple All-Corps skill enhancement stands to revise individual and small team skills.



**MST LSW gunner observing arcs**

**WO2 Steven Frost**  
**Squadron Sergeant Major**  
**Technical Support Squadron**



**Sun Sets on IAVN REGT in Darwin – I AVN Regt Transitions to Townsville and AH-64E Apache.** To facilitate the restructure of Army Aviation, and specifically 16th Aviation Brigade, IAVN will relocate to Townsville to be co-located with the 5th Aviation Regiment and Headquarters 16th Aviation Brigade. The move will coincide with the I AVN transition from the ARH Tiger on to the AH-64E Apache, being introduced under LAND4053.

The move and transition comes with some considerable restraints including: zero growth throughout the transition; and the requirement for ARH Tiger to maintain Chief of Defence Force Preparedness Directive (CPD), until Apache reaches Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

The first maintenance elements are scheduled to commence transition to Townsville from CMC25, and the final maintenance elements transitioning after IOC. The transition will implement one maintenance brick at a time. A maintenance brick, as defined by The Future Aeroskills Workforce Design (FAWD), is an eleven person Forward Repair Team (FRT), with a 60/40 ratio between ECN 411 Aircraft Technician and ECN 412 Avionics Technician, with a SGT of either trade as the FRT commander. Supporting trades and functions, including RAAF Aircraft Life Support Fitters (ALSE) and Aircraft Structural Repair Fitters (ASR), along with EMEOPS and Maintenance Control Section (MCS) will begin to transition from CMC26.

A residual workforce of three FRTs along with supporting elements (EMEOPS, MCS, ALSE, and ASR) will remain in Darwin until Apache reaches IOC, to facilitate the transition, and ensuring that Tiger CPD is maintained whilst the Apache Aeroskills workforce is developed. An individual transition plan is being employed in consultation between the CMA and Regiment for each technician.

The current workforce that transition to Apache will be required to complete Additional Type Training (ATT) that

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will be conditionally conducted in Townsville. Long term Initial Type Training (ITT) will be conducted at the Army Aviation Training Centre, Oakey, upon the delivery of training aides. Those training aides are not expected to be delivered before 2026.

The Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) will cease training first quarter 2024 Tiger ITT, in order to support the Introduction into Service of Apache. ATT will be suspended at the same time, with the option of training being delivered on demand.



**WO1 David Bowden**  
**Regiment Artificer Sergeant Major**  
**Technical Support Squadron**

**Our Airbus Maintenance Partners – OJT Management and AADAR Opportunities.** Aircraft and Avionics Technicians each typically require between 3 and 3.5 years to complete approximately 1000 general maintenance tasks as part of their on-the-job training (OJT) to earn their Certificate IV in Aeroskills. With the rollout of DASR (Defence Aviation Safety Regulations) in 2018, trainees now, must also complete approximately 400 tasks (aircraft) or 300 tasks (avionics) specific to their chosen trade to complete their Types Course. The intent is to complete tasks and record them in an individual's work journal and use it to achieve recognition of prior learning (RPL) towards achieving the Cert IV.

As the training pipeline draws to a close there is a large cohort of trainees being put through the ARH Types Training. I AVN and RAMS are working together to distribute trainees out across contracted Deep Maintenance (DM) facilities, being Airbus Australia Darwin (AADAR) and Airbus Australia Oakey (AAPOAK), to minimise the training and supervision workload on I AVN's TSS maintainers, while also providing new trainees more in-depth maintenance experiences.



### **Airbus DM Facilities**

Currently, AADAR employ Aircraft and Avionics technicians similar to the Army and have their own training and management programs. They are embedded throughout I AVN Regiment and work in partnership with army maintainers to maintain ARH serviceability and



airworthiness. AADAR personnel provide specialist trade capability in general aircraft and avionics maintenance, both sheet metal and composite aircraft structural repairs, tool control and calibration, component deeper maintenance (CDM) and maintenance control among other tasks.

As the drawdown of Army personnel commences from Darwin with infill the transitioning unit to Townsville, it is expected that AADAR will take on a more involved role in managing the maintenance program in Darwin and subsequent disposal of ARH Tiger expected in 2027.

**LT Shanil Panchal**  
**EMEOPS**  
**Technical Support Squadron**



**Maintaining ARH Tiger Readiness and Capability until Planned Withdrawal (PWD) – FLYPRO changes, stabilisation and its impact on improving serviceability and the ROE of ARH Tiger.** Late 2023 and early 2024 ushered in a number of significant changes to the 1 AVN operations and maintenance (O&M) battle rhythm. The changes focussed on three main Lines Of Effort (LOE):

- Fleet stabilisation,
- Home station training and
- Reduced OP and force generation demands.

All three lines of effort were aligned with the common theme, to balance our workforce in all trade streams with the capability demands of operating the ARH Tiger until Planned Withdrawal Date (PWD).

Maintenance Battle Rhythm changes have primarily focussed on consolidation of the maintenance workforce under the Technical Support Squadron (TSS) and Flying Program (FlyPro) optimisations to enable maintenance effort. Our maintenance technicians provide in-barracks support 18hrs a day, 5 days a week, across day and night shifts IOT support the flying program. Our shift structure is focussed on providing maximum maintenance support outside the primary flying window while sharing the load of night shift among the FRTs, and providing an aircraft recovery capability. Other considerations for FRT shift planning are based on the Non-Technical-Skills (NTS) concerning human factors, to ensure FRTs are afforded appropriate rest and fatigue management IAW OIP.

Considering the abovementioned LOEs from a maintenance perspective, fleet stabilisation significantly reduced the state of rolling cannibalisations, which has supported the throughput of DM pipeline and wait-times for repair parts and critical components. Stabilisation also reduced the number of operational airframes IOT align with the maintenance capacity of the available workforce based on the required Maintenance Man Hours (MMHRs)

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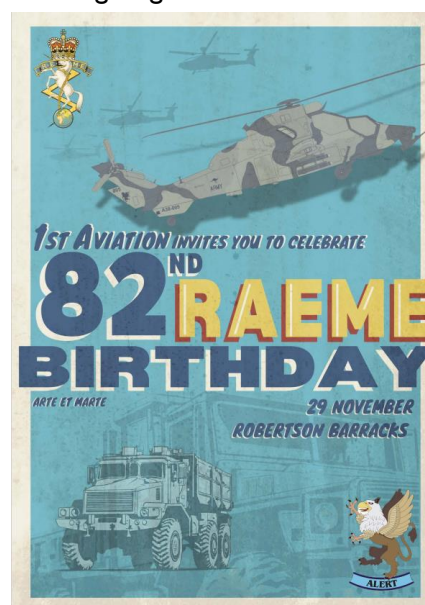
per airframe hour generated. Home station training has enabled the maintenance workforce to focus on balancing the inexperienced OJT workforce with available trade supervisors and limited the maintenance burden required for scheduled servicing and aircraft preparation for interstate exercises. Our newly authorised maintenance managers and trade supervisors have also been afforded the time and space to consolidate their skills in barracks. Finally, reduced OP and force generation demands have been adjusted to meet the current ARH Tiger fleet and available workforce for sustained operations if required.

