

RAEME in ACTION

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



Edition: 29

May 2025

From King Charles III

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, it is with great admiration that I write to thank you, once again, for your selfless service in those most difficult and dangerous times.

The passing of the years has in no way diminished the courageous deeds of those who sacrificed so much in the line of duty and in the pursuit of peace, freedom and justice.

For many years now, you have carried the memory of that dreadful conflict, and the weight of grief for others who fell in your country's service.

I am always deeply touched when I hear of the love and pride veterans feel for their fallen comrades and family members, and that there are few days in which they do not think of them.

I know that it is no small burden to bear that the final resting places of the fallen are often so far from home.

We must, every one of us, remain vigilant in upholding the values for which you fought so gallantly over eighty years ago.

Like others of my generation, I owe my peaceful childhood to the steadfast efforts of those of your comrades, with yourselves, in overcoming tyranny.

For this I feel the most profound gratitude.

On Anzac Day, as we commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, I wanted to pay a special tribute to Australian and New Zealand veterans, and those who are on active service today.

Through the generations, you have continued to enact the indomitable spirit of Anzac – forged in terrible conflict and preserved in peace – of courage, mateship and sacrifice.

It is my fervent hope that the years have brought you to a place of peace, and that peace shall remain with you always.

CHARLES R.

The Honour Roll at the Australian War Memorial showing the names of RAEME members lost during the Vietnam War.

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

 Spanner Club	 Mixed Lunch	 Informal Drinks	 Significant Event
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MAY						
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	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

JULY						
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	31			

ANZAC DAY IN CANBERRA AND AROUND THE NATION

ANZAC Day this year saw one of our largest turn-outs in recent years with both serving and retired members taking part in the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial. The Governor General received the salute for her first time in her role. Rather than words, please see below some images of commemorative events from around the Globe.







CORPS STATUS UPDATE

Source: Adapted from the Corps RSM's monthly report dated 07 Apr 2025

Corps Conference 2024 Update

I have received many (so many) requests for an update on the outcomes from the Corps Conference – 2024. Unfortunately, the deliverables have not been realised and as such the Decision Brief (DB) to the Chief of Army (CA) has stalled. I have begun to draft the DB, with the intent to have this completed NLT ANZAC Day. The major outcome we (RAEME) are looking to have addressed within AHQ is the LDSS Feedback Form and where we as a Corps (maintainers) find our place in a challenging environment; not only doctrinally but physically also.

It is paramount the CA gains an insight into the increasingly challenging nature of maintenance and its impact on maintainers; whether this is through the introduction into service phase or with current in-service equipment where the parameters have changed.

Once I have completed the DB and have had it reviewed and signed, I will ensure copies are made available to the Corps, so history doesn't repeat itself (again and again).

Master Artificer – ECN 229 Vehicle Technician

At the completion of the Corps Conference 2024, the HOC announced the 2025 Master Artificers, with WO1 Jake Donnelly been announced as the MA for ECN 229 – Vehicle Technician. WO1 Donnelly in early March 2025 announced he would be stepping away from the ADF (indefinitely) to take on civilian employment. After consideration from the HOC Cell I am pleased to announce WO1 Brian Vaughan is the new MA ECN 229.

Unit Notifications

I would like to try and add some more information to all our members on what is happening around each of our locations. If any Unit would like milestones, achievements H&A recognition announced via this means, please email myself (jon.tynan@defence.gov.au) NLT the 10th of the month and I will ensure it is included.

ASEME

March has been a busy month for the units Command Teams, Staff and trainees.

The CO & RSM have completed visits to OJT locations in Adelaide and Darwin engaging soldiers, officers and civil industry partners that support training of our ECN workforce. Discussion with Charles Darwin University key leaders was also a key highlight of the visit which enabled continued collaboration regarding the vision for future regional training opportunities that could exist in partnership with the N10 Network of training institutions.

Continued planning of throughput modelling and delivery of regional training has also been consuming extensive planning hours and innovation from key leadership groups within

ASEME. This continues the work from the previous command teams and the efforts of the combined workforces of Wodonga TAFE and Workforce Training Group to date.

The RSM & CO attended the first of the ALTC Commanders Recall with our surrounding Training Establishments. ASEME main focus remains the delivery of training.

RSM has delivered the first of RSM training days, covering off on teamwork during staff Battle PT session, and Professional Development Training for different rank groups that seen presentations on Dynamic Workforce behaviours (DISC Profiling), future warfighting concepts in South West Pacific and continued Discipline education.

Pulse Checks have been completed at CPL-WO2 Level with excellent feedback on RFIs for the ASEME's day to day running, streamline management concepts and general culture sustains and improvement opportunities.

ASEME has completed the first of the sporting events of the year with the Inter Wing X Country, having EESW come away as the first of the Sporting Champions for this event.

Next Sporting event will be a continued AFL Clash against Puckapunyal Military Area, to be held at Latchford Barracks 16 April 25. Game kicks off at 1:15pm.

The following Awards have been presented during February & March:

- CPL L J Brining, Clasp 'Bushfires 19-20' to the National Emergency Medal
- WO2 B D Thomas, First Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal
- CFN C J Estrada Australian Defence Medal
- CFN J C Fletcher Australian Defence Medal
- CFN Z W Farrell Australian Defence Medal
- AC/W E C McAllister Army Group Commendation
- CPL H H King Army Group Commendation
- CFN T D Stead Army Team Award
- LCPL B M Johnson, National Emergency Medal with Clasp 'Bushfires 19-20'
- CPL R A Penn, Defence Long Service Medal
- CPL H H King, National Emergency Medal with Clasp 'Bushfires 19-20'
- CPL S K O'Leary, National Emergency Medal with Clasp 'Bushfires 19-20'
- CFN J K Anderson-Townsend Australian Defence Medal

April will see the ASEME shift focus to Military skills training in preparation for the first of the LFEX's. April will also see the School move to the first of the reduced tempo periods over Easter with a focus well and truly set on ANZAC Day 25 where the Trainees and Staff will represent 18 tasking's supporting the community. Tasks range from Catafalque Parties, Guest Speakers, Formed Troops in Marches and Wreath Layers. Our teams look forward to seeing you in the community.

Corps Shop

RAEME Clothing: <https://shop.hunterpp.com.au/raeme/>

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

One of the suggestions to come through recently is an amendment to the Hoodie we have been very successful in selling over recent years.

Please don't hate me for the art work, it's what I was presented (but you can get the intent).

Workforce and Training Group

This month's article will focus on two areas. ECN 222 – Marine Technician and Bridge and Gantry Crane training requirements.

ECN 222. The LitM project is moving forward as is the Workforce Segment Review to support the new capability. Both of these activities will shape how our Marine Technicians will be structured, trained and employed. As with any new capability many concepts are explored before decisions are made. At this point in time W&TG are involved with providing input to some considerations such as (but not limited to):

- Should the category rank range be from CFN to WO1
- Should the category be only employed on vessels or in support of the capability
- Investigate the requirement and viability of establishing Marine Electrical and Marine Electronics trades
- Removing the RAEME Subject Two and Four Courses from the ECN 222 Career progression
- Establish Certificate IV and Diploma level training for ECN 222 to meet AMSA qualification requirements.

Remember, the above considerations have not been endorsed at this point in time and require further development. Our intent is to ensure the capability is successful whilst balancing training and employment requirements Bridge and Gantry Crane Training. If you were not aware the 209732 Operator Bridge/Gantry Crane LMP was made inactive last year. This decision was based on the following facts:

- Workshop Induction Training is to occur for all new workshop personnel. Overhead Gantry Crane for operators is part of induction for those who require it.



