

RAEME in ACTION

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of the
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)



Edition: 28

April 2025

WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION

Dear All,

In this edition we bring a wide variety of Corps-relevant information for your reading pleasure. Key inclusions this month are:

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Of particular note are our plans for ANZAC Day this year. You will find full details for the ACT on Page 5 and all other regions on Page 6.

With growing numbers each year since the COVID lockdown times, we welcome all members to join the RAEME contingent for the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial and afterwards at Olim's.

GETTING OUR ACT TOGETHER

23 Apr 1530h	RMC Lanyard Presentation RMC Golf Club	Details RSVP
25 Apr 0900h	ANZAC Day Veteran's March See Page 5 for details	Details RSVP
02 May 1230h	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club	Details RSVP

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

 Spanner Club

 Mixed Lunch

 Informal Drinks

 Significant Event

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Corps Pride on display during the recent Balloon Festival

Photo: By Chris Chia

A RAEME MEMBER SHINES IN TRAGIC TIMES

Source: Townsville Bulletin, 27 Mar 25

On 30 Jun 2024, a terrible bus accident took the lives of 3 tourists who were visiting our Sunshine State. First on the scene was one of our own, WO2 Jason Ballard.

Jason was recognised for his life saving efforts with a *District Officer's Certificate of Appreciation* from the Queensland Police Service.

Well done, Jase!

Here is how the story was recorded by the Townsville Bulletin.



Mateship forged in horrific wreck

Soldiers recognised for efforts to save accident victims

Natasha Emeck

In the wreckage of one of Queensland's deadliest bus crashes, a powerful friendship was born – forged in chaos, sealed by compassion.

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Jason Ballard, from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, was off duty when tragedy struck on June 30, 2024.

A Greyhound bus carrying 33 people collided with a 4WD towing a caravan near Gumlu on the Bruce Highway, killing three women and injuring 27 others.

Among the dead were German tourists Aliya Tonga, 21, and Marissa Martin, 33, as well as beloved Townsville local Emma 'Alli' Sailor, 56.

The carnage was immediate and the scene was confronting.

WO2 Ballard and his wife had been on their way to Proserpine to pick up their grandson when they pulled up to the crash site just one minute after impact.

Without hesitation, he climbed aboard the mangled bus and inside, he found Dylan, a young American tourist, seriously injured and sitting alone.

"He had abdominal injuries and a couple of head contusions," WO2 Ballard recalled. "The only thing that saved him was that he was against the window sleeping at



WO2 Jason Ballard. Picture: Shae Beplate

the time of the crash. If he'd been sitting anywhere else or he'd actually been up. It might have been a different story for him."

After lifting up Dylan's shirt and seeing the extent of his injuries, WO2 Ballard made the tactical call to keep him stable and in place until paramedics arrived.

"I didn't want to move him just in case," he said.

Also injured was another young man behind Dylan, being helped by his girlfriend applying pressure to a neck wound.

WO2 Ballard said he did what he could, all while witnessing horrific scenes.

"One of the ladies near the front [who later passed away], she couldn't have been moved. I didn't realise that she was still alive until I've probably been on the bus

about five minutes because she gurgled. Unfortunately there wasn't too much we could do for her. She bore the brunt of it."

Dylan was the only passenger that was required to be flown from the scene.

After helping him on-board the chopper, WO2 Ballard drove straight back to Townsville University Hospital, staying by Dylan's side as the young tourist faced the ordeal alone. Their bond didn't end there. Once Dylan was discharged, Ballard welcomed him into his regiment as a guest of the 3CER, cementing a mateship that lives on to this day.

"I have an American family now, he's still in contact. We've got Christmas cards and got gifts from them. They send me photos of how young Dylan's going," he said.

Also hailed for his selfless actions was Lance Corporal Kai Watson from 3RAR's Mortar Platoon, who was returning to Townsville from the Whitsundays when he stopped to assist. He helped triage the injured and supported emergency services as they worked through the chaos.

The incredible efforts of both defence men were formally recognised this week, with WO2 Ballard and LCpl Watson receiving the Queensland Police Service District Officer's Certificate of Appreciation at the Townsville District Honours and Awards Ceremony.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT

As published in the RAQ *Spanner News*, Mar 2025

2025 is already off to a flying start and it's hard to believe ANZAC Day is already approaching. With the new year comes some new appointments across the Corps and I would personally like to thank those who have served in Corps appointments and welcome our new cadre of leaders and representatives.

A number of Regional Colonel Commandant appointments have concluded; including Colonel Andrew Herbert (TAS/SA), Colonel Martin Griffiths (VIC), and of course here in Queensland Col Steve Evans. Andrew, Martin and Steve have been great ambassadors for our Corps covering a wide range of representational duties and being active across a variety of events. I'd particularly like to call out Steve Evans to the RAQ membership. Steve has tirelessly championed the Corps across Queensland, supported the RAQ leadership, and been a regular face at meetings and events. Among many achievements, Steve was instrumental in the establishment of the recovery mechanics memorial in North Queensland.

Many of you will already have met Colonel Piers Cambridge, the new Colonel Commandant for Queensland. Piers has recently retired from the Army and settled in Brisbane and is a great choice to continue the close relationship with the RAQ and represent the Corps. I'd also like to acknowledge Colonel Andrew Adams (ACT/NSW) and Colonel Mark Sweetman (WA) who have both extended in their respective appointments.

This year we also welcome a new Head of Corps, Brigadier Gabrielle Follett AM. Some of you will have met Brig Follett at the Sunshine Coast luncheon in 2023. BRIG Follett has a wealth of experience across the Corps and in joint/tri-service and deployed postings. I'm sure we'll get to see more of BRIG Follett during her tenure.

Lastly I'd like to acknowledge the outgoing Head of Corps Brigadier Ben Slaughter as he retires from the full-time Army. BRIG Slaughter was visionary in his direction for the corps, driving thinking and initiatives. Supported by the Deputy Heads of Corps and Corps RSM, he pursued a number of lines of effort including the soldiers and officers of the Corps, Esprit de Corps, and the future of the Corps. Under BRIG Slaughter's leadership it was great to see the St Eligius competition run at the Army Logistic Training Centre in Bandiana in late 2024 and Queensland's 7 Brigade team taking out the inaugural trophy.

I look forward to what 2025 has to offer and working with our new Head of Corps representing RAEME. I hope to engage with many of the RAQ members at events this year.

Arte et Marte

Ed Smeaton DSM
BRIG (Ret'd)



HELP SHAPE THE DVA CLAIMS PROCESS AND OTHER SERVICES

DVA is calling on veterans and families to take part in the annual Client Benefits Client Satisfaction Survey (CBCSS).

Since 2020, this survey has gathered firsthand insights into the claims process and helped to enhance the quality and efficiency of services provided to the veteran community.

Why participate?

Your feedback is crucial in helping us understand your experiences with claims lodgement and processing. By sharing your thoughts, you can contribute directly to the improvement of support services for veterans and families.

Who can participate?

If you've had a determination made on a claim between **1 April 2024** and **31 March 2025** for any of the following benefits, you're eligible to participate:

- Income support
- Disability pension
- War widow/ers and Dependents pension

If you have any questions about the survey or would like talk about providing feedback separate to the survey, please email CBCSS@dva.gov.au or call us on 1800VETERAN (1800 838 372).

For more information about support please visit the [Financial Support page](#)

- Funeral benefits
- Compensation benefits (under DRCA and MRCA).

How does it work?

DVA has partnered with ORIMA Research to conduct the survey of randomly selected clients. Selected clients will receive a letter via Australia Post with details about the survey and instructions on how to participate or opt-out. A further number of these clients will receive an email from ORIMA with an invitation to complete the survey online. Clients who submitted a claim for funeral benefits will be invited to complete the survey on paper.

Participation is voluntary and all responses are confidential.

Make a difference

Feedback from past surveys supported the introduction of the [Our commitment to you](#) communication standards and increased claims information published on the DVA website.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT

Funeral of Major Terence John Forde, ret'd

On Saturday 15th of March, we bid farewell to Major Terry Forde, ret'd in a service at Norwood Park Crematorium.

We don't yet have details regarding Terry's 30+ years of service to our Corps, other than that he served in South Vietnam with 106 Field Workshop, but it was clear from the funeral service that he was a much-loved family man.

As we learn more about Terry's service to our Corps, we will share that with all members.



In the interim, a recording of Terry's funeral service can be [viewed online](#).

Rest in Peace, Terry – 08 Apr 1934 – 06 March 2025.