The implementation of O&M battle rhythm optimisations and adherence to our three lines of effort have resulted in a successful first half of the year. Despite workforce, supply and platform challenges, we are on track to deliver higher than average aircraft serviceability rates and as a result continue to provide a responsive and resilient attack and reconnaissance capability for the Australian Army as it transition to AH64E Apache.

**CAPT Nicholas Degotardi**  
**EMEOPSO**  
**Technical Support Squadron**



**RAEME Birthday 2024.** The 1st Aviation Regiment is excited to host the 82nd RAEME Birthday for the NT Region, as this year will be the last year 1 AVN will be complete at Robertson Barracks. Additionally, 1 AVN will be organising the RAEME Port for 2024, running with the theme 'The Sundowner'. The Sundowner represents a place where the tradies of 1 AVN still gather at the end of shift after a long slog on the tools.



**RAEME Birthday Poster 2024**

It is fitting that the Regiment is hosting both events this year as it provides the ability for the largest RAEME element in the NT to say goodbye to Robertson Barracks and Darwin, as well as farewelling the ARH capability before we begin the transition to Apache.



Each year on RAEME birthday, we celebrate the dedication that the RAEME workforce contributes to the Army and the wider community. It is I AVN's intent to ensure we uphold the commitment to our tradies by putting on an enjoyable event.

The tradesmen within I AVN are in a unique position as both Ground and Air RAEME are exposed to how each discipline operates and their idiosyncrasies. By hosting RAEME birthday we are able to showcase the work we conduct at I AVN to other units in Darwin, the last time we hosted in 2017, the event was very well received. A little touch of legacy is behind the hosting of the event this year as MAJ Juan Peters as OC TSS was one of the key organisers of the 75th Anniversary event in 2017 as 161 TST Commander.

**LT Chris Burnell**  
**Technical Support**  
**Troop I Commander**



**I AVN TSS RAEME Members Representing Army AFLW.**



**Army AFLW ADF Carnival Premiers**

The 2024 ADF Australian Football League national carnival was held between the 15th and 21st of March. Navy, Army and Air Force went head to head in both the Men's and Women's divisions to determine the annual AFL champion team.

Each service spent the week prior to the carnival developing their skills and tactics as a squad in various locations around Melbourne. The Women's training involved intensive sessions followed by beach recovery at St Kilda where comradery was strengthened within the team. After our first recovery session in the heat of the sun, an excited group of Army AFL representatives established their goals of unity, professionalism and determination for the training camp and carnival. This was an excellent opportunity enabled by CO I AVN and OC TSS to get involved in not only wider Army activities, but also with the Air Force and Navy.

**LT Chaylee Reeve**  
**Learning Engineering Officer**  
**Technical Support Squadron**



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## **RAMS 35TH BIRTHDAY – SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE**

On 19 July 2024, the staff and students of the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School celebrated the establishment's 35th birthday and its legacy of excellent technical training. The day was split into a series of events that reflected the military, professional, and personal strengths of the school, with trophies awarded for each activity. The teams were determined by dividing the school into its technical training "Wings", and points from each individual activity were tallied to award one Wing as the overall winner of the day.

Round Robin sports began the day, with each team rotating between touch rugby, volleyball, and deck hockey under the watchful eye of WO2 Mark Higgins, SGT Anthony Ashman, and CPL Liam Maiden. The teams gave it their all, and the scores were so close that a tie had to be broken with a traditional game of spanner toss. Unfortunately for the other Wings, the CH-47 staff and students are built like oxen and were able to launch the hefty tool far beyond the reach of any normal human.

Next up was the annual egg-toss, where Wings are required to build a mechanical egg-launching device in an attempt to hit the CO from a distance of 30 metres. This year there were entrants from all Wings except ARH, but Tech Mastery might as well have not entered for how poorly the device built by the junior Lieutenants did. As it turns out, four years of university study does not necessarily equate to the practical experience of our tradespeople. In the end, it was a very tight competition between UH-60 and CH-47 Wings, but the points went once again to CH-47 who created a terrifyingly accurate egg-tosser, supported by flashing lights and even a warning bell.



Following that egg-citement, the Wings moved to the BBQ area to take part in two "wing" challenges of the more edible variety run by SGT Cale Warren. One was to determine who could make the most delicious chicken wings, using a variety of spices and sauces provided; the other was to consume the hottest possible wings, a secret recipe from WO2 Patrick Morris. In a shocking reversal

of luck, Tech Mastery managed to comfortably win both, proving their mastery is perhaps more relevant to the Catering Corps. With this upset, however, CH-47 and Tech Mastery were now tied for the overall trophy, and another challenge was devised to separate the two. In one final disappointing show, both Wings tried and failed to throw beanbags through a hole. After 18 failed attempts, CH-47 found the angle, sunk the point and brought home the trophy for a second year running.



The day concluded with a BBQ lunch, a short speech from CO/CI RAMS, and the cutting of the cake by our youngest member.

Arte et Marte

**Owen Payton**  
**Warrant Officer Class Two**  
**School Sergeant Major**  
**Rotary-wing Aircraft Maintenance School**

### WHAT IS 3RAR ADMIN COY UP TO?

#### **Achieving Excellence in Field Maintenance Operations: Exercise KAPYONG WARRIOR 24.**

Field maintenance operations are critical for ensuring the operational readiness and effectiveness of military vehicles during operations, training exercises and routine deployments. Exercise KAPYONG WARRIOR 24 provided a unique opportunity for the vehicle mechanics of Technical Support Platoon, 3 RAR to demonstrate their technical and tactical proficiency through the completion of a M113AS4 Pack pull in response to an alternator issue.

Exercise KAPYONG WARRIOR 24 was a battalion field-training exercise conducted at Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA) OTP 04 – 26 Mar 24. For Admin Company, 3 RAR, the exercise provided the opportunity to develop our Standard Operating Procedures for the provision of integral Combat Service Support within an armoured infantry battalion.

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#### **CFN McLeod supervising AS4 crane and pack pull**

As the battalion strives to build a mechanised culture, our skilled maintenance personnel have led the way. The decision to undertake a pack pull in the field was not taken lightly. CPL Kukas, keen to exploit the opportunity, highlighted that the ability to test our maintenance procedures was pivotal in our ability to develop our junior technicians.



#### **CPL Moorhouse on the tools**

CFN Mosher, as the Forward Repair Team (FRT) Commander took charge of the task. Despite meticulous planning and execution, the task highlighted that in a contested environment, unforeseen technical issues, an extended supply chain or adverse weather conditions can impact the ability to get back into the fight.



#### **CFN Mosher conducting field training of power** **RAEME Association Queensland Inc 10**



Despite these challenges, the team, including attached ASEME OJTs, remained resilient and resourceful gaining valuable experience in field maintenance operations.

The successful completion of an M113AS4 Pack pull during Exercise KAPYONG WARRIOR 24 exemplifies the dedication, professionalism, and adaptability of our 3 RAR maintenance personnel. With a mission focussed mindset, the team demonstrated their ability to meet the demands of the increasingly dynamic operational environment.