- Training Requirements: Safe Work Australia, Managing the risks of plant in the workplace - Code of Practice, states: Before a PCBU's workers or other persons use the plant in a workplace, a PCBU must, as far as is reasonably practicable, provide them with information, training, instruction and organise ongoing supervision as necessary to protect them from risks arising from the use of the plant.
- Safe Work Australia, Managing the risks of plant in the workplace - Code of Practice, also states: Workers who operate plant should be competent or suitably supervised during training so they do not put themselves or others at risk. It is important to retain all operating manuals and instructional material provided by the manufacturer in order to correctly operate and maintain the plant once it is in the workplace.

Summary: As most Defence Workshops have Bridge and Gantry Cranes that are remotely controlled and have three or less powered operations there is no HRWL requirement and training can be delivered in the workplace by a competent person using the Manufacturers user handbooks and your unit's Safe Workplace Procedures.

If you have any questions regarding these two topics please send them to wtg.raeme.ecm@resources.defence.gov.au.

Have a fantastic ANZAC Day & Stay Safe

Arte et Marte

Jon

Warrant Officer Class One Jon Tynan
Regimental Sergeant Major

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT

Impending Mixed Lunch for Members, Families and Friends

For our mixed lunch at Ainslie Football Club on Fri 02 May, we will be joined by representatives from Open Arms who would like the opportunity to dine with some of our members and share news about upcoming programs and initiatives.

Whilst some of us may not feel the need to engage with Open Arms for ourselves, many of us are also leaders within Defence and civilian industries, hence this may be an ideal leadership opportunity to learn more about support mechanisms that are available for our peers and subordinates.

If you are able to attend, please drop an [email to the Secretary](#) so we can ensure we have enough seats reserved. Please let us know if you require someone to sign you in to the Ainslie Football Club.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT continued

RMC Lanyard Presentation

On 23 Apr, we got to welcome two new officers into our Corps, LT Liam O'Brien and LT Shahzeb Mubeen. LT O'Brien is off to 3 CSSB as a PI Comd where he will refine his leadership skills and learn more about the support our Corps provides the 3rd Bde and the broader Army. For 3 CSSB Workshop members, please ensure you provide LT O'Brien the guidance he needs to shape him into the officer who will carry our Corps forward. LT Mubeen is heading to Kapooka where he will inspire new recruits as they commence their journey into service. RAEME has a strong presence in the Wagga region so I hope he finds time to reach out and build his Corps network and broader exposure to other Corps.

DHOC, LTCOL Hans Hamilton, was on hand at RMC to formally welcome the new officers. He encouraged them to look to the future and strengthen the foundations upon which our Corps stands. The importance of this was reiterated by the Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan. From an Association perspective, the new LTs were reminded of the importance of reaching out and embracing the Associations in impending posting locations. More importantly, they were reminded that the most important asset our Corps has is its people and how it is critical it is that as junior leaders that they treat all members with respect whilst supporting them in their endeavours and honouring the work they do.

Welcome to the Corps, Gentlemen. Do us proud!



Battle of Coral Sea Commemorative Activities - Friday, 9 May 2025

83rd Anniversary
4-8 MAY 1942

BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

Commemorative Service Drinks & Dinner

Australian American Association - Canberra Division

11.00am Service - Australian-American Memorial
6pm Drinks & Dinner - Canberra Services Club

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2025

Book for the dinner by [clicking here](#).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Alicia Doherty

President

Australian American Association

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT continued

Joint Presentation on My Aged Care, DVA and Harwell Home Care

The ACT Kindred Organisation Committee in conjunction with some ex-service organisations of the ACT and surrounding areas invite all Veterans and their families to attend a presentation on the changes and ramifications of the new MyAgedCare Act and its effect on the veteran community. Morning team will follow the presentation.

Date: 02 Jul 2025

Time: 1030h

Venue: LDK Greenway Auditorium, 260 Soward Way, Greenway ACT

RSVP: NLT 20 Jun 2025 to president@actkoc.org

Discover the rich history of Tuggeranong Homestead

What: The Tuggeranong Homestead played a pivotal role in establishing the National Capital and hosted C.E.W. Bean while he wrote the official histories of Australia's involvement in World War One. Experience military re-enactments, a talk from Ross Coulthart who wrote on the life of Charles Bean. There will be demonstrations, performances, stalls, displays including classic cars, colonial guns and photographs. Bring a picnic or purchase refreshments. Please note - no alcohol may be brought onto the property but can be purchased on site. Enjoy activities for everyone including old fashioned games, face painting and bendy balloons.

Where: Tuggeranong Homestead, 130 Johnson Drive, Richardson

When: 03 May from 1000-1430h

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



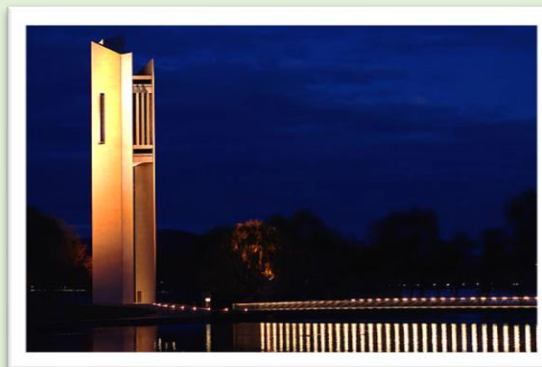
The Carillion Strikes Back

What: In a galaxy far, far away.... the bells were heard from a tower. They will return to Canberra in Star Wars themed glory on May 4 2025. Hear a fabulous Star Wars soundtrack presented by the team of Carillonists. Bring a picnic or indulge in a selection of refreshments on offer.

Where: The Carillion (but possibly heard from Russell Offices)

When: 04 May from 1200-1300h

Details: [Click here](#) for more details. May the Fourth be with you.



Last Post Ceremony

What: Each evening, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of servicemen or women whose name appears on the Roll of Honour.

Where: Australian War Memorial, Commemorative Courtyard

When: Commencing daily at 4.30 pm AEDT

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



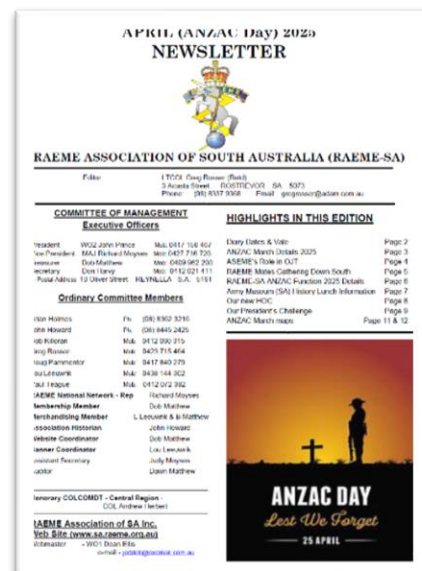
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SA

SA Newsletter

The SA Association recently released their April edition of their Newsletter with the following key highlights:

- Diary dates.
- Vale notifications.
- The 2025 ANZAC March - particularly start time and Assembly Areas.
- ASEME's Role in OJT.
- RAEME Mates gathering March 2025.
- AMOSA Festival Lunch on 14th May 2025
- Intro to the new RAEME HOC, BRIG Gabrielle Follett AM.
- President's Challenge

The newsletter may be downloaded from the SA Association website by [clicking here](#).



RAEME Mates Gathering



A "RAEME Mates" Gathering was held in Club Marion on 8th March 2025 for all the members living 'Down South'. It was good for old friends to be able to get together for a shared ale (or two) and to talk about old times.