Australian War Memorial Screening of Danger Close

Late afternoon August 18, 1966 South Vietnam – for three and a half hours, in the pouring rain, amid the mud and shattered trees of a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Major Harry Smith and his dispersed company of 108 young and mostly inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers are fighting for their lives, holding off an overwhelming enemy force of 2,500 battle-hardened Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. With their ammunition running out, their casualties mounting and the enemy massing for a final assault, each man begins to search for the strength to triumph over an uncertain future with honour, decency and courage.

Join the AWM for a free film screening of *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan* (MA15+), including a live panel discussion and Q&A with the film's cast and crew.

Date: Sunday, 13 April 2025

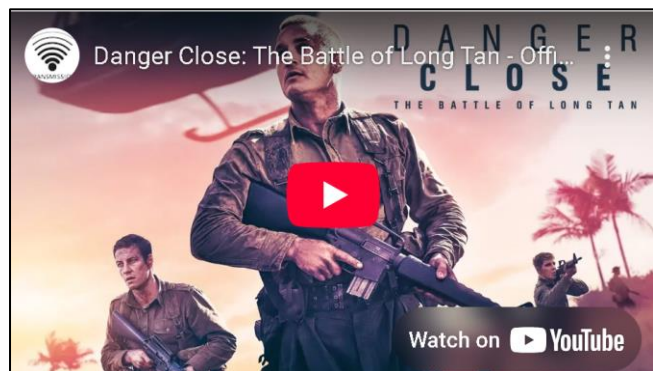
Time: 12.30 pm	Doors open
1.00 pm	Live panel discussion and Q&A with Director Kriv Stenders, Producers Martin Walsh and John Schwarz, and Lead Actor Travis Fimmel
1.30 pm	Screening of <i>Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan</i>

Location: Australian War Memorial Theatre, Main Entrance Foyer (Level 0)

Tickets: Free to attend. Limit of 5 tickets per person. Book your seats by [clicking here](#).

Parking: See information on parking and how to get to the Australian War Memorial.

Details: [Click here](#) for more details regarding this event.



Please note that *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan* is classified MA15+ and not suitable for people under 15. Contains strong war themes and violence.

PLANNED GATHERINGS NATIONWIDE FOR 2025

Planned RAEME gatherings across Australia for 2025 are summarised below. For further details on any events scheduled in:

- **Canberra:** Visit our [events listing website](#) and click on individual events.
- **Queensland:** Contact the [Functions Officer](#) or visit the [events listing website](#)
- **Other:** Please reach out to the contacts listed below or the relevant State/Territory Associations as required.

Where the event title below contains a hyperlink, this will take you to the event entry on the Association website.

For ACT Association members, each event also includes a link to allow you to add the event to your calendar. Please note that this will just add the event; you may still need to RSVP if one is required.

Month	Date	Region	Event
April	Wed 2 nd	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Sun 6 th	S-Qld	RAQ Sunshine Coast Luncheon Alex Surf Club from 1200h Details: https://www.facebook.com/groups/9161375560636849
	Thurs 10 th	NSW	Committee Meeting and Casual Luncheon Campbelltown RSL Club All members welcome for luncheon from 1200h
			Spanner Club Holsworthy RSVP to President@nsw.raeme.org.au before 06 Apr for base access
	Fri 11 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 12 th	SA	RAEME mixed ANZAC Reunion From 1200h at Coopers Ale House, 560 Main North Rd, Blair Athol RSVP to Don Harvy before Tuesday 8th April 2025 via 0412-021-411 or via email raeme.sa.association@gmail.com with names of those attending
	Wed 23 rd	ACT	RMC Lanyard Presentation RMC Golf Club, from 1530h Please come along to welcome new officers to the Corps. Our new HOC and DHOCs (Ground and Air) will be in attendance, as will the Corps RSM. RSVPs aren't mandatory but appreciated for planning purposes. Click here .
	Thurs 24 th	WA	RAEME Vigil Kings Park Sandakan memorial from 1900h
	ANZAC Day Fri 25 th	Canberra	ANZAC Day 0530h Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial 0615h ANZAC Day Breakfast at the Australian War Memorial Click here to book your place (bookings are essential) 0730h Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association Commemorative Ceremony 0900h Form up on ANZAC Parade for the National Veteran's March We will provide out Contingent Number once received Guest requiring accessible seating may book seating here . 0930h March steps off at the Australian War Memorial ~1100h Reconvene at Olim's Hotel (the Mecure), Braddon Look for the "RAEME Room" near the bar. 1630h Last Post Ceremony

Month	Date	Region	Event
April	ANZAC Day Fri 25 th	Adelaide	0500h Dawn Service at the SA National War Memorial 0900h Form up adjacent to the RAA. Contingent 12. 0930h March stepping off in Pulteney Street. Luncheon on 12 Apr (see above)
		Albury	0530h Dawn Service and Monument Hill Shuttle Buses from SS&A Club from 0500h. Bookings essential. 0900h March steps off from Macauley Street 1000h Monument Hill Service
		Brisbane	0428h Dawn Service at Anzac Square 0945h Form up in George St. Group 5, Serial 51. 1025h March stepping off ~1100h Gathering Port Office Hotel with buffet lunch. Booking essential. RAQ or Serving Members, \$35 or \$25 if you book before 21 Apr Non-members or guests, \$45 or \$35 if you book before 21 Apr
		Darwin	0600h Dawn Service at the Cenotaph 0845h Form up on the Esplanade for the March.
		Hobart	0600h Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, Queens Domain 0930h Preassemble at Customs House Hotel for the March
		Launceston	0600h Dawn Service at the Cenotaph 0915h Assemble in Charles St for the March
		Melbourne	0530h Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. 0900h March stepping off 0900h from Flinders St
		Perth	0550h Dawn Service at the State War Memorial. 0900h March stepping off from St Georges Tce 1030h Post-march gathering at the Ibis Hotel
		Sydney	0500h Dawn Service at 5 CSSB, Holsworthy Barracks. For base access, send details to: president@nsw.raeme.org.au 0930h March form up in O'Connell St, CBD. 1000h March stepping off ~1130h Reunion at The Castlereagh Club. Cost \$30/pers Entry by ticket only. Closing date for tickets 11 Apr 2025 POC Bob Joseph on 0418-215-182.
		Townsville	0520h Dawn Service at the Anzac Park Cenotaph 0830h Form up at the Strand Park 0900h March stepping off ~ 1100h Gathering at Flynn's Irish Bar (actually open from 0630h). Must bring some form of RAEME insignia for entry, eg tie, badge etc
		Wagga	0530h Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens 0630h ANZAC War Cemetery Service, Wagga War Cemetery 0930h Form up for march in Morgan Street 1000h March steps off Post-march ceremony in Victory Park
		Wodonga	0545h Dawn Service in Woodland Grove on High Street 1000h March stepping off from in top carpark of Wodonga RSL

Month	Date	Region	Event
May	Fri 2 nd	ACT	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 30 Apr via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Wed 7 th	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting – Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 9 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Thurs 15 th	NSW	Committee Meeting and Casual Luncheon Wollondilly RSL Sub-branch, Thirlmere All members welcome for luncheon from 1200h
	Sat 17 th	Tasmania	Mixed Lunch South Arm RSL, South Arm Hwy South Arm, 1200 for 1230h RSVP NLT 14 June via email rclark-7@hotmail.com
	Sun 18 th	S-Qld	RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon City Golf Club
	Tues 27 th	ACT	Mixed Drinks Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club. Otherwise, no RSVP is necessary; just turn up and look for the team
June	Wed 4 th	SA	Committee of Management Meeting Plympton-Glenelg RSL
		S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 6 th	ACT	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle RMC Golf Club For catering purposes and to assist RMC Staff planning, please RSVP NLT 03 Jun via the event link or via email .
	Fri 13 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 14 th	Tasmania	Mixed Dinner Lenah Valley RSL, Lenah Valley, Augusta Rd Lenah Valley, 1600 for 1830h RSVP NLT 10 June via email rclark-7@hotmail.com
	Tues 24 th	ACT	Mixed Drinks Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club. Otherwise, no RSVP is necessary; just turn up and look for the team
July	Wed 2 nd	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
		Wagga	Spanner Club Ten pin bowling
	Fri 4 th	ACT	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 01 Jul via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Fri 11 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sun 20 th	NSW	Christmas in July Luncheon Ingleburn RSL Club

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SE-QLD

Annual RAEME Get Together – By Clarrie Sanders (Organiser)



The weekend of 21 – 23 February saw the Annual RAEME Get Together take place at Bjelke-Petersen Dam at Moffatdale QLD, the eighth such gathering and the sixth at this location.