Arte et Marte

**LT Zacharin**  
**TSP COMD**  
**3RAR**



**ANZAC DAY EVENTS WRAP – ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND QUEENSLAND – THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF FACEBOOK & ASSOCIATION WEBSITES.**





## ARMY APPRENTICE REUNIONS

**19<sup>th</sup> Intake 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion – Bribie Island 22-25 Apr 24.** Camaraderie at its best. After 60 years and careers of 9 to 40+ years there are still great friendships and a solid network evident in the “Apprentice” world!



80+ people associated with the “Apprentices” congregated at Bribie Island Qld stirring the links of time past and affirming current friendship. Whilst the event started as a 19<sup>th</sup> VM (Vehicle Mechanic) get together it was quickly realised there was a broader interest, and all trades were welcomed.



**L to R: “Tex” Bowler (17<sup>th</sup> VM), Ian Thomas, Laurie (Spike) Wiseman, Peter Culnane, Rod McCormack, Des Thompson, (all 19<sup>th</sup> VMs)**

The lunch at the Bribie RSL saw 80 seated and \$400 raised as a part of updating 19<sup>th</sup> names at the Apprentice Memorial, Bandiana. The Dawn Service was followed by the ANZAC Day march where 50 Army Apprentices marched behind both the Apprentice Flag and Apprentice Banner. A great event, just remember, “don’t let the crabs get you!”

**P.S.** The 19<sup>th</sup> 70-year reunion is to be in the phone box outside the Birdsville Pub, so book early 📞

**Ian Thomas**  
**Co-Convenor - 19<sup>th</sup> VM Reunion**

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## ANNUAL ARMY APPRENTICE REUNION BULIMBA BOWLS CLUB 1 JUN 2024 – AT THE 25 YEAR MARK



**30TH Intake Appys at the Reunion 1 June 2024**

The weather may have been a bit bleak, however the Bulimba Bowls Club played host to the much-anticipated annual SE Queensland Apprentice reunion. This event, a highlight in the calendar for many former apprentices, brought together over 100 attendees, who gathered to celebrate their shared history and culture.

After organising the South East Queensland (SEQ) Army Apprentices reunion for a quarter of a century, Brian Daley OAM, has shown a willingness to continue with the annual reunion organisation. Fortunately, he has received terrific support from the Bulimba Bowls Club, so it has become a much simpler affair, and reduced the workload for him and his beloved wife, Barb. Over the years, this reunion has given him and Barb much pleasure gathering all apprentice intakes together, with a theme to share our culture, pride in our origins and enable us to share many memories over many, many years.



**Apprentice School flag flies proudly over Bulimba Bowls Club greens!**

For the day, the greens of the Bulimba Bowls Club were dominated by the proudly waving Apprentices School Flag. This year’s reunion saw a large gathering of the 30<sup>th</sup> Intake, along with many from the 44<sup>th</sup>, and fellow members of Brian’s 14<sup>th</sup> intake.

Throughout the event, attendees generously shared their memories and experiences, reflecting on the valuable skills and lifelong friendships they developed during their time at the AAS. The reunion also served as a reminder of the strong bonds formed through the program. It was



evident that the apprentice program has left a lasting impact on everyone.



**Brian Daley and Bulimba Bowls Club BBQ  
cooked up a storm**

The highlight of the day was Brian and Barb being treated to a cake which was made and iced by Trish Richardson (wife of Alf 14th). This cake was much appreciated by Barb and Brian, and fellow attendees.



**Brian & Barb Daley cut the reunion cake!**

A big thank you to the Club for running the BBQ and keeping everyone well 'watered'. We look forward future gatherings and the next reunion on Sat. 7th June 2025!

### COMING EVENTS

**The following social events are planned for later in 2024 in and around Queensland.**

Event	Date
<b>RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion - Brisbane</b>	<b>Sat 17 Aug 24</b>
<b>RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon - City Golf Club Toowoomba</b>	<b>Sun 18 Aug 24</b>
<b>RAQ Gold Coast Function - AEME SLSC Mermaid Beach</b>	<b>Sat 24 Aug 24</b>
<b>RAQ Sunshine Coast Function - Maroochy RSL</b>	<b>Sat 21 Sep 24</b>
<b>RAEME Birthday - Brisbane</b>	<b>Fri 29 Nov 24</b>
<b>RAEME Birthday - Townsville</b>	<b>Fri 29 Nov 24</b>
<b>RAEME 82nd Birthday</b>	<b>Sun 1 Dec 24</b>
<b>RAQ All Ranks Luncheon - Port Office Hotel</b>	<b>Sun 1 Dec 24</b>

For further details on Events please contact the [Functions Officer](#). To view all functions happening around Australia by the Associations [Click on this link](#)

**Gold Coast RAEME Lunch 24 Aug 2024.** The Gold Coast Annual lunch / get together will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August at the Mermaid Beach (AEME) Surf Lifesaving Club between 1200 and 1700 hrs. Lunch and drinks are at attendees cost. Further detail is available in Friday files in the weeks leading up to the event.

Just a reminder, the Surf Club has its roots in AEME, forerunner of RAEME, when it was formed at the end of World War 2. Importantly, the club offers FREE Life membership for any serving / ex serving member of RAEME whom is a member of the RAEME Association Queensland. You DON'T have to live on the Gold Coast to take advantage of this offer.

Simply go to the RAQ website where the process / application is detailed. See more detail on in Friday Files each week. See you in August.

**Eddie "Beans" Bevans**  
**Lunch Convenor**  
**Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC**  
[beans55289@iprimus.com.au](mailto:beans55289@iprimus.com.au)



**RAQ Sunshine Coast Annual Luncheon – Saturday 21 Sep 24.** As advised in the previous edition of Spanner News, the 2024 RAEME Association – Queensland (RAQ), Sunshine Coast Chapter, Annual Luncheon will be held at the Maroochy RSL, Maroochydoore on Saturday 21 September 2024. Readers who have attended this wonderful luncheon in past years know how good this event is. For those who have not, you are encouraged to come along, make new like-minded friends and hopefully catch up with old friends.

**Format.** The format for the lunch will be the same as previous years, with the Colonel Commandant, Queensland, hosting the lunch, and BRIG (Rtd) Ross Grant AM acting as MC. We will again be ably supported by the Maroochy RSL catering and bar staff, who as many know, look after our every need, including providing our meals from the Club's famous Gold Plate Menu.

#### Lunch Details.

- **Venue** - Room M4 Maroochy RSL, corner Memorial and First Avenues, Maroochydoore.
- **Timings** - 1200 for 1230 hours on Saturday 21 September 2024.
- **Dress** - Neat casual.
- **Menu** - A copy of the menu will be provided in August, but meals will be served as "alternate drop". Please let us know of any special dietary needs.
- **Drinks** - Bar will be open from 1200 to 1630 hours with drinks being purchased at your own expense.

- **Parking** - Free parking is available in the multi-story car park directly opposite the RSL.

**Reserve a Seat(s).** Function reservation details will be set up on the RAQ website in mid-August and you will be able to book and pay for tickets through this medium. Please note that subsidies are limited to 80 guests and final returns will be due by 11 September, so get in early. Most importantly, the cost of the lunch is a very competitive \$30.00 per head for RAQ members and Serving RAEME Members, including partners; and \$50.00 per head for non-members. To be eligible for the discount we encourage all non RAQ members wishing to attend the lunch to join the Association.