Front row (L-R)- Ian Jeisman, Lou Leurik, Doug Pammenter, Brian Maddern, George Cooke.

Back row(L-R) - Marc Riches, Brenton Beck, Dave Bridgman, James Boulton, Steve Beaty, Scott Fishlock, Trent Ryan, Ian Starick, Bob Matthew.

More photos are available in the SA Newsletter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME NT

1 CSSB Birthday

The 1st Combat Service Support Battalion recently had its 27th Birthday. To celebrate, 1 CSSB conducted a Battalion PT competition consisting of sub-unit teams battling through 21km on the rowing machines, with a concurrent team stores carry. As this was happening, the sub-units were also competing in a game of touch footy.

Once all the Officers and Soldiers had earned it, the Unit put on a BBQ breakfast and celebratory cake, cut by the youngest member of the Battalion.

Congratulations to the rowing winners, the Army's Premier Workshop, **101st Field Workshop Company!**



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME QLD

Spanner Clubs in Townsville and Brisbane

The first Spanner Club gatherings in Qld for 2025 got off to a flying start on Friday, 4 April, with successful events held in both Brisbane and Townsville. Judging by the impressive turnouts and positive feedback, these events were a great opportunity for RAEME members to connect, share stories and enjoy some well-earned camaraderie, in what is going to be a very busy year ahead!

The RAQ was proud to support both events, contributing \$850 towards the BBQs. It's always rewarding to see RAQ funds directly supporting our serving members and helping to strengthen bonds across the Corps.



In Brisbane, thanks go to MAJ Jesse Hughes and the team at 106 Fd Wksp for their generous hosting of the event and support of the popular meat tray raffles. Their effort and hospitality ensured a great atmosphere for all who attended. Special mention must also go to WO1 FJ Holden (6 RAR ASM) and Joel Robinson (EIR PI, affectionately known as The Boffin Man) for their outstanding coordination and enthusiasm organising the day.

Looking ahead, the Brisbane Spanner Club is planning to run quarterly events, offering regular opportunities for RAEME members in the region to come together and maintain the strong bonds that define our Corps.

Meanwhile in Townsville, the 3rd Combat Signal Regiment Technical Support Troop proudly hosted the North Queensland Spanner Club. Despite 3 Bde authorising an early knock-off that day, a strong crowd turned out from units across Lavarack Barracks, Ross Island, and the Townsville Air Force Base.

Attendees enjoyed a free BBQ sponsored by RAQ-NQ, with drinks available for purchase as they reconnected with mates from across the region. A standout feature was the RAQ-NQ merchandise stand run by WO2 Jase Ballard, where RAEME bucket hats flew out the door along with RAEME paraphernalia in anticipation of the upcoming ANZAC Day gathering at Flynn's Irish Bar.

Also popular was the Milwaukee Tools stand, with attendees scoring stubby coolers and catalogues highlighting NSN-compatible Milwaukee gear. The day concluded with the Legacy-NQ raffle, raising valuable funds to support the families of our injured and fallen, a great cause embraced by all who attended.

The event was championed by the 3 Bde ASM, approved by the 3 CSR ASM, and spiritedly brought together by an enthusiastic 3 CSR Sergeant. A terrific afternoon was had by all, and planning is already underway for the next NQ Spanner Club, this time hosted by 4 Fd Regt.

The RAQ looks forward to continuing its support of Spanner Clubs, helping to maintain the connections that make our Corps great.

We look forward to commemorating ANZAC and many more great events in 2025!

Sunshine Coast Lunch

On 06 Apr, the RAEME Sunshine Coast chapter kicked off 2025 in fine style with a well-attended gathering that saw around 50 members come together for a memorable day of camaraderie and connection. The event was marked by a warm atmosphere as old mates rekindled friendships and new acquaintances were formed, reminding everyone of the strong bonds that tie our RAEME brothers and sisters together.

The gathering boasted a fantastic spread of experience and service, with attendees ranging from their 30s through to our most senior veteran, the ever-inspiring Kevin Burns, aged 92. Kevin's presence was a highlight, as always, offering a living link to our proud history.

It was a great get-together that set the tone for a strong year ahead for the Sunshine Coast.



Above: L-R COLs (Rtd) Steve Evans and Piers Cambridge. Guests included Mal Baird, Michael Berris, Ross Grant and Graham Clements at the luncheon.

To view all the pics, visit the [RAQ photo gallery](#).

Terry & Tom
sunshinecoast@qld.raeme.org.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME VICTORIA

"Meet You at the Top" 112km Challenge raises over \$28K – Wodonga

Congratulations to WO2 Jesse Sutherland of the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC) for his outstanding achievement in completing a gruelling 112-kilometre overnight run across six challenging hills in the Albury-Wodonga region, all in support of a cause close to his heart.

What began as a personal goal to raise \$5,000 for the Wodonga Returned Services League (RSL) quickly grew into a groundswell of community support, culminating in \$28,150 in donations.

WO2 Sutherland's motivation stemmed from seeing first-hand the vital role the RSL plays in supporting local veterans and their families. His remarkable endurance effort has not only raised significant funds but also awareness of the crucial services provided by the Wodonga RSL.

The RAQ proudly contributed \$250 to support WO2 Sutherland's campaign. His initiative is a moving example of the values that bind our veteran community.

Well done, Jesse. Your dedication and determination have made a real difference.



Images courtesy of Wodonga RSL

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME TAS

RATS Newsletter

Our brethren across the Tasman recently released their latest newsletter.

In this edition, they provide a great recap of recent events, including the well-attended reunion of Hobart Workshop Platoon members and supporters.

After 12 months of planning, the organisers were thrilled to see attendees travel from around the Nation to attend. Activities included:

- Meet and Greet Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess,
- Dinner Lenah Valley RSL
- Lunch and RAEME Birthday at "The Lair", 2 FSB Derwent Barracks.
- Tour of the new JLU-V workshop,



During the reunion, the RATs also presented their fourth ever honorary life membership to an Association stalwart and newsletter contributor, John Lennox. Unfortunately, John passed away on 15 Apr 2025. John's service included:

- 1965-67 – Australian Cadets at Elizabeth St High School
- 1968-70 – Army Apprentices School, 23rd intake Fitter and Machinist
- 1971 – 4 Base Workshop Battalion
- 1972 – 2 Advanced Ordnance Depot

John will be sorely missed by the Association and all who knew him.

RIP, John.



Photos from the reunion are available by [clicking here](#). The newsletters may be viewed by [clicking here](#) or on the cover image above.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RAEME APPRENTICES

The Australian Army Apprentice Association (AAAA) will be releasing their next newsletter, *The Apprentice About*, soon.

Key topics of interest it will include are:

- The Association of Australian Army Apprentices – Life of the Association and Benefits of being a member,
- Association members in the news
 - MAJGEN Andrew FREEMAN AM, 40th Intake Elec Fitter, Patron AAAA – International Engagement Royal Thai Army – Canberra
 - Anthony Max Sever, 37th Intake Elec Fitter
 - Jason Ballard, 42nd Intake Motor Mech
 - Kokoda Track Commemorative Trek, 20 Aug–1 Sep by Scott Babington, 40th Intake F&T
 - Dean Goninan, 43rd Intake F&T
- Apprentices Memorial Gates refurbishing – a follow up story
- Upcoming events, including the 30th Anniversary Reunion to commemorate cessation of the Army Apprentice Scheme. This will be held in Albury Wodonga over 24–26 Oct 2025

- Merchandise
- Army Museum Bandiana temporary closure
- AWM Development Project – progress update
- Details of the New ADF pistol unveiled

As an incentive to increase the AAAA membership, prizes will be presented to those new members who join and bring the financial membership up to set levels, eg 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, and ultimately 1000. Existing members are encouraged to urge their non-member mates to join.