A gathering of past and serving members of the Corps, joined by their partners and spouses for a weekend catch-up to renew old acquaintances and make a few new ones. While most are now retired, the bonds forged in the Corps are still strong and it is always good to see some of our current duty soldiers in attendance.

From humble beginnings of about 30 people back in 2018, the Annual RAEME Get Together has grown over the years with over 170 people attending the largest event, and over 130 people attending this year. Some come just for the weekend, others stay for anything up to three weeks, all supporting the local shops, pubs, clubs, restaurants, and wineries during their stay.

A lot of the 'shenanigans' are in house, removing the need to drive if one chooses to imbibe. After the Friday afternoon welcome

and brief on the weekend, the entertainment began, which was funded by the South Burnett Regional Council, this was a duet featuring a past member of Bullamakanka of "Home amongst the gum trees" fame. This kept the crowd entertained well into the evening, although they didn't stay to well into the morning as some did.

Saturday afternoon saw the judging of the 'Hawaiian' themed best dressed, with some fierce competition and a few elbows being thrown around as people jostled for centre stage, before Karen Malcom and Wayne (Von) Von Hoff took out the major awards as ably judged by Pam Berry and Allison Borg.



L-R Pam Berry Karen Malcom Wayne Von Hoff Allison Borg

Then Micheal (Wilko) Wilkinson took on the duties of auctioneer extraordinaire, keeping the crowd entertained with his dry but comedic auction style as he sold off some Corp related items as part of the gathering's fund-raising efforts.



Micheal Wilkinson intrepid auctioneer

Then the legendary duo of Elvis Presley and Nancy Sinatra, AKA Terry (Sandals) Johnson and Cheyrl Clegg; hosted the best karaoke night yet seen at the gathering, it is a wonderful thing when all the technology tried in previous years, works as advertised. From the entire group taking part is some 'Pub Anthems', to some great solo efforts through to some noteworthy renditions for all the wrong reasons, the entire gathering enjoyed the night. A special mention must go to Terry Johnson for his heartfelt and moving rendition of "The band played Waltzing Matilda" (Eric Bogle 1972) in honour of all Corps members who have passed since the last gathering.



Terry Johnson's moving tribute to members lost

With a 22:00 noise curfew, most people trickled away soon after, however, a small crew yet again did 'fire piquet' into the small hours of the morning.

Sunday morning saw everyone gather for the obligatory group 'selfie', before Greg Riley presented the President of the Murgon Hospital Auxiliary, Mrs. Murial Shultz with the funds the gathering raised over the weekend. With plenty of support from the local community, especially the Bjelke-Petersen Dam management and the South Burnett Regional Council, it was decided in 2020 to give something back to the community, and the Murgon Hospital Auxiliary was chosen due to it being an organisation that supports the entire community by supplying much needed items to the local hospital.



Mrs Murial Shultz accepts the donation from the gathering

Through the sale of some 'gathering specific' merchandise, an ever-popular raffle, Richo's 'potluck' auction and additional donations by the attendees, we raise money for the auxiliary. Since 2020 the RAEME gathering has donated over \$10,000 to the hard-working team at the hospital auxiliary, this year's donation amounted to \$2331.20.



Gathering organisers and the Murgon Hospital Auxiliary members

It was then onto drawing the major prize from the raffle, this year it was a Teddy Bear in full RAEME uniform, skilfully hand made by Pam Beal, sister of Shane (Easy) Rider and won by Jan and Ian Keys.



RAEME Teddy on his way to a new home with Jan Keys

Then it was time to make the annual award of the Busted Ring. A few years ago, Tony Hickey inaugurated the Busted Ring Award to be presented each year at the gathering to someone that made a 'grave error of judgement' over the previous 12 months, noteworthy efforts of previous recipients are driving a boat into the mangroves to have it perched 2 metres above the water, crashing an e-scooter in full view of the gathering and other misdemeanours, attempting and thankfully, failing to amputate their own hand with a power saw. In a display of "What goes around, comes around", or karma is a bitch... This year's recipient was none other than the instigator of the award, Tony Hickey, for numerous oversights in the field of mechanical maintenance, having set off to explore W.A. in his trusty BT-50 and after a few issues, deciding it was easier to buy a new one mid trip than persevere with repairs.

Planning is well underway for next year's event, to get involved follow [this link \(on Facebook\)](#) and answer the membership questions. Arte et Marte.

Townsville Spanner Club

The event featured good food, great drinks, and plenty of lively conversations, all made even better by the outstanding hospitality of the Dally staff, who provided some extra bar snacks to keep everyone going.



RAQ NEWSLETTER – SPANNER NEWS

This is another fine publication with a lot of news about what is happening around the Corps and in units in Queensland. They also have details of recent events and upcoming events for members.

- The RAQ Website
- As a flip-book

A photograph of two men standing in a large hall, holding a large metal sculpture of the New Zealand coat of arms. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue polo shirt and camouflage shorts, while the man on the right is wearing an orange and black patterned shirt and dark shorts. The sculpture is a large, intricate metal piece featuring a crown, a shield with a tree and a ship, and the words 'New Zealand' and '1840'. The background shows a large room with many people seated at tables, suggesting a social event or reception.

Robert 'Tank' Pottifex
north@gld.raeme.org.au



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME WA

Welcome to the summer edition of the [Horse's Mouth](#) for 2025.

We had our first Committee meeting on the 10th of March in which we firmed up the first of our activities for the year. No surprise that our RAEME Vigil in Kings Park is first up followed by the ANZAC Day march and get together at the IBIS.

Kim Kuchel our Padre has moved on however the new Padre at HQ 13 Bde, John Crosby has agreed to support our vigil. He and in particular his wife has a special linkage to the event. She's the granddaughter of CPL William Swan, one of the Diggers we commemorate. Should make for a moving event. Hope to see you there.

Kind Regards

Ray Mizzi

President

president@wa.raeme.org.au



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME NSW

Newsletter Release



The NSW Association recently released their latest newsletter too.

In this, they recognised the extensive service of an RA NSW member, SGT Stephen Walmsley.

On the 20 Jan 2025 Stephen took discharge from the Army Reserve after 50 years and 97 days. He was presented with his third Federation Star last October.

Many of us would find it difficult to comprehend 50 years in the Green Machine. Congratulations, Stephen, on your service and dedication to the Corps.

Visit the [NSW Association website](#) to view this edition



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SA

An Afternoon with DVA

On Friday 04 Apr, the Vietnam Veteran's Federation SA Branch will be hosting "an afternoon with DVA". This information session will be at the DVA premises situated at Unit 1 31-39 Norfolk Avenue Marion. It will commence at 1330h.

The session will cover the following DVA topics:

- New Policy - Rules for Hearing Aids
- Home Assistance - Lawn Cutting, Home Cleaning, General Maintenance etc
- Planning ahead putting your affairs in order
- Other interesting stuff

This looks like a fantastic opportunity to get information or clarification directly from DVA on matters of concern to many veterans.

Please contact the DVA office ASAP on (08) 82962411 during Office Hours to confirm your attendance.



SPANNER PACK UPDATE

As published in the RAQ Spanner News, Mar 2025

Spanner Pack continues its good work in PNG and the Solomons

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new coordinator for the on-going management and delivery of Spanner Packs to RAEME officers and soldiers deployed on operations, and other training activities, around the globe.

I recently retired from the Army having served over 30 years and wanted to contribute to those still serving. I had the good fortune of having known the former Spanner Pack Coordinator, the late MAJ (Rtd) Ray Norman OAM, with whom I met numerous times, throughout my career, but most recently at the regional Spanner Club meetings, when I was posted in the Brisbane region.

Sadly, Ray passed away late last year. I want to acknowledge the great work he undertook, including support from his wife Karen, coordinating Spanner Packs for many years; and the faithful service he has dedicated to the RAQ and the RAEME National Network (RNN).

Most RAEME folks are aware the purpose of the Operation Spanner Pack. You may not know it was initially intended to provide care packages for those personnel deployed on declared Operations. However, with the increased pace of ADF operations and many current activities in the Southeast Pacific, the RNN through the RAQ, now also provides Spanner Packs for RAEME maintenance or training/mentoring detachments, or individual embedded soldiers, serving throughout our region.

Generally, if the training mission is longer than a couple of months, we would like to provide soldiers with a care package, just to let them know we are thinking of them, and we care about their dedication to service whether it is warlike, non-warlike or overseas training activity. Ultimately, we want to see their safe return to their families and friends and the Corps.