**Guest Speaker.** As previously announced, our guest speaker at the luncheon will be COL Kane Wright, RAEME, currently Director of Logistics – Army, in Army Headquarters, and recently returned from Fiji, where he was the Defence Attaché.

**Seating Plan/Tables.** With respect to the luncheon seating plan, please let us know if you wish to form a table (max 8 pers) with friends and every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

**Ross Grant & Mike Prain**  
Lunch Convenors  
RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter



## SPANNER PACK CONTINUES ITS GOOD WORK IN PNG AND THE SOLOMONS

At any time, the Corps has many soldiers serving on operations and undertaking overseas deployments. The RAEME National Network (RNN), with your assistance, send "Spanner Packs" (not tools) to our soldiers on operations.



**Typical example of the content of a Spanner Pack**

These packs contain items not supplied by Defence and which are not locally available. The packs aim to allow our soldiers live more comfortably and enjoy some of those favourite things while away from home.

**Spanner News**

To July 2024, 4848 (approx 9987 Kg) Spanner Packs have been dispatched to RAEME members on operations in Kuwait, Middle East, Sinai, Iraq, Afghanistan, PNG, Solomon's and Timor including embedded RAEME members. **The latest despatch saw 9 x packs, 4 x packs to PNG and 5 x packs sent to the Solomon Islands.**

If you know of someone who is currently serving overseas and would benefit from a pack, please contact the Spanner Pack Committee, via Raymond Norman: [RNN@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:RNN@qld.raeme.org.au) or [qld.raeme.org.au](http://qld.raeme.org.au)

The RAQ proudly supports this initiative on behalf of the RNN. If you would like to support Spanner Pack, please [click on this link](#) to donate



The most recent distribution of Spanner Packs was to the Solomon Islands.

Arte et Marte

**Major R.G. Norman OAM (Rtd)**  
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator  
[RNN@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:RNN@qld.raeme.org.au)



## VALE

It is with deep regret we advise of the following deaths amongst the members of our Corps:

- **Byrne**, John David Kelsey passed away 3 Apr 24 following a battle with lung cancer aged 73. He served in 5 Base Wksp Bn and 173 Gen Spt Sqn Wksp. John's funeral service was held in Buderim, QLD.
- **Tootell**, Trevor Boyle passed away 14 Apr 24 following a motor vehicle accident aged 72. Trevor served for many years including with 101 Fd Wksp. He was RAQ life subscriber No 461. A poppy service was conducted at Anzac Memorial Park.
- **Carlyle**, Brian Robert "Jock" WO2 (Rtd) passed away on 13 Apr 24, aged 80. Jock served in SVN in 102 Fd Wksp from 27 Aug 68 to 4 Oct 68 and 106 Fd Wksp from 5 Oct 68 to 27 Aug 69. His funeral was held on 29 Apr 24 at Victor Harbour, SA.
- **Rogan**, WO2 (Rtd) Robert "Bob" (20<sup>th</sup> VM) passed away on 24 Apr 24, aged 75. Bob originally came from



Tenterfield. He served in RAEME for many years, but most will remember him as ASM 5/7 Tech Support Troop and 20 Div Engineers. His funeral was held at Rosenthal Heights, QLD.

- **Watt**, Robert “Bob” passed away on 26 Apr 24, aged 72. He served in RAEME for many years, including at 101 Fd Wksp. A funeral service for Bob was held on 9 May 24 at Gregson Place, Caloundra.
- **Coulson**, Michael “Mick” passed away in palliative care in the Townsville University Hospital on 29 Apr 24, aged 78. Mick served in SVN with 102 Fd Wksp from June 1967 to Jan 1968. Mick was instrumental in the raising of the Rollingsstone RSL and was foundation president. A funeral was held on 10 May 24 at Morleys Funeral Home West End, Townsville.
- **Barker**, BRIG (Rtd) Herbert “Bert” Wheatley passed away peacefully on 17 Jun 24 at age 102. Until recently Bert was a resident in aged care at Banora Point, moving back to Melbourne to be closer to family, in May 24. He was focused on making sure his wife Nona was settled in the Victorian retirement village near their daughters. BRIG Bert belongs to a rare cohort of servicemen is an original member of our proud Corps serving at our formation in 1942. He served in Australia during WWII and on operations in PNG, and through his many postings, his various commands, training and staff appointments over 33 years’ service, he made a huge contribution to the Corps, the Army and the ADF.
- **Franklin**, John Denham “Slats” (17<sup>th</sup> Rad Mech) passed away 25 Jun 24. He was suffering from Parkinson’s disease and had been in aged care suffering dementia for some time. Slats served with 183 (Indep) Recce Flt Wksp in PNG, and after his military service, continued to work in PNG for many years. His funeral was held at Tinonee, NSW on 10 Jul 24.
- **Tomkins**, John WO1 (Rtd) passed away 27 Jun 24 aged 90. John requested that no funeral be held, the family has honoured his wish.
- **Maher**, Colin, (21<sup>st</sup> VM) passed away on 1 Jul 24 after many years of ill health. Col’s last posting was ASM of 2/14 Cavalry Regt TSS, Enoggera after 22 years’ service. Colin’s funeral was held on 13 Jul 24 “The Little Brown United church” Jimboomba.
- **Batty**, Gary “Sack” passed away aged 79. Gary served two tours on operations in SVN with 1 Fd Sqn from 24 Mar 1969 to 15 Jul 1969 and 1 Armd Regt LAD from May 1970 to May 1971. Gary’s funeral was held on 16 Jul 24 at Mt Cotton.
- **McMullen**, George Benjamin, Recovery Mechanic and Vietnam Veteran passed away on 17 Jul 24 at the age of 76. George served on operations with 1 Field Regiment LAD from March 1969 to March 1970. George’s funeral service took place at the Sapphire City Crematorium Chapel on 5 Aug 24.

## WELFARE

RAQ has been advised of the following welfare case over the last four months.

- **Edis**, LTCOL (Rtd) Les, has advised he underwent open heart surgery in April/May. At 4-month mark post op, he is making slow progress but has managed to increase his walking distance in the last 10 weeks to about 600m, so a creditable improvement.
- **Shipway**, Barry reports that he is has been suffering a range of mental and other medical problems for some years. He requests people with similar issues seek assistance – help is out there. He feels lucky to still be here but there is “still a long road ahead” for him requiring medication for life but it is helping.
- **Leabeater**, Ian has advised the RAQ via John Parfitt, that he was in Wesley hospital and received treatment for blocked arteries of the heart. Later advice indicates he had five stents inserted. Ian and Wendy are currently on R&R in Northern NSW.
- **Reardon**, Brian, several messages received advising Brian is in ICU in the Toowoomba Base hospital. He has swelling from the radiation on his right vocal cord and it had closed off his airway to about 1-2mm. Surgeons did an emergency tracheotomy and he has responded really well. He can’t talk but he’s eating and drinking normally and up and about. He’s in really good spirits and is booked for a procedure 29 Jul 24 – more updates are due soon.

**Please Note.** I would like to thank Mick Litka-Fry for taking on the Deputy Welfare role during my absence. Very much appreciated.