Download a copy of *The Apprentice About* by [clicking here](#).



AVENUES OF HONOUR – A TERM TO EMBRACE ALL LIVING MEMORIALS

The term “Avenues of Honour” immediately conjures a precise image in the mind, of a double-row of sentinel trees, lining either side of a roadway, a street, or a path in a park or garden.

It must be noted the [Avenues of Honour](#) project uses the term more broadly, to record details about ALL commemorative trees, be they a solitary specimen (as in a ‘Lone Pine’ planting or the “War Memorial Oak”); or arranged as a single-sided row; or planted as a copse or memorial grove of trees.

Whatever aspect or arrangement they have secured in the landscape, these living memorials signify a common purpose for honouring the lives, the service, the sacrifice and the suffering.

The ACT Region has two Avenues of Honour; one at Hall and one at Tidbinbilla.

The [Hall Avenue of Honour](#) was established on 29 July 1919 to commemorate the local people who served in WW1. This Avenue of Honour is located on Victoria Street, Hall, in the Australian Capital Territory.

This single row of 17 trees was planted on Victoria Street from Gladstone Street to Halls Creek. On 29 Jul 1919, 17 trees were planted for each local soldier enlisted. The trees were selected by Charles Weston, Yarralumla Nursery, who, with Mr. S.Kilby, planted the trees. Three local men died in WW1. 15 of the original 17 trees survived in 1994 (Garnett & Hyndes).

The [Canberra Avenue of Honour](#) was established Circa 1946 to commemorate WW2. It is located next to the Deep Space Communication Complex on Discovery Road at Tidbinbilla.

Additionally, the [New Zealand Memorial](#) commemorates the relationship between New Zealand and Australia. It stands at the corner of Anzac Parade and Constitution Avenue, the former bisecting the Parliamentary Triangle and the latter forming the base of the triangle that represents the form of government in Canberra, the national capital city of Australia.

The memorial was opened on the eve of Anzac Day (24 April) in 2001 by the prime ministers of both Australia and New Zealand.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE 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*.

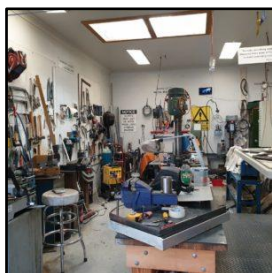
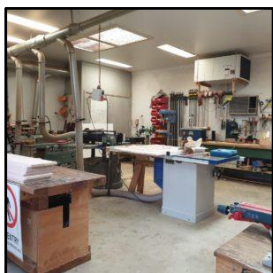
Contact. VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and web address is: <https://www.vscact.org.au/>
The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au.



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
Thurs 01 st	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 02 nd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Mon 05 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 06 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 07 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 08 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 09 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Guitar group – New members and all skill levels welcome
Mon 12 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 13 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 14 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 15 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 16 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Guitar group – New members and all skill levels welcome
	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Ladies Craft Group – Ladies Craft Group on the 3rd Friday of the Month
Mon 19 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 21 st	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 22 nd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 23 rd	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Mon 26 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Gardening Group – Help maintain the VSC gardens
Tues 27 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Wed 28 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Coffee connections – Veterans and their families welcome
Thurs 29 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Wood and Metal Workshops – All skill levels welcome
Fri 30 th	10:00 am – 12:00pm	Guitar group – New members and all skill levels welcome



Membership. VSC membership is open to Veterans of any conflict, serving and retired service personnel. Membership is not compulsory to attend functions or to attain support for DVA claims or welfare matters but it does support VSC work.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REME UK

The Craftsman Magazine – April Edition

REME recently released their latest monthly Corps magazine, *The Craftsman*, and it is a bumper edition.

A Review of Acquisition and Sustainment

It starts off with an interesting article with the subtitle “*What has DE&S ever done for us?*”

Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) is the agency responsible for the procurement and sustainment of UK equipment. It is the UK equivalent of our CASG. Aside from its scale (~11,000 staff, 10% of which are uniformed), the agency bears striking similarities to our CASG. This article provides an interesting review of the agency. It also provides a call to support REME members who may be looking for a challenging posting that may be of help to UK forces with equipment acquisition and sustainment.



Ex STEADFAST DART and DARCIA 2025

The next time you spend a few days driving to exotic exercise locations such as High Range or Cultana, think about the challenges our REME brethren from the 4th SCOTS Light Aid Detachment faced when conducting Ex STEADFAST DART and DARCIA in North Romania!



This Ex started with a road move followed by a 9-day sail to Greece and then an 800km road move through Bulgaria to the training area. This edition includes a great report from the Ex.

St Eligius Day Competition

Much like our St Eligius Cup, Equipment Support Organisations (ESO) from across the 16th Air Assault Brigade Combat Team (16 AAB CT) came together to compete for the Lance Corporal James McCue Trophy.

This challenge commenced with a physical challenge involving a Tactical Advance to Battle over 2.3 miles (3.7km) with each team needing to complete a 4km row enroute plus more.

The teams were then confronted with an engineering challenge to test creativity, physics and engineering skills of the team. Each team was required to build a catapult/slingshot capable of launching a projectile from different firing positions; all from a pile of scrap material.



The 16th Signal Regiment Light Aid Detachment also celebrated St Eligius Day with an engineering challenge. In this unit, teams were challenged to build and race chariots which were judged on: esprit de corps, safety, design and quality of their blueprint.



All of this and so much more is available for review. Feel free to take a look at it by [clicking here](#) or on the cover image to the right.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RCEME CANADA

RCEME Day – 15 May

On 24 February 1944 by General Order 127, the Governor General authorized the formation of Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (CEME) effective 1 February 1944. Royal approval was received on 2 April 1944 and the official title became RCEME.

On 19 May 1944, the Privy Council approved the transfer of units to the new corps effective 15 May 1944. Although RCEME units had been designated as early as January 1943 in Britain and Italy to enhance Allied cooperation, 15 May 1944 is taken as the official birthday of the Corps.

RCEME Day is an event held across Canada to encourage the Esprit de Corps and celebrate the creation of the Corps of RCEME members.

The RCEME Foundation has a video on its YouTube channel of the parade which marked the Corp's formation. Interestingly, one stage of the parade saw all soldiers ground arms to mark farewell to their old Ordnance Corps before picking up their arms as Craftsmen. The video can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The first RCEME badge was worn proudly by Canada's Craftsmen on D Day and in the latter stages of the Italian Campaign. The badge comprised three shields: the cannons and cannonball symbolizing armaments, the lightning flash and the gear wheel symbolizing, respectively, electrical and mechanical power. The shields were surrounded by a laurel wreath symbolizing service and gallantry in battle and surmounted by the Royal Crown. Below was a scroll with the initials RCEME.



Looking a little more familiar, the badge was redesigned and released in Feb 1949. On the officer's badge, the lightning flash, scroll and crown were gilt, the horse and globe silver. The badge for other ranks was similar to the officer's badge except that it was in brass and white metal. On the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, the Tudor Crown was replaced by the St Edward Crown.



On 1 February 1968, the Act of Unification was passed. This led to the dissolution of the RCEME Corps in January 1970. On 15 June 1970, the official announcement of the Branch's new name, Land Ordnance Engineers (LORE) was announced.