For those who may not be aware, the original concept was conceived in 2005 by a couple of NSW RAEME Association members [Clyde Cook and Fred Jolly]. Eventually, in 2008, the Spanner Pack project was supported by all state and territory

Editor's note:

Although I have a very close personal connection with the very first Spanner Packs that were sent, I have also been the recipient of a Pack whilst deployed and I have seen how much they are appreciated by deployed members.

More importantly, I have seen the envy in the eyes of members from other Corps with whom I was deployed, especially when I asked them what their Corps sent them whilst deployed. The question was invariably met with silence. We clearly care for each other. I therefore implore you to support the Spanner Pack initiative. Check out [the RAQ website](https://www.raeme.org.au) for more details.

RAEME Associations with RAEME Association Queensland, as the largest Association, taking the lead in the administration and coordination of the program.

To February 2025, Operation Spanner Pack has delivered approximately 4860 Spanner Packs weighing around 10,000Kg. Spanner Packs have been dispatched to RAEME soldiers on operations in the Middle East Area of Operations, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sinai, South Sudan, Solomon Islands, East Timor Fiji and PNG.



Left: Sample Spanner Pack.

Right: RAEME Detachment Task Group TAJI with their packs

If you would like to request a Spanner Pack, please go to RAEME Association Queensland website, to the "Contact Us" page, and email the Spanner Pack Co-ordinator: spannerpack@qld.raeme.org.au or [the RAQ website](https://www.raeme.org.au) with your request.

For more information about Operation Spanner Pack or donation details, to support this great cause, go to RAEME Association Queensland website, select "About Us" page and select the Operation Spanner Pack link. The more we receive the more our soldiers will benefit.

Arte et Marte

Major (Rtd) Tom Cross
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator
spannerpack@qld.raeme.org.au

Further to this, please recognise that Spanner Packs were created to remind fellow Spanners that they are still part of the family, regardless of wherever they are. The RAEME "brotherhood" has been evident throughout our Corps' history but in recent times I have been dismayed to hear that discharging/retiring members have departed without being farewelled or without appropriate recognition of their service to our Army or our Corps. This is simply not good enough.

*Whilst some departing members are happy to fade away in silence, it is important that all leaders amongst us try harder to support our people. **If you don't take the lead, who will??***

VETERAN SUPPORT CENTRE

The Veterans Support Centre (VSC) is a veteran-run organisation with a mission to help veteran's through-life. Pre-2009, VSC was known as the *Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation*.

Contact. VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and their web address is: <https://www.vscact.org.au/> The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au.

Questacon Visit

The VSC are excited to invite our members and their families to our afternoon out at Questacon.

RSVP: ASAP (they initially requested RSVPs by 28th March 2025)

Date: Sunday 6th April

Please feel free to call the office or email us at office@vscact.org.au to book in your reservation. Please can you advise the number of adults, concessions and children (aged between 4-16) that would like to attend.

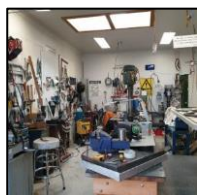
Time: 1pm – 4pm

Price: Free Entry

Coming events

Below is a summary of VSC activities planned for April. To find more details about individual events or the VSC, please visit: <https://www.vscact.org.au/events/>

Date	Time	Activity
Tues 01 st	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 02 nd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 03 rd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 04 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Guitar group – New members and all skill levels welcome 10:00am to 12:00pm
Mon 7 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 08 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 09 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 10 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 11 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Guitar group – New members and all skill levels welcome 10:00am to 12:00pm
Mon 14 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 15 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 16 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 17 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 18 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Guitar group – New members and all skill levels welcome 10:00am to 12:00pm
	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Ladies Craft Group – Ladies Craft Group on the 3rd Friday of the Month
Mon 21 st	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 22 nd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 23 rd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 24 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Mon 28 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 29 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 30 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REME UK

It's off the tools and into the field as REME troops hone their soldiering skills – by Tom Sables, 10 Mar 2025

Troops looking to seal their promotion within the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are having their command skills judged far closer to the enemy.

REME corporals, whose usual job is to fix a vehicle or mend a faulty weapon system, have been out in the field on a leadership development course in Bordon.

The aim was to develop their skills and demonstrate their current level of experience by testing them on a fieldcraft exercise.

So it was a case of "off the tools and onto the training area" as they looked to show they can head up a section in what was described as "classic soldiering" conditions.

REME soldier Cameron Gladwell was one of those being examined in his role as a corporal, guiding his small team through the woods with orders to find and engage enemy targets.



Corporal Cameron Gladwell's usual role is a small arms armoureder, so it had been a long time since he and his cohort had done any "classic soldiering"

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Corporal Cameron Gladwell's usual role is a small arms armoureder, so it had been a long time since he and his cohort had done any "classic soldiering"

But there was a shock to the system when his section instead encountered unarmed enemies in civilian dress.

This meant Cpl Gladwell was now required to change his orders to meet the rules of engagement and instead capture the individuals.

Watching close by was one of the Directing Staff, Sergeant Michael Kemp of the REME Arms School.

Assaults went ahead as planned elsewhere, and this two-week course upskills individuals in how to discipline, order and, most importantly, keep personnel safe – no matter what lies around the corner.



Watch: REME junior NCOs head to the field to solidify their promotions

The Craftsman Magazine



REME recently released their latest monthly Corps magazine, *The Craftsman*.

In this edition, the REME team have dozens of interesting stories about what their Corps units and members have been up to both in the UK and abroad. They also note several planned functions and commemorative events in the near future.

Professional and Personal Development career pathways with a Technical Apprenticeship available to all.

Long term, stable career contracts with good progression rates, and pay progression.

A generous non-contributory pension scheme.

38 days annual leave, with access to additional support.

Free gym membership and use of sports facilities.

Financial support to work-related travel and relocation.

Subsidised single and family accommodation charges, with 'Help to Buy' support.

Subsidised food and messing, with a daily food charge of £5.61.

Free health, dental and welfare provision.

Opportunities to participate in funded sports and Adventure Training during work.

Support to the cost of living and employee discounts.

As part of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RME) you will put in regular hours to help the Army and Navy every day.

To find out more about THE REME OFFER and to receive all of the benefits, support, and discounts available, please visit the website: remeconnect.org/craftsman-magazine/

Of particular interest was a simple advertisement for "The REME Offer". In its simplicity, this page brilliantly captures the benefits of serving in REME, leading with personal and professional development.

Perhaps we could adopt a similar approach to recruit new Corps members.



<https://remeconnect.org/craftsman-magazine/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RCEME CANADA

New Corps Badge

The RCEME Corps recently unveiled with pride its newly approved cap badge; featuring the Canadian Royal Crown. This significant change makes RCEME the first CAF primary badge to include this symbol, further reinforcing its strong connection to Canada's history and the monarchy. The new design represents an important evolution of the Corps' identity, blending tradition with modernity. This milestone reflects the continued growth and commitment of the RCEME Corps. RCEME thanked all members for their support in this transition.

For more information on the history of our cap badge, please visit the official RCEME website. <https://rcemecorpsgemrc.ca/our-history/cap-badge>

Canadian Royal Crown – <https://www.gg.ca/en/heraldry/royal-and-viceregal-emblems/royal-crown>



What is the RCEME Foundation?



The RCEME Heritage and Museum Foundation (RCEME Foundation) has the primary purpose of supporting programs that recognize the rich history and traditions of RCEME. The RCEME Foundation solicits support from a wide range of Canadians, including serving and retired RCEME members, other private donors, and corporate as well as public sponsors.

This financial support is used to fund a wide range of RCEME heritage and museum projects that include the operation of the RCEME Museum, museum facility improvements and expansion, the preservation of artifacts, and the conduct of major Corps celebrations in keeping with CRA guidelines.

For additional information on The RCEME Heritage and Museum Foundation, please read [this brochure](#) that was produced by the Foundation to explain who they are and most importantly, what they are doing for the RCEME Community. Alternatively, consider visiting the Foundation website at: <https://rcemefoundation.org/>

What is the RCEME Guild?

The Guild of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) has the main objectives of strengthening camaraderie, promoting the well-being of its members, encouraging public interest in the Corps, and preserving its traditions and cultural heritage.

It also works to foster continuity and unity within the RCEME community.

How to join? <https://rcemecorpsgemrc.ca/rceme-guild/>

What the Guild can do for you:

- Scholarship for post-secondary education for a family member.
- Emergency grants in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- Annual sports activities.
- RCEME Director's Award.
- Other annual awards.