Please advise me via email address below, of any brothers and sisters, who have passed, or are in distress, in Queensland. Please ensure the detail provided is accurate and as complete as possible.

Arte et Marte  
**Barry Shipway**  
**Welfare Officer**

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



## ADDITIONAL WELFARE INFORMATION – DEALING WITH SCAMS

**Introduction.** The following information was provided by Ian Cook, speaking from experience and is an excerpt taken from the RAEME Association ACT, monthly newsletter, “RAEME in ACTion”. The views expressed are his alone.

**Scam Awareness.** One of the more common types of scam involves sending an official-looking SMS with a link for the recipient to click on. Whilst most people tend to ignore such scams and even block the senders, not all are so fortunate. According to a recent study by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2.5 % of persons (514,300) experienced a scam in 2023. In the first quarter of 2024

alone, the Governments Scam Watch website (<https://scamwatch.gov.au>) reported over 45,000 scams recorded and over \$55million lost to scammers.



**What you can do to avoid scams.** Common scam types include:

- **Invoice fraud.** Scammers send you an invoice from a real company but with fake payment details.
- **Phishing emails and texts.** Scammers try to trick you into giving them personal info by sending fake emails or text messages that look like they come from a trusted person or organisation.
- **Remote access scams.** Scammers try to access your device remotely, usually by calling and claiming to be from tech support.
- **Identity theft.** Cybercriminals extract or gain access to your personal documents such as your passport, licence, birth certificate or even a photo of you on your electronic device or emails, to steal your identity.
- **Threats and extortion.** These scams use threats to frighten you into giving away money.
- **Dating and romance scams.** Cybercriminals target victims on dating websites and apps pretending to be other people. Scammers start the relationship with their victim on the website or app before moving the conversation to a more 'private' channel.
- **Investment or cryptocurrency scams.** Cybercriminals entice victims into investing money in schemes which may offer high and quick returns.

The first step for dealing with these scams is to avoid them by remaining aware of their existence and by not responding to suspicious links received in emails or SMSs. Official Govt departments **will never send an SMS** or email with a link to confirm any details, nor will they ask you to pay debts using gift cards.

Some of the more sophisticated scams seek to target you in small, continuous amounts. No official agency will ever ask you to send gift cards as payment and none will ever ask you to pay exorbitant fees for “auditing” or to access money you have already “invested”. If you have sent money to a suspected scammer, stop sending any more money and stop all communication with them.

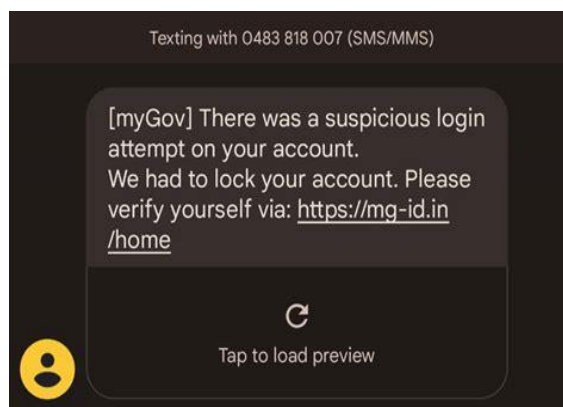
In some cases, clicking on a link may have been enough for malware to be installed on some devices. Run your antivirus software on the affected device, and then disconnect your phone from the internet. If you feel

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confident, you can try the following. Otherwise, ask your local IT service provider for help.

- Review your browser's privacy and security settings to make sure you're comfortable with what's checked or unchecked. For example, look to see if your browser is blocking third-party cookies, which can enable advertisers to track your online activities.
- Clear your browsers cache and cookies.
- Download the latest updates for your browser.
- Check plug-ins and extensions. If you find anything unusual, remove it straight away.
- Change all passwords that you have saved to your browser.
- Check for any recent downloads to your device that you do not recognise and remove.
- If you have backed-up your phone, install a backed-up version from before you received the SMS.

What happens if you click on a link in a scam SMS. One common scam attack is to send an SMS that purports to be from an agency such as MyGov.



If you click on the link, it will take you to what looks like the official MyGov site but it isn't. If you enter your username and password, you are giving the scammer access to your account. With access to your MyGov, the scammer changes your password, your email address and your phone number. This prevents you from accessing your account as it will stop you getting into your real account. If you click on the “Forgot my password” link, MyGov will try to send you a confirmation code to the email or phone number they have recorded but neither now works as they go to whatever the scammer entered.

**The scammers then download your data.** They can see your full records from every service you have linked to your MyGov, be that your Centrelink information, medical records, DVA or your taxation records. They search your records for enough information to assume your identity. Log on to your (real) MyGov account and see for yourself how much of your personal info they have. It is frightening.

The scammers may change your bank account details to their own to divert any payments you may receive to themselves. They can also lodge claims on your behalf in



the hope that they will be approved and funds transferred to them. They simply have no regard for you or the impact this will have.

What you need to do if you click on a suspicious link. If you fall foul of a MyGov scam, the first step is to get your MyGov account locked down. This is done by calling the Services Australia Scams and Identity Theft Helpdesk on: 1800-941-126.

Services Australia will lock your account so no one will ever be able to access it again. Doing so ensures the scammers no longer have access to your data but your journey does not end here. They will also create a new MyGov account for you. This thankfully comes with all previous details already entered but access is not automatically activated. For this new account to be activated, you need to visit a Services Australia (Centrelink) office in person so they can identify you and take additional details for their internal investigation.

Next, you need to make contact with every agency you had linked to your MyGov account. This includes:

- **Australian Taxation Office** – 1800-008-540. Where the ATO has identified suspicious activity on your account, they may place protective measures on the account to protect you. This includes locking your tax account down so that neither you nor your accountant can access it. To do anything, including even lodging a tax return, you will need to phone the ATO first to identify yourself to request an unlock. This is an enduring lock, i.e. it will remain in place until the ATO no longer deems it a risk which may be decades.
- **Centrelink / Child Support / Medicare / My Health Record** – 1800-941-126. Be prepared to tell them a lot of identifying information, including reference to identity documents, name and date of birth, Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN), Medicare card number, myGov sign in details, Child Support details, or bank account details etc.
- **Department of Health Applications Portal** – [Online portal](#)
- **Department of Veterans' Affairs** – 1800 VETERAN (1800-838-372)
- **Housing Vic Online Services** – 1800-961-883 (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday)
- **My Aged Care** – 1800-200-422
- **National Cancer Screening Register** – 1800-627-701
- **National Disability Insurance Scheme** – 1800-650-717
- **National Redress Scheme** – 1800 737 377. Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm AET
- **State Revenue Office Victoria** – 13-21-61. Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm AEST/AEDT
- **Workforce Australia** – 1800-805-260. Monday to Friday 9am – 7pm AEST/AEDT

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These are just the initial recovery steps. For those who inadvertently click on links, the journey continues. Remember, the scammers have no regard for you so they will now attempt to steal your identity. When they have enough personal identifying information, they can open bank accounts or even take out loans in your name. As the scammers now have your identity details, it may be time to change some of them. This may include getting a new:

- Medicare card. These take a couple of weeks to arrive but Services Australia will give you a printed card number to use in the interim.
- Driver's licence
- Passport
- Customer Reference Number (CRN)
- or more as you need to determine from what can be seen on your MyGov account.