A new badge was authorized on the 17th of November 1973 but was not available for general issue until 1975. The LORE badge was an azure oval on which was superimposed a triangular rotor (the "Wankel"), crossed cannons, and a five-segment lightning flash symbolizing the LORE involvement in the vehicle, weapons and electrical/electronics fields respectively. In addition, the Wankel is the symbol of the Society of Automotive Engineering. The whole oval is surrounded by a wreath of ten maple leaves representing the provinces of Canada. Surmounting the oval was the St Edward Crown as the symbol of the Queen.



On 15 May 1985, the name of LORE was once again changed, to the Land Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (LEME). In support of this, on 15 May 1991, a new badge was authorized. It is very similar to the RCEME badge used prior to integration except that the horse's mane is gorged with a coronet of four maple leaves instead of fleur-de-lis and the inscription on the scroll is "EME GEM" instead of RCEME. On April 19, 2013, the Minister of National Defence announced the restoration of the name of Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.



As noted in last month's *RAEME in ACTION*, RCEME recently unveiled 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 RCEME's cap badge, please visit the [official RCEME website](#).



RAEME'S FIRST YEAR

Below is the Army newspaper from 01 May 1943, being the first year of RAEME's establishment. Interestingly, it was only a few weeks before this edition, 04 Apr 1943, that the Army News extended beyond a single page. This edition had four pages. Some of the stories highlighted below are from different pages. This can be reviewed in full by [clicking here](#).

ARMY NEWS

Issued Free To All Services In The Northern Territory

Vol. 2.—No. 465 DARWIN, SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1943 Price: Larra 40

ALLIES WIN BLOODY BATTLES ON TUNISIAN HILLS

Big Battles Loom On Russian Front

All reports from Russia indicate preparations for general large-scale fighting in the near future.

Red Star, Russian Army newspaper, says that the Germans will use the next few months in an attempt to restore their fortunes.

Moscow Foreign Office spokesman said that the Germans will use the next few months in an attempt to restore their fortunes.

The Russians shot down 116 German planes for the loss of 25 in two days when the Germans tried mass air attacks on the Soviet forces west of Krasnodar. In the Caucasus.

AIR BLOWS IN PACIFIC

U.S. Liberator bombers made their longest task flights of the war when they made raids of unprecedented intensity on Japanese bases at Nauru and the Gilbert Islands.

The bombers were part of America's "aerial task force" and the raids are regarded as a forerunner of the industrial destruction in store for Japan.

Major-General Hale, commander of the American Seventh Air Force, led the raids, which delivered shattering blows at aerodromes and installations.

THIS £5 RADIO SET HAD POWER

An 18-year-old sheet-metal worker admitted at Sydney Central Summons Court that he had broadcast gramophone records over a home-made transmitting set.

He is John Alfred Skinner, of Raleigh Street, Coogee.

Skinner said he had made the set from parts of old machines and from materials he had purchased at city shops.

It had cost him £5 to build.

He had used 2AK as a call sign, and had announced titles of gramophone records before he played them.

80,000 U.S. Miners Idle

Eighty thousand coal miners are now idle in the United States.

United Mineworkers' president, Mr. John L. Lewis, has refused to say whether he will obey President Roosevelt's back-to-work order.

President Roosevelt made it clear that he would use all his powers to prevent further interference with the prosecution of the war unless work was resumed by 10 a.m. today.

CYPRUS HAS AIR RAID

The British island of Cyprus, in the Eastern Mediterranean, has had its first air raid for months. Fighters shot down an enemy plane.

British, Cypriot and Indian troops on the island have just completed big exercises, in which commandos and low-flying planes took part.

A message from Nicosia, the capital, says that the island has numerous defensive tanks and its troops are ready to fight in any operation.

MR. STIMSON'S STATEMENT ON PACIFIC

(Page 4)

Thousands Of Willing "Guinea Pigs"

Thousands of troops in Victoria have volunteered to undergo experimental treatment with a nasal spray to give immunisation against the common cold.

The spray contains a weakened though living virus. The immunisation is still in the testing stage. Effect of the spray on the troops will be its great trial. Last year there were a number of volunteers and their colds were reduced 50 per cent.

CABINET DISCUSSES LABOUR SHORTAGE

Australian War Cabinet met yesterday and discussed manpower problems.

Several Ministers said that External Affairs Minister, Dr. Evatt, while visiting Washington and London, should raise the question of labour shortages in Australia. Australia, they pointed out, had mobilised her labour resources to the full. She would need to import agricultural labour if she was to go on producing enough food to fulfil her overseas commitments.

RUSSIO-POLISH BREACH

Prospects of healing the breach soon between Poland and Russia have faded.

The Polish Ambassador has left Moscow for Kuthyshev. British and American Ambassadors in Moscow are to confer with M. Molotov, and possibly with M. Stalinski, Soviet Ambassador in Washington. M. Litvinov, will travel to Moscow to report to his Government.

Soviet newspapers declare that the Government of the Polish Premier in exile, General Sikorski, is so compromised by anti-Soviet feeling, that it would be difficult for Russia to have relations with it.

RECORD FLIGHT

A Liberator bomber has flown across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to Britain in 7 hours 40 minutes, beating the record by 21 minutes.

Thousands Of Willing "Guinea Pigs"

Thousands of troops in Victoria have volunteered to undergo experimental treatment with a nasal spray to give immunisation against the common cold.

The spray contains a weakened though living virus. The immunisation is still in the testing stage. Effect of the spray on the troops will be its great trial. Last year there were a number of volunteers and their colds were reduced 50 percent.

SAVED LIFE (From Page 3)

Musterers and other station hands rode a desperate 65 miles relay race on horseback at night to the nearest flying doctor radio base at Arrabury station, 400 miles north of Broken Hill.

The ride was not in vain and the patient is now in Tibooburra Hospital, having been taken there by Dr. Woods, Broken Hill flying doctor.

The patient was seriously ill with an internal complaint and was brought from Curalle, Western Queensland.

THIS £5 RADIO SET HAD POWER

An 18-year-old sheet-metal worker admitted at Sydney Central. Summons Court that he had broadcast gramophone records over a home-made transmitting set. He is John Alfred Skinner, of Raleigh Street, Coogee.

Skinner said he had made the set from parts of old machines and from materials he had purchased at city shops. It had cost him £5 to build. He had used 2AK as a call sign, and had announced titles of gramophone records before he played them. Skinner had built the set as a hobby, and thought it would only transmit for about 200 yards. Mr. A. Bridge (for the Crown), said the transmitting apparatus was as powerful as Station 2KY.

For having a radio transmitting set in his possession, Skinner was fined £5, with £2/10/ costs. He was placed on a £20 bond to observe National Security Regulations for the duration of the war. Mr. Arnold, S.M., said:

"Transmitting from a private radio set can be a very dangerous hobby these days, and of immense value to the enemy."

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE UPDATE

Determination Effective Date – 10 Apr 2025

Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment Determination 2025 (No. 04)

This Determination has the following purposes:

- **Appointment Residences.** Updating two appointment residences that are allocated to ADF representatives for their State or Territory.
 - **Locations:** Enoggera and Adelaide.
- **Repayment of RA advances.** Remove the provision that requires members who have received an advance to pay a bond or other fees to commence repayments from the first payday after the payday after the member received the advanced payment. The paragraph has been removed as paragraph 7.8.46.1.b specifies that the amount must be repaid over 26 fortnightly instalments which means paragraph 7.8.46.1.c is not required.
- **Overseas posting locations.** Include Oslo, Norway and Kyiv, Ukraine as new posting locations, Oslo International School as a benchmark school for Oslo, Norway, and Ukraine as a hardship location to ensure members who are posted there have access to the overseas hardship package of benefits. Locations are considered hardship locations based on information provided by Defence's contracted service provider.
- **Hardship locations.** Include Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan as hardship locations to ensure members who are posted to any of the locations have access to the overseas hardship package of benefits. Locations are considered hardship locations based on information provided by Defence's contracted service provider.
- **Decision makers.** Replace directly conferred decision makers with the Chief of Defence Force.
- **Unaccompanied residents.** Provide clarity on when a member's resident family can be unaccompanied resident family in the circumstance where all of a member's resident family are children.
- . Amending the calculation of travel costs for compassionate reasons for members posted overseas, specifically when travel is to a location outside of Australia, to be consistent with the remainder of the compassionate travel provisions and to promote alignment with the intent of the compassionate travel policy.