Mr. Curtin said that the Government would have preferred to deal with preference in a separate bill. Parliament could have dealt with the issue more satisfactorily later on but the action of the Senate had forced the Govt to adopt its present course. "The men flying civil aircraft and manning merchant ships in combat areas are doing as much for their country as anybody else," he declared. Mr. Hughes said that the Repatriation Bill was concerned with enlisted service men only. Civil airmen and merchant seamen should be catered for in a separate bill. External Affairs Minister, Dr. Evatt, said that the Prime Minister's amendment seemed to have the support of returned soldiers' organisations. The debate was adjourned.

DVA NEWS – Parliament passes new veterans’ legislation

On 13 February 2025, the Parliament passed the Veterans’ Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2024 (the VETS Act).

The Government developed the improved legislation in response to the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, which recommended the Government simplify and harmonise the framework for veteran rehabilitation, compensation and other entitlements.

The legislation means that from 1 July 2026, the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) will close to new compensation claims. All claims received on or after 1 July 2026 will be determined under an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA).

Payments being received under the VEA and DRCA prior to 1 July 2026 will be grand-parented, meaning that those payments will continue uninterrupted. The start date of the new arrangements gives veterans, families and advocates time to familiarise themselves with the new system.

The benefits to veterans and families

Consolidating the legislation into one Act will result in a system that is easier for veterans to navigate and ensure more consistent compensation outcomes. A single Act will also be simpler to administer, benefiting veterans and families over time through more consistent and timely claim outcomes.

The Act will implement a range of improvements:

- A new Additional Disablement Amount (ADA), similar to the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) available under the VEA, will be introduced. Like the EDA, the ADA will compensate veterans who are of Age Pension age or older and who have a high degree of incapacity due to service-related conditions.
- The Repatriation Commission will be able to specify injuries and diseases that can be accepted on a

presumptive basis where they are known to have a common connection with military service.

- Eligibility for household services and attendant care will be expanded.
- The higher travel reimbursement amount, regardless of kilometres, will be available to all veterans when a private vehicle is used to travel for treatment.
- The automatic granting of VEA funeral benefits will be retained, with the benefit increasing to \$3,000, and funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service-related deaths will be reimbursed.
- Allowances and other payments will be standardised, including acute support packages, education schemes, and additional compensation for children of severely impaired veterans.
- The Repatriation Commission’s ability to grant special assistance to veterans and their dependants will be enhanced.
- Veterans receiving DRCA incapacity payments will automatically transition to MRCA incapacity payments on the date of commencement.
- Where the Repatriation Medical Authority updates a Statement of Principles (SOP) between the veteran’s primary and reviewable decision, the version of the SoP which is most beneficial to the veteran’s circumstances will be applied.
- The Repatriation Commission will be able to determine circumstances where a veteran must receive financial advice before receiving a lump sum payment, helping you make the right decisions.

The VETS Act – more information

We are committed to making it easier for you to navigate the veterans’ compensation system. A range of resources and scenarios can be found on the dedicated Legislation Reform page on the [DVA website](#). You may also wish to seek the advice of a compensation claims advocate or email any questions to legislation.reform@dva.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY: OPEN ARMS – DIGITAL MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (Open Arms) is calling on veterans and families to take part in a survey about how digital technologies can be used in mental health treatment and programs.

The results from this survey will be used to shape Open Arms’ Digital Mental Health Strategy, which is being developed to help enhance the effectiveness of mental health services delivered to veterans and families.

Why participate?

Your feedback is crucial in helping us understand your experiences with the use of digital technology and Open Arms’ services. By sharing your thoughts, you can contribute directly to the improvement of the mental health support offered through Open Arms.

Who can participate?

Anyone who has served at least one day of continuous full-time service in the Australian Defence Force and their families

are encouraged to contribute whether they are currently, have previously, or never accessed Open Arms’ services.

How does it work?

The Open Arms’ Projects and Program assurance team will collect the information from the online surveys to inform the development of the Open Arms’ Digital Mental Health Strategy. Participation is voluntary and all responses are confidential. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and closes on 20th March 2025. [Participate in the survey here.](#)

If you have any questions about the survey or would like talk about providing feedback separate to the survey, please email OPENARMS.PPASSURANCE@dva.gov.au or call us on 1800-011-046.

For more information about Open Arms please visit the [Open Arms website](#).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Dawn of the Legend: 25 April 1915

25 April 1915 is a date etched in Australia's history. Its anniversary is commemorated across the country each year as Anzac Day. To many this is Australia's most important national day.

In the morning of this day Australian troops made a landing on a hostile shore along the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. Some saw it as Australia's "baptism of fire" and "the birth of nationhood".

In the story of the Gallipoli landing Australians saw positive characteristics displayed by their troops that they would continue to identify with in later wars and conflicts, and in other crises and hardships.

Worthy sons of the Empire

In 1914 Great Britain declared itself, and consequently the forces of its Empire, to be at war with Germany. Australians responded with conviction and enthusiasm; they began raising a volunteer army, called the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

After Turkey joined the war on the side of Germany, the Australians took part in a British-led invasion of the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915. The landing and the eight-month campaign that followed established the Australians' reputation for courage, endurance and initiative, but ended in military defeat.

From that time the anniversary of 25 April has been commemorated as Anzac Day: not as a celebration of victory but as a commemoration of courage and sacrifice. Anzac Day also marks the emergence of the young newly-federated nation on the world's stage.

The failed plan

The Gallipoli campaign was intended to force Germany's ally, Turkey, out of the war. It began as a naval campaign, with British battleships sent to attack Constantinople (now Istanbul). This failed when the warships were unable to force a way through the straits known as the Dardanelles. A third of the battleships were sunk or disabled on a single day, 18 March 1915.

A fresh plan was devised: the army under Sir Ian Hamilton would occupy the Gallipoli peninsula. This would eliminate the Turkish land and shore defences and open up the Dardanelles for the passage of the navy. It would involve British troops first capturing the tip of the peninsula on 25 April, then advancing northwards. Meanwhile the Anzacs would land on the western coast north of Gaba Tepe, at a narrow point on the peninsula.

This is also the most thoroughly documented day in Australia's history. Charles Bean devoted most of the first volume of his official history of the war, *The Story of Anzac*, to the events of the day: nine chapters and over 90,000 words.

The online exhibition tells the story of the Australians who landed at Gallipoli, and of the creation of the Anzac legend.

Dawn of the legend: 25 April 1915 was developed by the Australian War Memorial with the generous support of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Commemorations Program Saluting Their Service.

The following pages are extracts from this exhibition. The full details can be viewed on the AWM website at this link:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/dawn>



The beach at Anzac – Frank Crozier ART02161

I heartily congratulate you upon the splendid conduct and bravery displayed by the Australian troops in the operations at the Dardanelles, who have indeed proved themselves worthy sons of the Empire.