Other general tips include:

- Contact your financial institution to secure your financial accounts.
- Contact any other services that use your personal identity documents to secure your accounts.
- Report the scam through *ReportCyber* (<https://www.cyber.gov.au/report-and-recover/report>) and through *ScamWatch* (<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>)
- Change the passwords to any other accounts which you think the scammer may have accessed or to which they now have access. This could include banking, superannuation and email accounts. Look at this [checklist to](#) secure online accounts.
- Use 2 factor authentication if you can and don't use the same password on multiple accounts.
- Secure your social media and other personal accounts.
- Contact a [credit reporting agency](#) to see if any attempts to open accounts in your name have been made.
- Check [idcare.org](http://idcare.org) for advice on securing your accounts online.

Once you have done all of that, your journey is not yet over. As the scammers have all of your details, the risk of later identity theft and further fraudulent action will remain for years to come.

With access to your personal information, the scammers may now feel empowered to contact you and provide enough information to sound as if they are from the real department they purport to be calling from. Never feel compelled to respond to unsolicited communications. Hang up on the individual and call the real agency using their publicly available phone number.

If they ATO wants to call you, they will need to read a long code to you that they provided when you first

reported the scam to them. If they can't provide that code, and also ask you for the secret question and answer (they ask you to set this up when you report a scam), then the caller is not from the ATO.

**Further support.** If you have shared personal information and believe you may be at risk, you can contact IDCARE, a not-for-profit organisation that provides assistance and support to victims of identity theft and other cybercrime. Visit <https://www.idcare.org/> or telephone 1800-595-160 for more support.

Again, report the scam to the Government's official Scam Watch service as sharing details of a scam helps to warn the community of new or emerging scams: <https://portal.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam/>

#### To make yourself less susceptible to scams:

- Update your devices
- Turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- Regularly back up your files and devices
- Set secure passphrases, the longer the better
- Watch out for scams



#### RAEME HISTORY SEGMENT

**Background.** In this segment I try to provide personal and general stories of members and units of the Corps over the last 50 years. In this edition, I have two RAEME aviation stories – one about an tradesman, amongst the first in the army aviation capability, WO1 (Rtd) Wools-Cobb ART AVIONICS; and the other related to a much-respected aircraft workshop, now technical support squadron, known as 1 Avn Regt Wksp, in its early days.

**Firstly, Stu's Story in his words.** "I am often asked if I regret joining the army, as an Apprentice; and the answer is a definite NO! Where else would you get free food, clothing, accommodation, travel, and an education – to whatever level you aspired? Granted sometimes the food was awful, the accommodation primitive, the clothing uninspiring and uniform – but the army tried hard to educate me, and I made many life-long friends and enjoyed the journey over 27 years of service!

"I was born in Victoria in 1934, where my father was serving as a Chief Petty Officer in the RAN. Later in May 1937, while aboard HMAS Australia, he developed pneumonia and died. My mother, along with her three children, then moved back to

her family in Tasmania, and three years later died from what is now a curable cancer. I was farmed out to an auntie and uncle for the next nine years.



**90-Year-Old WO1 Stu Wools-Cobb**

"Army life started in January 1950 as a 4th Intake radio mechanic tradesman. For those not familiar with the early Army Apprentices School (AAS), it was run like a boy's boarding school. The Commandant, LTCOL Ives, was, in fact, an ex-headmaster. My apprenticeship involved completing three years at Balcombe, and my final year, at Tasmania Command Workshop in Hobart – this is when I entered RAEME. After a brief course at Bandiana during which time I bought my first car – a bad choice, and met my future wife – a wonderful choice, it was back to AAS Balcombe as an instructor's assistant and equipment maintenance corporal.

"By 1975, as a Temporary Sergeant, I was posted to the newly formed 101 Infantry Workshop at Puckapunyal, but by August 1961, I was back at Bandiana as an assistant instructor and wireless maintenance tradesman. Not long after, an opportunity presented, which involved converting to light aircraft avionics at the newly formed 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley. In February 1965, I became a Queenslander for life!

"In mid 1966, I found myself enroute to SVN with the newly formed 161 Independent Recce Flight, initially looking after the unit's aircraft on board HMAS Sydney, but for the next 12 months at Luscombe Airfield Nui Dat. Twelve months later we were faced with a slow uncomfortable trip back to Darwin in a Herc.

"May 1967 now saw me serving in the newly formed Div Army Aviation Workshop at Oakey Airfield, where I was kept busy servicing aircraft detachments in Darwin, Singapore PNG, and all over Australia. If a major servicing became due or the aircraft became unserviceable and could not be fixed by the 'all-trades' mechanic, the appropriate tradesman was flown – usually by a normal civilian flight, to the closest airport to their location. This system gave me trips to Adelaide, Darwin, Singapore, and PNG.



*"After 27 years, and at my 'ultimately aimed' rank of WO1, I took my discharge and, at the grand old age of 43, retired, to take on odd jobs around Oakey. I also became involved with Legacy-and assisting the local war widows, the committees of the Oakey RSL, Oakey Historical Museum Society, Darling Downs Aviation Museum, the original Army Apprentice Association, and re-forming the local State Emergency Service, kept me out of the pubs, except for running a Friday arvo pub raffle and climbing on the roof of the Western Line Hotel to fix a leak or two.*

*"I must pay tribute to my wife, Dian, for her part in my career. Besides looking after our 4 children, she became involved in several other service organisations. In 1998 we bought an oldish Mazda campervan, and later a Toyota HiAce, both of which took us to Perth visiting family three times, but also Tasmania and all and Queensland. It is still going strong and intend heading to Leeton later in 2024. In September 2004, having turned 70, I, along with my youngest son and son-in-law walked the Kokoda Track. 6 days of hard work and a bit of male bonding.*

*"Having departed the SES after 33 years' service, Di and I became volunteer members of the Meals on Wheels organisation on the Sunshine Coast, and thoroughly enjoy our work. We are now considering downsizing within the next few years and continue to enjoy life on the Sunshine Coast.*

**Early History of 1 Avn Regt Wksp / TSS – 1977-1979.** Now for a story of an evolving aviation workshop, in the early years of its active life, but which is about to undergo significant changes again.

In January 1977, under a Defence of Australia construct spelt out in Training Information Bulletin No 28 (TIB 28) the 1st Avn Regt and its workshop were presented with a range of operational, logistical and technical challenges. These included developing an ability to keep up and communicate with the Regimental HQ, the three operational squadrons and other logistic elements, when deployed widely across a large Area of Operations (AO). There was also an increased maintenance liability for a "centralised" workshop supporting some 27 rotary wing aircraft, and on occasion, an undefined number of fixed wing aircraft (Corps Troops assets). The unit also had to consider the increased liability for the Regiment's increased quantities of ground-based equipment – trucks of all types, personal and heavy and light weapons, ground and air radio equipment, and a range of general equipment used by all units in the Army. There was much to consider.