- **Technical amendments.** Make a range of technical amendments that do not alter the underlying policies, or the benefits which are currently provided by:
 - Correcting typographical errors.
 - Inserting legislative notes which improve readability and aid in the understanding of various provisions.
 - Removing some of the tables in Chapters 6 to 11 of the Principal Determination by rewriting the provisions to reflect contemporary drafting standards and improve readability.
 - Making technical amendments that promote consistency and the use of contemporary drafting styles within the Principal Determination to improve readability.

Some of the identified PACMAN updates include:

- Repeal Section 6.5.10, substitute with:
 - **Limitations on removals**
 - The removal of the following items is limited by the specified conditions.
 - A small boat, canoe, kayak or other small watercraft must be no longer than 5.7m and no heavier than 51kg.
 - A larger boat capable of being carried on a trailer must be a towable item.
 - A lawn locker or tool shed that must be dismantled and packed securely by the member.
 - A motor bike, trail bike or mini-bike must meet all of the following.
 - It has been drained of all petrol and oil.
 - It has been packed and crated by the member.
- Repeal the subsection 7.5.9.3, substitute with:
 - For the purpose of subsection 2, the period of eligibility for temporary accommodation is any of the following.
 - At the losing location — up to 3 nights.
 - At the gaining location — the period for the member's furniture and effects to be delivered to a dwelling or storage at the location.

DVA NEWS – 2025 ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS AWARDS

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is proud to host the Anzac Day Schools' Awards. This national competition recognises the work of students and teachers in schools that engage with veterans and honour Australia's wartime history.

Annual theme

The theme for 2025 is:

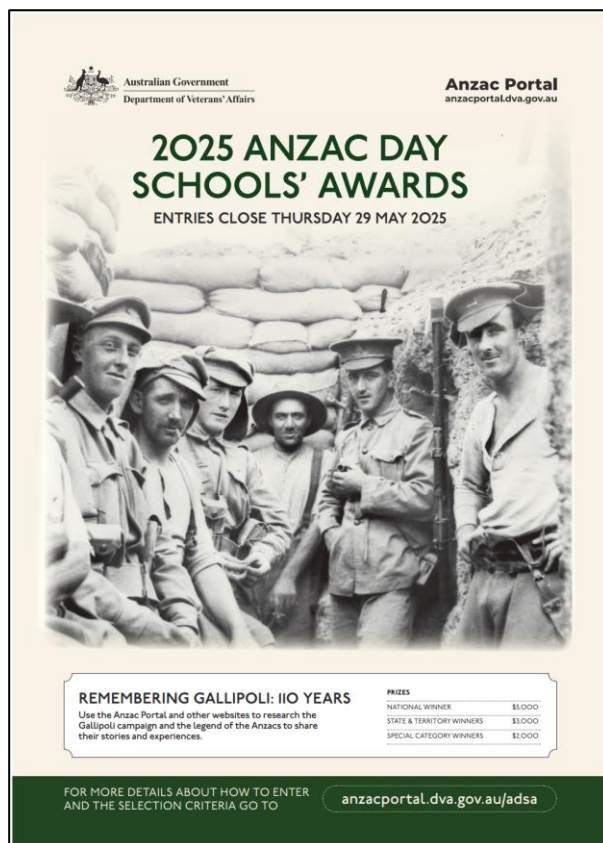
Remembering Gallipoli: 110 years

Your entry **must demonstrate** learning about the experiences, service and stories of those who served at Gallipoli.

The theme will help students develop a deeper understanding of Australia's involvement in the Gallipoli Campaign and the First World War.

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards 2025 is an opportunity to engage students in an in-depth study of Australia's experience at Gallipoli through veteran experiences of their service. We invite schools to showcase their learning by entering the awards in 2025.

Entries close at 5 pm AEST Thursday 29 May 2025.



Visit [DVA Website](https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/adsa) for details on how to enter.

RISE TOGETHER – BUILDING CAREER CONFIDENCE FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN PARTNERS

A message from the Families of Veterans Guild

A career development opportunity for partners of current and former ADF members is now available!

Nationwide, 90% of Defence partners report making career sacrifices to support their partner's Defence service and 92% of Defence partners affected by underemployment are women.

In March, the Families of Veterans Guild opened applications for The Rise Together Initiative, a program designed to break down career barriers for Defence and veteran partners, including widows.

What began as one widow's vision to support other women has now grown into a national initiative. In 2025, this private donor will fund 2 more Defence and veteran spouses to complete the program. Alongside Australian Government support, this will allow 12 partners to access career development and leadership training through the Women in Leadership Development program.

This initiative focuses on building career confidence, strengthening leadership skills, and empowering spouses and partners to recognise their value beyond being a veteran partner.

The Rise Together Initiative is available to partners in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Applications are now open on the Families of Veterans Guild's [website](https://www.fvg.org.au) and will close on 7 April 2025.

Do not miss out – give your career a boost today!



INVICTUS AUSTRALIA ACTIVITIES

Below is a summary of Invictus Australia activities in which you can participate nationwide. To find more details about these and more events or Invictus Australia in general, please visit their website by [clicking here](#):

Date	Time	State	City/Region	Activity
Thurs 01 st	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Yoga Term 2
Fri 02 nd	7:30 am - 2:30 pm	NSW	Worrigee	Invictus Australia Defence Golf Day
	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	WA	Cockburn	Veteran and Family Bowls
Sun 04 th	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	WA	Warnbro	Veteran and Family Wheelchair Footy
Mon 05 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 06 th	10:00 am - 11:00am	NSW	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	Gungahlin	Yoga
Weds 07 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Thurs 08 th	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
			Toowoomba	Yoga Term 2
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	N-Qld	Townsville	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Ipswich	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Fri 09 th	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	Maitland	(not)parkrun Walking Group
10-11 th	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	SA	Riverland	Team Veteran True Grit – A 10km military SF-inspired obstacle course
Mon 12 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 – Indoor Rowing Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 – Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 13 th	10:00 am - 11:00am	NSW	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	Gungahlin	Yoga
Wed 14 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	Stockton	(not)parkrun Walking Group
Thurs 15 th	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 – Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 – Yoga
			Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	N-Qld	Townsville	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Ipswich	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Mon 19 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 – Indoor Rowing Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 – Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 20 th	10:00 am - 11:00am	NSW	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	Gungahlin	Yoga
Weds 21 st	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	S-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Thurs 22 nd	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 –Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	S-Qld	Toowoomba	Yoga Term 2
		N-Qld	Townsville	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Ipswich	Women in Fitness HIIT Program

Date	Time	State	City/Region	Activity
Fri 23 rd	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	Maitland	(not)parkrun Walking Group
Sun 25 th	8:00 am – 10:00 am	N-Qld	Townsville	Introduction to Mountain Biking – Short Course
Mon 26 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 Indoor Rowing Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 27 th	10:00 am - 11:00am	NSW	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	Gungahlin	Yoga
Wed 28 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	Stockton	(not)parkrun Walking Group
Thurs 29 th	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	Townsville	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Yoga TERM 2
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	SE-Qld	Ipswich	Women in Fitness HIIT Program.