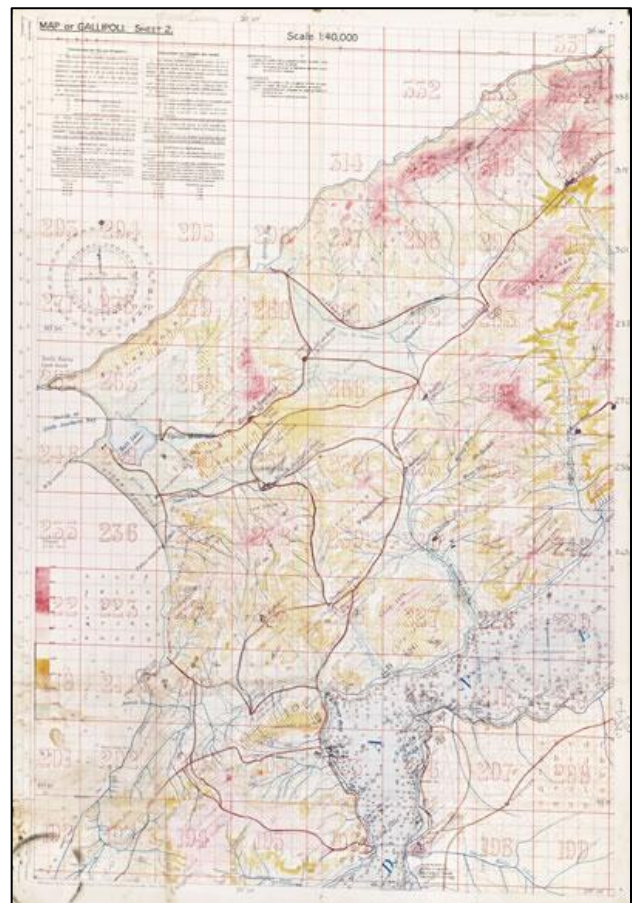
His Majesty, King George V



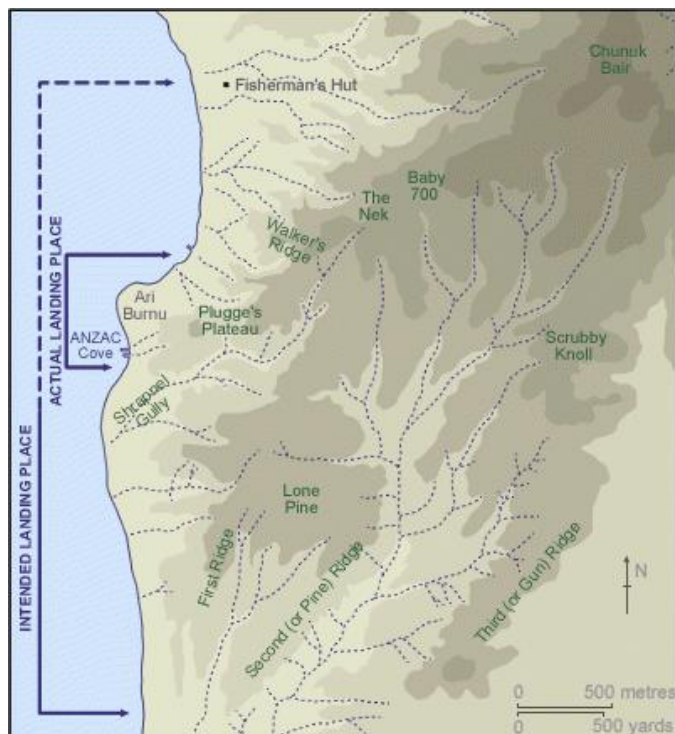
Gallipoli peninsula



The British and Anzac forces only succeeded in getting a toe-hold on the peninsula. Over the next eight months little progress was made, and the Anzacs were evacuated in December. By January 1916 the last British troops were withdrawn, and the venture abandoned.



The map used at the landing



The maps available to the commanders for the landing on 25 April 1915 were barely adequate. This one was carried by Colonel Henry MacLaurin, who commanded the 1st Australian Brigade, and it bears his annotations. MacLaurin was an early casualty, killed by a sniper two days later.

Are the High Gods bringing our new Iliad to grief? At whose door will history leave the blame for the helpless, hopeless fix we are left in?

General Sir Ian Hamilton

The landing

In the dark before dawn, battleships, destroyers and troopships approached the Turkish coast where the Australians and New Zealanders were to land. The 3rd Australian Brigade (4,000 men) was to be the covering force, with other brigades to come ashore throughout that day and the next.

Leaving the ships, the Australians were towed in boats, and then rowed the final distance to the beach. In the darkness the boats landed in the wrong positions. Once off the beach the men faced high hills, cliffs and ravines. The terrain was not what they had been told to expect, but it provided some protection. Enemy fire began as soon as the first men came ashore.

Scrambling up the hills, the Australians took the first ridges, but their objectives were still far off. The fighting in the hills and scrub became fierce, and this is where most of the day's casualties occurred. As the day went on, it became evident the task was impossible. Evacuation was ruled out, so the men were told to consolidate. The order came: "There is nothing for it but to dig yourselves right in and stick it out."

The grand plan had failed, and months of further fighting followed for little gain.



Royal Navy warships steaming towards Gallipoli. HMS London (foreground) carried men of the 11th Battalion. Alfieri Picture Service was a London-based company associated with many of the best-known images of Gallipoli. A02465



Boats landing at 9.45 am, north of Ari Burnu.



Getting into boats at 6 am to be taken ashore

Fatal bullet

Corporal Thomas Gooda enlisted in the 7th Battalion in August 1914. He was wounded and paralysed during the Gallipoli landing, and evacuated to hospital in Alexandria.



This bullet was removed from his spine; he did not recover, dying on 7 September 1915. REL/02445

A rugged and difficult part of the coast had been selected for the landing, so difficult and rugged that I considered the Turks were not at all likely to anticipate such a descent. The actual point of disembarkation was rather more than a mile north of that I had selected.

General Sir Ian Hamilton

The legend

The story of the Gallipoli landing inspired the legend of Anzac, which since then has been developed, expanded, embellished, confirmed, and sometimes challenged. It still remains central to many Australians' self-image.

Before the war a largely urbanised and newly federated nation had looked to its rural environment for its national character. The "bushmen", and their women, were seen to possess hardiness, democratic spirit, mateship, and resourcefulness.

In 1914, most Australians had high hopes that their soldiers would prove the nation's worth. These hopes were realised in the colourful descriptions of their men in action following the landing at Gallipoli. The bushmen's perceived characteristics were now applied, along with dash and courage in battle, to the Anzac stereotype. These were soon extended to those who served on the Western front, where the term "digger" was also used to describe the Australian soldier.

The mettle that a race can show

Is proved with shot and steel,

And now we know what nations know

And feel what nations feel.

A.B. "Banjo" Paterson



INVICTUS AUSTRALIA NEWS

Invictus Australia Defence Families Sports Expo

On March 22nd in Canberra, the Defence community came together to experience the array of sports that ACT has to offer at the fourth annual Invictus Australia Defence Community Sport Expo.

From archery to drone racing, pickleball to table tennis, plus Mountain Biking, attendees explored new sports, connected with likeminded people and engaged with Ex Service Organisations.

A big thank you to [Tuggeranong Archery Club](#) for hosting the event for a fourth year in a row, providing a space for more than 700 defence community members to connect through sport.

For more photos and videos from this awesome day, [visit here](#).



Future events

Below is a summary of Invictus Australia activities in which you can participate nationwide. To find more details about individual events or Invictus Australia, please visit: <https://invictusaustralia.org/events/month/2025-04/>

Date	Time	State	Activity
Tues 01	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	CANBERRA – Yoga - Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Chapel
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	CAIRNS – Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Weds 02	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	S-Qld	TOOWOOMBA - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	STOCKTON – (not)parkrun Walking Group
Thurs 03	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	NOWRA – Term 1- Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	TOWNSVILLE - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		S-Qld	TOOWOOMBA – Yoga TERM 1
		S-Qld	BRISBANE - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	S-Qld	IPSWICH - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Fri 04	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	SA	CHARLESTOWN – Twilight Bowls - Club Charlestown
Sat 05	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	NSW	SHOALHAVE HEAD – Come and Try Pickleball!
Mon 07	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	NOWRA – Term 1 Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 08	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	CANBERRA – Yoga - Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Chapel
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	CAIRNS - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Weds 09	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	S-Qld	TOOWOOMBA - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Thurs 10	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	NOWRA – Term 1- Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	TOWNSVILLE - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		S-Qld	BRISBANE - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	S-Qld	IPSWICH - Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Fri 11	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	MAITLAND – (not)parkrun Walking Group
Wed 16	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	STOCKTON – (not)parkrun Walking Group
Fri 25	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	MAITLAND – (not)parkrun Walking Group - TBC
Wed 30	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	STOCKTON – (not)parkrun Walking Group

LOOKING BACK ON RAEME

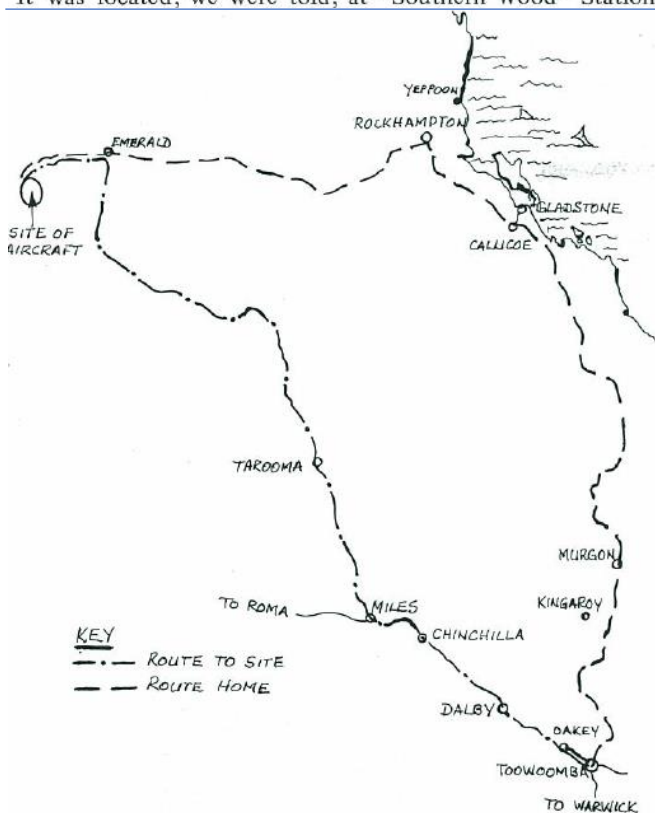
This month, we have included an interesting article as published in The RAEME Craftsman magazine, Edition 4 of May 1980.