Early in 1977 the regiment undertook numerous small-scale exercises, using limited numbers of aircraft (usually about 9-10); but later, exercises saw the workshop responsible for up to 45 aircraft. Most of these exercises were conducted in the Charleville/Quilpie area in QLD, or between Wilcannia and Cobar along the axis of the Barrier Highway in NSW; and on two occasions, operations were centred on Tindal Airbase, in the NT,

but covered broad areas across to the West Australian coast near Broome, east towards the west coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, south to Tennant Creek and north to Darwin.

It is fair to say that whether it was sending Forward Repair Teams (FRT) from Oakey to the far-flung regions around the Charleville to repair or recover aircraft; or conducting engine changes in the mud around Charleville (1977); or servicing aircraft in the dust near Quilpie (1978); all members of the unit were learning a lot about maintenance and logistics over long limes of communications. Many a young tradesman, and officer, owes the more senior men of the Aviation Regiment, a great debt of gratitude as they supervised the extraction of damaged aircraft from difficult areas, repaired them under trying conditions, at the end of long lines of communications, without compromising aircraft safety and sound work practices.

This story features of two of those senior soldiers – WO1 "Skeeta" Ryan and WO2 Len Avery, later WO1, as an example of what could be achieved. Their combine worth came to the fore on our first TIB 28 doctrinal deployment, when the three flying squadrons of the Regiment were deployed to an old airfield near Wilcannia, NSW, for a combined cavalry / aviation "advance to contact" exercise. The workshop arrived on site after an uneventful, but long and cold drive in-convoy from Oakey in June 1977 to the outskirts of Wilcannia ready to support a mix of approximately 35 FW and RW aircraft. For those who are geographically challenged, Wilcannia is 1,200 kms from our home base of Oakey and sits on the intersection of the Barrier Highway and Darling River as the highway passes across the flat plains of western NSW enroute to Broken Hill.

The decision had been made before leaving Oakey, to establish a field workshop using two 20 x 20-foot tents and undertake some "medium grade" repairs to test our ability to work in a rough bush setting with no infrastructure. On Day 2, we were in the middle of an engine and gearbox change on one aircraft, and a mast replacement on another, when the CO arrived in a slightly agitated state. He demanded to know why we were using two such tents instead of one big 40 x 20-foot tent. The ASM, WO1 "Skeeter" Ryan, our Hangar Artificer, Len (then Hangar Art) and I explained the need to camouflage and disperse the workshop facilities properly, which was difficult on a flat open plain with one big tent, the need for dispersion in an operational situation where local "enemy" reconnaissance teams were operating, as well as the need to cater for workshop safety and efficiency. We went on to explain it was less congested for tradesmen to work in two tents undertaking different tasks, than stumbling about one tent amongst primitive ground support equipment with the two aircraft undergoing work concurrently. Crowning our argument was the fact that we also thought pulling down two smaller tents could be

done more quickly and aid our re-deployment, which was expected in few days. QED!

The CO didn't seem to be impressed with our argument on good tactical layouts, occupational health and safety and deployability and insisted we stop our maintenance and restructure our workshop, to his preferred single tent model, immediately. I could see Skeeta, starting to get agitated; and out of the corner of my eye, I could see Len's lips starting to quiver – they were about to launch! Clearly something had to be done to either win the argument or acquiesce, before these two formidable characters ruined their careers with some injudicious comments! With a rush of blood, I produced the winning argument; "whose bloody workshop do you think it is", I quietly inquired of the CO, adding for good measure, "and who do you think is responsible for delivering the maintenance outcomes you require of us?"

Wrong move! As I went on to drive the point home, explaining that the disruption would set our maintenance schedule back days for no good reason, the CO even more calmly explained that if we didn't do as he said, I'd be on the first plane back to Oakey. With that he spun on his heel, spitting out his final word on the subject. "Get it done!"

Glumly, I looked at Skeeta and Len, expecting them to be fuming after all our good work to make a valid point or two, but instead they were beaming from ear to ear. With friendly but resigned pat on my shoulder, Len quietly said, "Courageous move, Skipper, I thought your career was looking for good till today!"

Later, as I walked back to the workshop site, after a calming cup of tea, I crossed paths with the CO, who apologised and took time to explain why he wanted the workshop set up in a particular manner. It was all about getting a message across to the Commander of the 1st Division, MAJGEN Phillip Bennet, who was due to visit us in a day or two. Much of the CO's case was centred on a desire to demonstrate the capacity of a busy and efficient field workshop, deployed under difficult operating conditions. We discussed a few other things and shook hands and the two tents remained in place!

For the remainder of my time in the 1st Avn Regt, the CO and I got on very well and he always got the best from the workshop. I think Len, who had served with the CO in SVN, was more surprised than me that we not only survived the 'Whacking at Wilcannia,' but the workshop went from strength to strength both culturally and in terms of productive outputs, on subsequent exercises. The upshot was that COMD 1 Div was most impressed with the way the whole Regiment was capable of operating and became a devotee of the aviation capability in the "Defence of Australia" construct. So much so, he became a great advocate of army aviation capability and later qualified as a pilot himself – but that is another story!

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It was just as well we had established our credentials, because some five months later, most of the Regiment was deployed to Tindal Airfield in the Northern Territory, for Exercise Long Vigil, a strategic reconnaissance exercise of a huge part of the Australian coastline, supporting the whole SAS regiment. In this exercise, the Regiment's aircraft, both fixed and rotary winged, undertook some interesting and demanding missions. The aircraft operated over a huge tract of northern Australia, which started on the west coast near Derby and Broome and ran across to the western edge of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The terrain and environment challenges of the exercise were considerable, and impacted adversely on equipment, aircrew, workshop staff and the troops being supported.

Operations were conducted by day and night and involved some activities that are best not mentioned. Surprisingly, there were few serious incidents and the workshop managed to achieve all demands placed on it, as well as achieving high levels of operational availability. The highlight for the workshop staff occurred on the last day, when the CO 1 SAS Regt, LTCOL Mike Jeffrey, and later Governor General of Australia, personally explained to the assembled workshop what the high levels of support meant to his Regiment's exercise – all his objectives had been met, and he was best pleased. We were also best pleased as he brought lots of beer to the workshop to thank us.



**Exercise 'Long Vigil' – 1 Avn Regt Wksp (-) at Tindal Airfield 1977. Front Row L to R – Fred Baker, Ross Bidgood, Unnamed, 'Beans' Bevans, Les Dotter and Howie Schulz. Back Row L to R – Len Avery, Unnamed, Unnamed.**

The CO was also pleased with our work and over the period of the exercise, about two months, he arranged for all staff to have R&R. I was fortunate enough to share a four day "holiday" at Cape Ford, on the remote west coast of the NT, near the mouth of the Daly River – fishing at its best. The CO personally flew us to the site and landed the Kiowa in a very picturesque site overlooking a magnificent bay teeming with fish. He quickly turfed us out with some rations, a couple of rifles, four fishing rods, a radio, and some water, and without shutting the Kiowa's engine down, said he'd see us in three or four days.