ADF NEWS

‘Niche’ Battalion Takes Wing

Source: Army News Edition 1578, 17 Apr 2025

Capt Chloe Ellwood

ARMY Aviation has undergone further modernisation following the raising of 16 Avn Support Bn in January.

Driven by the need to strengthen and optimise aviation support and maintenance operations as new battlefield helicopters are introduced, the unit will be the driving force that keeps the UH-60M Blackhawk, AH-64E Apache and expanded CH-47F Chinook fleets airborne.

CO 16 ASB Lt-Col Christopher Porada said his battalion was needed more than ever.

“We needed a new way of doing business,” Lt-Col Porada said.

“Previously, the re-arm and refuel trades were spread out among the aviation regiments; however, by centralising it here we’ve created depth.

“As a support battalion, the unit will provide an enabling effect to the 1st and 5th Aviation Regiments in Townsville and Oakey, covering maintenance, refuelling, re-arming, and ground logistics for the Chinooks, Blackhawks, and Apaches.”

Despite sharing some similarities, he said the new battalion was inherently different from a combat service support battalion.

“It is a completely niche type of logistics we need, with a unique set of requirements” Lt-Col Porada said.

“We provide a more integral refuel, re-arm and logistics capability, specific to aviation a different proposition to what you would get at combat brigades.”

The establishment of the battalion has also provided future opportunities for soldiers and junior leaders.

Sgt Michael Coleman, an aviation ground crew manager, was one of many soldiers who moved across from 5 Avn Regt.

“The establishment of this new unit has seen ground crew of all ranks stepping up and adopting higher levels of responsibility than previous postings,” Sgt Coleman said.

“Overall, this will see our junior soldiers begin to operate in the field environment more independently, giving leadership opportunities above worn rank.

“The battalion will also provide the aviation ground crew an opportunity to diversify their knowledge, and perform their role across multiple platforms.”

As Army Aviation continues to bring new aircraft online, the battalion will grow further, and with it, the need for more technicians.

Apart from leadership and trade opportunities, Sgt Coleman said that as the battalion centralised maintenance of different platforms, it would enable members to stay in location if desired.

“It provides a degree of posting stability for members and their families in Townsville,” he said.

Lt-Col Porada said the battalion also provided career opportunities for existing technicians.

“You will be superbly positioned to deepen your trade skills, enhance your leadership opportunities, and work with our key industry partners,” he said.

“Our personnel are constantly exposed to aviation capability and rotary wing assets, so if soldiers have any interest in aviation maintenance and logistics, this is the unit for them.”



CO 16 ASB, LTCOL Christopher Porada and RSM (and RAEME Corps RSM), WO1 Jonathon Tynan in Townsville



16 ASB soldiers conduct maintenance on a CH-47 Chinook

A message from CA Lt-Gen Simon Stuart

Day for commemoration and reflection

THE Australian Army has a proud history serving our nation.

We have fought in wars across the globe to defend Australia's interests and our fellow Australians.

110 years ago, the first Anzacs landed on a battlefield far from home.

They went willingly, putting mission and mates before themselves.

We remember them, and all who followed in their footsteps.

We reflect on what has been made possible by generations of sacrifice.

We give heartfelt thanks to the families of our fallen and for the commitment of our families.

I am proud to serve in an Army that continues to live the values forged more than a century ago on the rugged beachhead at Gallipoli.

Service. Courage. Respect. Integrity. Excellence.

Anzac Day is a day for reflection, for commemoration, for remembrance and for sharing.

Thousands of stories of courage, mateship, endurance, compassion and dedication will be shared by serving soldiers, our veterans and Australians wherever they are gathered.

On Anzac Day we fulfil our promise to remember them.

Lest we forget.



A soldier at the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Photo: Sgt Tristan Kennedy

Views sought on new commission

THE Defence and Veterans' Services Commission (DVSC) will be established in September.

A recommendation of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report, it will provide oversight and evidence-based advice to government on reforms to improve suicide prevention and wellbeing outcomes for serving and former serving ADF personnel.

Michael Manthorpe was appointed interim head on January 17.

Over the next month, the DVSC is seeking views to inform the set-up of the new entity, including the legislation

Targeted pay rise from June

PERSONNEL in communications and cyber, intelligence, engineering, maintenance and construction will receive a pay increase from June 5, to help address long-term workforce requirements and grow certain roles.

Eligible employment categories will move one pay grade to the right in the Graded Other Ranks and Officer Pay structures, with the increase to be seen in pay packets from June 19.

However, conditions for promotion, increment and skill progression in pay structures remain unchanged.

The pay rise comes from the Targeted Workforce Segments Initiative, part of the ADF Employment Offer Modernisation Program.

It was approved by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal in a decision published on April 8.

The targeted increase is separate from an overall ADF workforce pay rise of 3.4 per cent occurring in November.

Eligible categories

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Signals officer | ■ Drafting technician |
| ■ Electrical and mechanical engineering aviation officer | ■ Electrician |
| ■ Electrical and mechanical engineering officer | ■ Electronics technician |
| ■ Engineer officer | ■ Energy technician |
| ■ Intelligence officer | ■ Engineer surveyor |
| ■ Artillery command systems operator (Gnr to Sgt) | ■ Manager works |
| ■ Battlespace communications specialist | ■ Marine technician |
| ■ Cyber warfare specialist | ■ Material technician |
| ■ Aviation operations specialist | ■ Operator plant |
| ■ Information systems engineering | ■ Plumber |
| ■ Telecommunications network engineering | ■ Recovery technician |
| ■ Ammunition technician | ■ Supervisor works |
| ■ Artificer land | ■ Aircraft technician |
| ■ Carpenter | ■ Avionics technician |
| | ■ Vehicle technician |
| | ■ Weapon technician |
| | ■ Analyst intelligence operations |
| | ■ Electronic warfare |
| | ■ Geospatial technician |
| | ■ Multimedia technician |

that will enable it.

ADF personnel and their families are encouraged to share their views to ensure the design considers their

experiences and needs.

All personnel can contact Mr Manthorpe via email and more information is available on the PM&C website.



Army

Edition 1579, 01 May 2025

LOOKING BACK ON RAEME

This month, we have included an interesting article as published in The RAEME Craftsman magazine, Edition 4, from May 1980. Unit Jottings from the 6th Military District covered the hunt for the elusive Tasmanian Tiger.

IN SEARCH OF THE THYLOCINE

Much needed experience was gained in recovery skills, tackle layouts, navigation, radio procedures and leadership when members of Hobart Workshop Platoon went in search of the Thylocine.

The what? The Thylocine which, for the benefit of those who . . . no, first let us, as a unit, apologise for our absence for the last issue. We hope RAEMUS will forgive and forget because, truly, we on the "Apple Isle" especially feel "The RAEME Craftsman" is one of our most important links with the mainland and the Corps.

We would like to thank the editor and his staff for a tremendously informative and entertaining magazine to which we feel completely justified in providing this informative snippet . . . the Thylocine is the academic title for the Tasmanian Tiger. Believe me, it's true, and we went in search of it.

The Tasmanian University armed us with a highly sensitive camera capable of taking photographs of anything, animal or fly, that passed across its sensitive beam, day or night, and a mass of information.

Since no-one from the University was to accompany our expedition on our search for this apparently extinct creature, it was left to the initiative of each member to decide which animal droppings, paw prints, fur or photographs were to be brought back.

The University now has enough pictures of the Tasmanian "Blowy" to conduct an extensive study of that, at least.



Sgt David Warren takes plaster moulds of a few unidentified animal paw prints.