Recovery of Ol' '55 – by Captain Chris Bell

The news that helicopter A17-055, of 171 Command and Liaison Squadron, had struck a telephone line and suffered category 3 damage was received at midday of June 21st, 1979. It was located, we were told, at "Southern Wood" Station,

approximately twenty five kilometres south west of Anakie in central Queensland.

Category 3 damage – a RAAF term indicating that, with all spare parts and maximum labour available, repairs could be



THE ROUTE TAKEN IN RECOVERING OL'55

effected within fourteen days – on this occasion meant a sudden stoppage of both main and tail rotors and, from a RAEME point of view, an automatic engine, transmission and power train replacement.

With this and the location of the crippled aircraft in mind it was decided to recover it to Oakey by road, rather than effect repairs "in situ".

RAEME WHEELS SET IN MOTION

Although inexperienced in road recovery of aircraft the Squadron Support Group had previously discussed the details of such a requirement and, within three hours, a recovery team was ready to move. For a variety of reasons, however, it was decided the team would leave in the early hours of the next morning.

Armed with trucks, tents, rations, tooling and equipment, together with wallets full of advance TA dollars, Capt Chris Bell, WO2 Len Avery, Sgt Howard Schulze, Cpl John Ellison, Cfn Jim Gaffney, Cfn "Blue" Howard and Cfn Jim Heffernan set out in the pre-dawn hours of June 22nd, aboard two 5 ton trucks (one with crane) and one ¾ ton Landrover.

Owing to the unknown quality of the road surface it was decided to take the shortest route possible, for two reasons. One, to arrive at the site in the quickest time possible and two, to see if the second class dirt roads would be suitable for the return trip – with the aircraft on board.

Thirteen hours later, after five hundred miles of narrow roads, dirt roads, corrugated roads and goat tracks, the questions were answered. We arrived at Emerald at 7.00 pm where we met the pilot who was to guide us to the site next day.

To a man and, I might add, in true RAEME tradition, seven dust filled throats, borne atop seven aching bodies, descended upon the publicans of Emerald in search of beers and steaks to fortify them for the next day.



The team: (l to r) Cfn Gaffney, Cfn Heffernan, Cfn Howard, WO2 Avery, Capt Bell, Capt Beumer (observer), Cpl Ellison and Sgt Schulze.

INSPECTION AND RECOVERY

Next morning, in the company of both a guide and thick heads, we moved west to "Southern Wood", arriving there at 10.00 am.

Crash site and aircraft were inspected. Photographs were taken, sketches made, damage assessed and the method of preparation for recovery determined.

The cause of the accident and resulting damage was obvious. The aircraft's tail rotor had struck a single overhead telephone wire, about ten feet from the ground. As a consequence the tail rotor and gearbox had been ripped from the tailboom – damaging the tailboom in the process, naturally. The main rotor blades were also damaged but, apart from that, the aircraft appeared to be in reasonable condition.

Recovery began at 10.30 am and, by 4.30 pm, with the aid of several tinnies, hard labour and typical, but oft times much-maligned, RAEME expertise the aircraft and its components were ready for movement by road.

Each team member had been briefed on his responsibilities in regard to the actual disassembly and recovery of the aircraft and its components. Consequently few problems were encountered and the task made that much easier.

All the power train components were removed – engine, transmission, mast, head and blades, as were the tailboom, radios and instruments. The bare fuselage was then secured onto transporters on the tray of the 5 ton "Hiab" vehicle.

REST AND RECUPERATION

Noel and Gail Bailey, the owners of "Southern Wood", made a large cement floored shed available to us as sleeping accommodation, and by 5.00pm we toasted their health and hospitality as cold cans became, once again, the order of the day.

During the course of the evening's festivities, the subject of food raised its ugly head as did the traumas associated with ration packs, giving rise to such comments as – "Who's cooking?" – "Bloody rations!" – "I'm not eating that . . . !!" , etc. and so forth, when Gail, bless her heart, stepped in to ask, "Would anyone like to share a steak dinner in the comfort of the homestead?"

The response was immediate as bodies rushed everywhere offering assistance with the necessary kitchen duties until the steaks were produced, eaten and left-handed conversation resumed.

HOMeward BOUND

We took our leave at 8.00am the following morning, for Oakey. Owing to the poor quality of the road surfaces on the way out and the adverse effect returning over them might have

LOOKING BACK ON RAEME continued



on the aircraft, it was decided to follow the bitumen route home – east to Rockhampton, south to Gin Gin, on to Murgon and thence to Oakey.

After three days and two expensive overnight stops at Rockhampton and Murgon and travelling at an average speed of 60 km/h, the mini-convoy arrived back at Oakey without sustaining any further damage to the aircraft.

The repairs were subsequently effected by personnel of 171 Squadron Support Group.

It had been a first for the Squadron and much valuable experience and knowledge was gained from the exercise.

The methods and procedures used have since been refined, rewritten and included in the 1st Aviation Regiment Workshop's SOPs to simplify and standardise future aircraft recovery by road.

O1' 55's bare fuselage is lifted aboard.

ADF NEWS

Source: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/>

More recognition for transitioning personnel

Photo: Corporal Michael Rogers

From March 1, all transitioning full-time ADF personnel will receive a testimonial to recognise their contribution before their final date of full-time service.

The testimonial will provide details of the member's performance, knowledge, skills and experience during their career and final posting.

Director General Joint Transition Authority Air Commodore Kaarin Kooij said respect and recognition played a key role in supporting every member through their transition journey.

"The testimonial provides a formal document that can be used by personnel following transition from service as a reference to support gaining future employment," Air Commodore Kooij said.

"Transition is a significant event that all ADF personnel experience.

"Our time in the ADF matters, our contribution to service matters, and our achievements should be recognised at the point of transition."

Also from March 1, eligible Reserve and permanent members transitioning from service will receive a service medallion.

The medallion represents the identity and experience of service and commemorates those who have served a minimum of four, 10 or 20 years.

Navy implemented its service medallion in 2015, and the Joint Transition Authority has worked with Army and Air Force to replicate it.



Army service medallions, from left, recognising 20, 10 and four years of service.

"The service medallion and service testimonial support all commanders and supervisors to formally recognise the service of our people at the time of transition from service," Air Commodore Kooij said.

Presentation of the items will take into account the preferences of the serving member.

Air Commodore Kooij said procedures were evolving from lessons across Defence and through the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

"As an organisation we have had the opportunity to learn, acknowledge and now strengthen our support to members, as well as commanders and supervisors, to ensure a member-centric transition," Air Commodore Kooij said.

"When we look at the transition space, this means working to support our people across all of the aligned Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs wellbeing factors, including 'respect and recognition'."

Source: [Defence media](#)

SYMBOLS OF COMMEMORATION

Dawn ceremony as a symbol of commemoration in Australia

The idea of a dawn service originates from the army's 'stand-to' routine in World War I.

Since early times, the half-light of dawn was one of the most favoured times to attack an adversary. Dawn's misty shadows played tricks with the soldiers' eyes, giving an attacker some advantage. World War I was no different.

In the trenches of Gallipoli and the Western Front, and on the front lines in the Middle East, a company's orderly officer and sergeant woke those soldiers on active duty an hour or so before dawn. In the dark, the troops would fix their bayonets to guard the position against enemy attack, which was common at dawn.



Members of the 9th Australian Light Horse Regiment standing in the trenches at Russell's Top on Gallipoli, 1915.

In Australia and New Zealand, the timing of the dawn service links symbolically to the first landing on Gallipoli at dawn on 25 April 1915.

Commemorative services to honour those who died in World War I were held as early as 25 April 1916. However, the term 'dawn service' is not recorded until the 1920s.

Early dawn services were forerunners of the modern tradition. Reverend Arthur White, former padre with the 44th Australian Infantry Battalion during the war, held a dawn service at Albany, Western Australia, in 1923.

The first official wreath-laying service at dawn was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in Martin Place on Anzac Day 1928.

What it means to us today

A ceremony at dawn has now become the preferred form of remembrance for veterans and members of the Australian public on Anzac Day.

Many official services take place across the country and overseas on Anzac Day, along with a televised national dawn service held at Canberra's Australian War Memorial.