Exercise 'Long Vigil' wasn't the last time the Regiment deployed to the NT. In the following year, we returned for another exercise. While the exercise went smoothly, the workshop staff got more than we bargained for when the new CO arranged a similar R&R trip to the west coast of the NT. My old OCS classmate, MAJ Ian Smith flew a Porter to North Peron Island to drop off a team of tradesmen, who were keen to emulate the previous years' fishing trips.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the landing run, one of the aircraft's wheels dropped into a watery hollow on the beach. With a dull bang and a splutter, the aircraft tipped on its nose giving everyone a hell of a fright and slightly injuring a few. The propeller and the engine were severely damaged and the whole workshop was now faced with a daunting recovery task, or undertaking an engine and propeller change in situ. We were hundreds of kilometres from Tindal, and 2,700 kms from our main supply base at Oakey; on desolate and barren beach with no cover; and a tide that went out over two kilometres and came in twice daily – right up to the aircraft undercarriage! It also became something of a survival exercise as the troops on the crash site had limited water!

There was only one option to remedy the situation and that was to conduct an engine and propeller change, repair any other damage in situ, and fly the aircraft out. While the decision was something of a "no-brainer", it meant a lot of planning and work had to be done at both ends of the "supply chain" to get equipment and additional crews into this very remote site, undertake the repair task and recover the aircraft and the air and ground crews – no mean feat. We also had to recover some personnel who were already succumbing to heat stress.

The task of fixing the Porter ended up being a rather harrowing experience for all concerned and tested our ability to transfer people, equipment, stores, spare parts and tools, food, and water over a great distance with few FW aircraft assets, ensuring we understood the tides on any given day, so we could land our stores.



**The Porter having its twice daily wash in sea water.**

Compounding the problem, was the need to bring a new engine and propeller from Oakey, which took time, and because of the tides, it was clear we needed new wheels – the salt water wasn't doing the tyres and hubs much good – and we still had to support the exercise for which we had come north.

The whole task, which took some 10 days to complete, became a logistical nightmare as the only aircraft capable of carrying the large loads of stores and personnel into and out of Peron Island, over the distances involved, were other Pilatus Porters. They were heavily engaged in supporting the exercise, so weren't freely available. Sunburn and heat stroke continued to be real threats, and sickness compounded the sad state of the crews, working hard to complete the job. Morale became an issue and leadership was critical in this situation. While the job was completed successfully, and the team eventually waved the aircraft goodbye, the team on the site had suffered significantly. The aircraft was also in need of further care and attention, following recovery to Tindal, so it was despatched directly to Oakey before the salt could do any more damage. Not much fishing went on during the time on the beach!



**The repaired Porter about to depart for Tindal - note the sea on the horizon**

More stories will be forthcoming on this workshop which is now known as 1 Avn Regt Technical Support Squadron and currently looks after the current Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters, Tiger, but shortly will look after the new Apache Fleet.

**Ross Grant**  
**EX-OC 1 AVN REGT WKSP 1977-79**



#### **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

Once again, I am chuffed at the excellent membership figures for RAQ – as spelt out on page 5 of this edition. However there is one area, where we need improvement and that is encouraging new and old members of the RAQ (in all regions) to volunteer for executive positions.

At the moment we need a new Convenor of the RAQ SE QLD ANZAC Day committee, a new editor for Spanner News, and in time, a new merchandise manager.

Not only do we need fresh faces around the RAQ Monthly Meeting table but faces which bring new ideas and have fewer wrinkles, so that the RAQ continues to be relevant and appeal to our growing youthful membership. So what can you do to help?

To this end, the story on Page 5 also mentions Paul Gibbs' initiative – the recruitment of “a youth member” role within our executive. I whole-heartedly endorse this initiative, but also the great work of our executive undertakes on behalf of all RAQ members – they are always looking for ways to do things better. Well done all. And now we have now passed the 1000<sup>th</sup> member level.

Who would have thought our modest association could scale these heights – well done to Kingsley Pocock on his work usually behind the scenes to make membership attractive, worthwhile and affordable – and with benefits.

Arte et Marte

**Ross Grant**

**Chairman Comms Committee**

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



### RAEME Association Queensland Merchandise

The RAQ has a huge range of merchandise on sale at:

<https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>

Search under “Categories” for the following items many of which are relatively new products. Make sure you have a good look at the complete range on our website - Christmas is looming, and whether it is a RAQ shirt, decanter, or one of the several jewellery lines, all would be good gifts for family and friends. Here are a few to consider:



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## Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club

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### RAEME MEMBERSHIP FORM (LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP)

The Mermaid Beach Surf Club is a unique organisation as it embodies two of Australia's most instantly recognisable "icons", the Digger and the Surf Life Saver. The reference to A.E.M.E in the club name acknowledges those responsible for its beginning, the soldiers of the Watercraft Workshops, Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Bulimba Brisbane. During the latter half of 1945 soldiers from this unit established a Surf Life Saving Club on the Gold Coast. This new club was named the A.E.M.E. Surf Life Saving Club. Later renamed Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Club, the club is dedicated to looking after our beaches and also want to look after our RAEME members. This RAEME Membership is offered for life. Lifetime membership gives you all the benefits of our normal membership except you never have to renew.

Just complete this form and return it to RAEME Association Queensland and then you just pick up your card at the surf club at your own convenience. **But you must be a valid RAEME member in current financial status.**

By becoming a member you will receive the following: discounted drinks when you present your membership card at the bar, access to members only discounts, point accrual on purchases when card is provided, reciprocal entry into all surf clubs on the coast. A membership calendar that has vouchers, discounts and entry into cash draws that are usable up to September 2017. Members receive emails keeping them up to date on current specials, draws and functions.

**To be eligible you must be a member of RAEME QLD and current on your financial status. All Membership**

Cards be collected from the Surf Club 172 Hedges Ave, Mermaid Beach Qld 4218

#### RAEME Card is Valid for Life

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Most correspondence is done via email. If you wish to receive updates and specials, please fill out email address below

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Mermaid Beach Surf Club Supporters Club is committed to safeguarding the privacy of the personal information you have supplied on this form. The club will use the personal information to process your membership application and to provide facilities and services to you. The club will be unable to offer you membership or access to facilities and services if you do not supply the required personal information. The club may also use your personal information for related purposes or for direct marketing communications with you. If you have a privacy complaint, the club has implemented procedures to resolve it in an effective manner. All the above (and other matters relating to your personal information) are governed by our Privacy Policy which is available upon request or can be downloaded from our website [www.mermaidbeachsurfclub.com.au](http://www.mermaidbeachsurfclub.com.au). Should you require any clarification, please contact the Club Manager on 07 5575 3211 or [supportersclub@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:supportersclub@mermaidslsc.org.au)

Please return completed application to RAEME via fax at 02 3268 2060 or scan and email to RAEME QLD at [membership@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@qld.raeme.org.au)

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## RAEME CORPS SHOP

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

For those yet to buy the Corps memoir, there are still copies available, detailed below is how to obtain a copy. It may be a great gift for someone who has served in the Corps.

Books are only \$40.00 plus postage. Copies can be ordered from the Corps Shop, which is available on the RAEME National Website

(<https://raeme.org.au>). Whilst on the site why not check out the other items available.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop us a line at

[RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au)

Please be patient, there are only a couple of Defence Members in the HOC Cell and they have other tasks.