Engage more with this topic

Read a newspaper report: "[ALL READY](#)", The Sun, 24 April 1928 [[See below](#)]. Use Trove to find other newspaper articles that cover the first dawn service.

Read the 2017 Australian Geographic article, [The evolution of Anzac Day from 1915 until today](#).

Hold your own dawn service

Event planning

Personal commemorations

ALL READY – ANZAC DAY MARCH – MANY PLANES – CARS FOR MAIMED SOLDIERS

The A.I.F. will live again tomorrow. Indications point to a great roll-up of Diggers for the march. The G.O.C. (Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal) and his staff have completed arrangements. The R.S.L. exhorts all returned men to take part in the march in honour of fallen comrades. Former members of Imperial, Dominion and Allied armies are invited to join in.

The Air Board has arranged to send a number of aeroplanes from Richmond, piloted by war veterans, to join with the Aero Club for the aerial pageant during the Anzac Day march and Domain services. At Head of Procession. The G.O.C. (Major-General Sir Chas. Rosenthal), with the president of the league (Mr. L. C. Elliott), and the secretary (Mr. Stagg), will walk at the head of the procession. They will be followed by V.C. men and blinded soldiers, and maimed soldiers, in motor cars.

In addition to the 40 cars provided specially for maimed soldiers there will be also nine cars available for incapacitated Diggers who may feel unequal to the march. Those cars will be parked opposite the Premier's office in Macquarie-street.

The Cenotaph was washed down to day in readiness for the great gifts of wreaths to-morrow.

Members of the 1st Battalion will be guided to their section of the parade by the battalion flag.

The head of the column will move off at 9.45 a.m., and after traversing the city streets the procession will end round the platform in the Domain where a united commemoration service will be conducted by returned chaplains of the A.I.F. The Governor will be present.

Prayers will be offered for the King and nation, and for the League of Nations. Massed bands will play the music for the following hymns: "O God, Our help in ages past," "The Recessional," and "Lead; Kindly Light."

The service will be closed with the National Anthem.

In order that all may hear the services, and keep time with the singing, 30 loud speakers have been installed.

Should rain prevent the holding of the services in the Domain, the Sydney Town Hall will be used.

The R.S.L. will place a wreath on the Sydney Cenotaph at 4.30 a.m. This is the hour that marks Australia's entry into the war, being the time at which the landing on Gallipoli was made, and the hour at which the first Australian casualties occurred in the war operations in Europe.

This ceremony will be the first occasion in Australia at which a wreath has been placed on a memorial at this eventful hour.

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS



Source: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/programs-workshops/upcoming>

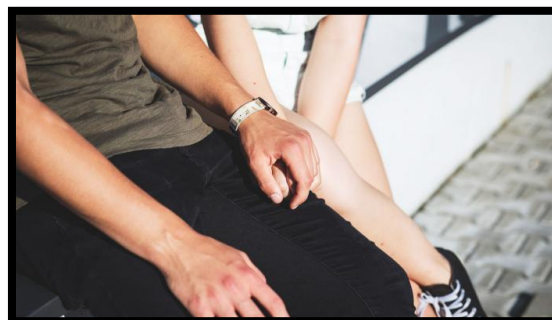
Managing pain

- What:** A program to help you learn about effective pain management strategies
- Who:** ADF members and their partners about to or recently in transition to civilian life.
- Venue:** Online (All States)
- When:** Two-day session, 2 & 4 April, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
- More info:** [Click here](#) for program information



Recovery from Trauma

- What:** A program to help understand and manage the impact trauma on you and your family
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children
- Venue:** Online (All States)
- When:** Two-day program, 9 & 11 April, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- More Info:** [Click here](#) for program information



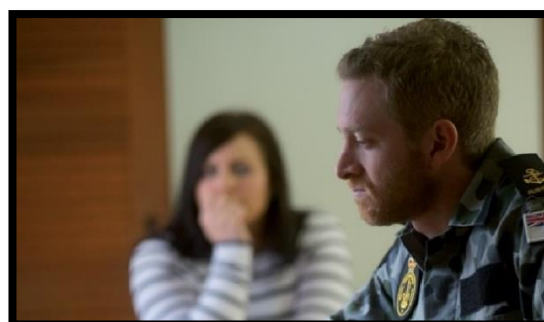
Sleeping better

- What:** A program to help you manage disturbed sleep
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Venue:** Online
- When:** Two-days, 22 & 24 April, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (SA time)
- More info:** [Click here](#) for program information



Doing anger differently

- What:** A program to help you understand anger and aggression
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Venue:** Online
- When:** 13 & 15 November 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- More info:** [Click here](#) for program information



Relaxation and Stress Management

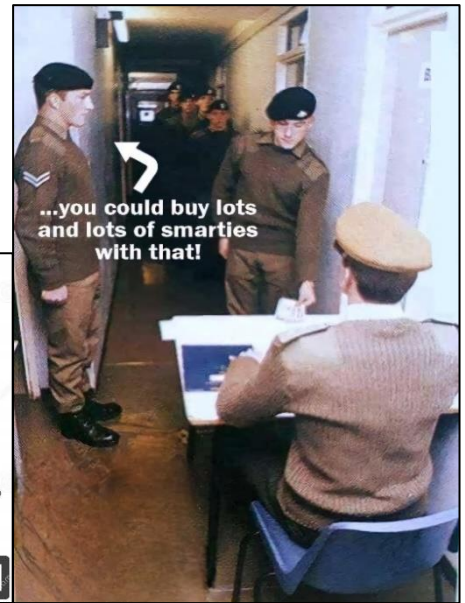
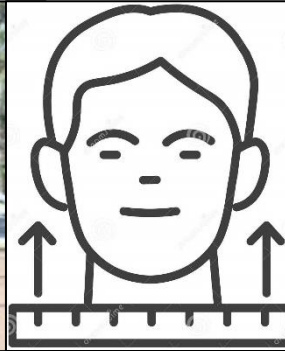
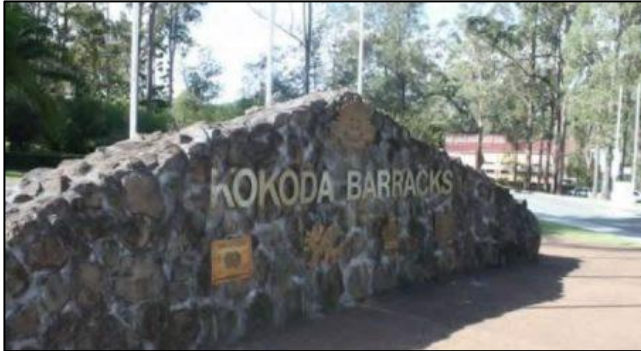
- What:** Learn strategies to alleviate a variety of conditions, including pain, stress and mild depression
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children
- Venue:** Canberra (TBC)
- When:** One-day program, 2 May, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm)
- More info:** [Click here](#) for program information



SOLDIER'S 5 QUIZ

Answers at bottom of page

1. **People.** Which Army Apprentice became the Chief of the Army (bonus point for knowing his Intake and Trade)?
2. **Places.** In what town/location would you find Kokoda Barracks?
3. **Corps.** What is the radio callsign for RAEME?
4. **Events.** What two phrases were spoken by soldiers on receipt of cash pay?
5. **Trade.** What is a headspace tool used to measure?



RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

Due to the huge success of the First and Second editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* a third edition is being drafted now. The editors need more stories!!

If you didn't get your order in for Edition 1 or Edition 2, it is not too late. Our Head of Corps Cell was gifted several hundred copies for sale from the Corps shop with all funds raised to be made available to support serving and retired members of our Corps.

The Head of Corps Cell shop is [online](#) but at time of writing, they haven't as yet uploaded their books for sale. When they do, we will let you know but in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Head of Corps at:

RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au

If you have any funny stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com.

Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable!



CLOSING COMMENTS

That's about it for this edition. If you would like to submit something for future editions, or if you would like to see something in particular published that is relevant to the Corps, please email me at: Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary, ACT RAEME Association



President: Andy Adams, President@act.raeme.org.au

Secretary: Ian Cook, Secretary@act.raeme.org.au

Website: <https://act.raeme.org.au>



Membership of the Association is free to all serving or former members with a connection to RAEME who also live or work within the ACT region.

Soldier's 5 Quiz Answers 1. LTGEN Ken Gillespie, 23rd Intake Bricklayer; 2. Canungra, Qld; 3. Bluebell; 4. "Pay Received, Sir/Ma'am", and "Pay Correct, Sir/Ma'am"; 5. Measuring the distance in a weapon from a closed chamber's breech face to the chamber feature that limits the insertion depth of a cartridge placed in it.