"Jaws III" and its crew of SSgt Trott, Sgt Cubitt, Pte Waller and Mr. Clark took their place at the start line. The pit crewmen, WO2 Terry Parker and Mr. Gary Siepen watched with bated breath as the construction of twenty five jerry cans (each side), separated by an arc mesh floor and powered by a unique construction of a hand crank and foot pedals to turn a set of paddles managed to snatch sixth place. It also won the prize for the best presented craft. Ho well! — you can't win 'em all!!

Since our last contribution, there has been a drastic turn-over of personnel. Probably the most important cog in our little mechanised setup, WO2 John "Mooka" Wild, took off for 16 Air Defence Regiment after handing the ASM's chair to WO2 Terry Parker.

Capt Dave Cocker left us for the croweaters and Capt John Goodchap at the helm as OC.

SSgt "Sludge" Newton entered civvy street with twenty years service to his credit, while Sgt "Baldy" Truscott settled on a farm near New Norfolk and Capt Danny Reid, a slightly more regimental type, joined the Fire Brigade. Sad losses from the Corps.

Replacing "Baldy" and Danny we have Sgt Wayne Cubitt from 3 Field Engineer Regiment and Cpl John Emmerton from 21 Construction Squadron Workshop.

When Sgt Ron Longford elected to leave the "Apple Isle" for the smog of Melbourne and Central Army Records Office, we received Sgt Des "Concord" Ryan. At least Des knows a bit about cricket!



Although he bogged the 'rover, Sgt Warren stands by as others try to unbog it.

Among the more interesting articles found were old whale bones, a variety of unidentified animal droppings and numerous paw prints. All the information and findings were correlated and forwarded to Dr. Eric Guiler at the University. He has since been appointed by the Tasmanian Government to lead a search for the "Tassie Tiger", generously assisted by a \$50,000 government grant.

The results of our findings have yet to be advised to us, but we can at least boast of our "ground floor" involvement, and we did, honestly, gain experience in recovery skills, etc., etc., etc.

Our next exercise-capade, 6MD's "South West Amphibian", gave SSgt Ewan "Trailers" Trott, Cpl Norm "Warrie" Thomass, Cpl Graham "Mary" Dudley and Lcpl Ken "General" Smith a chance to paddle their own canoes up the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers. Well, nearly!

In truth, the party they joined was equipped with dinghies, 3 man, rubber inflatable, powered by 9HP Johnson outboard motors and also assault crafts with 40HP outboards, with the object of seeing how far they could travel up the rivers.

Unfortunately, six days of continuous rain caused the rivers to rise. Floating logs proved to be a menace and, owing to flooding, the Franklin became impassable. Some of you may have seen our party shooting the rapids in an ABC Nationwide report.

Although the object of the exercise was not fully achieved, our members did attain a high standard of watermanship and self survival. With that experience behind him it was, perhaps, inevitable that "Trailers" Trott would be one of the crew for the annual raft race on the famous Derwent River.

The workshop came to the fore in designing and building a solid, sturdy — slow raft. After a period of intense training and more modifications than the ol' Centurion tank ever had,

Cfn Ross "Fingers" Graham left for the excitement of Puckapunyal to allow Cfn "Cyclone" Hillard to join us and the B1 and B2 stores haven't been the same since Pte Peter "Animal" Waller joined us, direct from training. Never mind Peter, you'll learn!

Last, but by no means least, Cpl Alan "Ralph" Kelb arrived from 21 Construction Workshop to strengthen the GE Section.

On the social side the annual Calcutta Cup night was well celebrated with the ASM drawing and buying the winning horse. (Ed: which ASM?) Fort Direction was again the venue for a very wet, in more ways than one, RAEME Birthday.

Former members of this unit may be interested to know that Mr. Peter "Boof" Burns still runs the trade repair section. Although his hair is a little greyer he's keeping fit and enjoys a few ambers. Mr. Neil Oakley continues to crawl under trucks and 'rovers, looking for oil leaks, and may even find one — one day. Mr. Max Reilly has retired from the Army Reserve but still dirties his hands trying to get vehicles out on time.

You've got to give him credit for trying!

Mr. Gary Siepen still persists in cracking weak, but witty, jokes; Mr. Russell "Shirley" Clark is, for some strange reason, a one-eyed Oz cricket supporter and Mr. Allan Young, our tradesman assistant-cum-welder, threatens to leave us for more money — who wouldn't? However, with his Army Reserve background I think he's too attached to working in an Army environment.

HISTORIC EVENTS THIS MONTH – Victory in Europe Day – 8 May

Significance of the date



A member of the air force kisses a civilian woman holding up a newspaper with the headline 'VE DAY – IT'S ALL OVER', as other airmen crowd around them, drinking beer and making victory gestures.

Australian aircrew, who had flown more than 500 allied prisoners of war liberated from German camps back to England that day, belatedly celebrate the victory in Europe in their station mess. AWM UK2852

Victory in Europe Day - or 'VE Day' - signalled the end of almost 6 years of terrible fighting between the Allies and Nazi Germany on 8 May 1945.

The signing of an unconditional surrender by the German High Command took place on 7 May 1945. The surrender took effect from midnight on 8 to 9 May. The Allies proclaimed 8 May as Victory in Europe Day. It brought an end to the war against Germany and its European allies.

Most Australians read the news in their local newspapers, such as Germany Capitulates: Unconditional surrender.

Australians serving overseas celebrated the victory, as did their loved ones back home. However, the celebrations as a whole were dampened by the knowledge that the war in the Pacific was still to be won.

In Australia, churches held thanksgiving services. On 9 May in Melbourne, 100,000 people attended the service at the Shrine of Remembrance. In Canberra that same day, the editorial writer of The Canberra Times wrote that the floodlights over the Australian War Memorial stood:

- in bright relief against the darkness which is now passing from Europe, and soon from the entire world
- 1945 'Light in Our Darkness', The Canberra Times, 9 May, p4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2626721>

The war in the Pacific continued until the Japanese surrendered in August of 1945.

Australia at war

Prime Minister Robert Menzies [declared Australia at war](#) on 3 September 1939. Nearly 1 million Australians served in the armed forces during the war.

Many service personnel died in and around Europe, on the seas, on land and in the skies. Some 10,000 Australians lost their lives, at least another 10,000 were wounded and a further 8000 became prisoners of war.

The end of the war in Europe brought about liberation for Australians and other allied service men who were held as prisoners of war in German-occupied countries.

It also meant freedom for the hundreds of thousands of men and women held in internee, forced labour and concentration camps across Europe.

On VE Day, we remember Australia's war efforts across the European theatre of war.

Death of an Australian on VE Day



Portrait of Private Lawrence Phillip Saywell, 17th Brigade Company, Australian Army Service Corps, Germany, c1941. AWM P02551.001

Private Lawrence Saywell of Double Bay, New South Wales, is believed to be the last Australian killed in the war in Europe. He enlisted in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in November 1939, aged 20. He served with the 17th Brigade Company, Australian Army Service Corps.

Lawrence had been captured by the Germans during the evacuation of Crete in 1941. He escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic) in January 1945. After joining a Czech resistance group, he fought with the partisans against the Germans for 4 months.

Sadly, on the day the war ended in Europe, Lawrence was shot and badly wounded by a retreating German soldier near the village of Miretin. He died of his wounds on 8 May 1945 and is buried in the [Prague War Cemetery](#).

Saywell was posthumously awarded the [Czech Meritorious Cross](#). His medal is held in the Australian War Memorial collection.

[Click here](#) for the full story.

SYMBOLS OF COMMEMORATION – War Memorials

History of its symbolism

Memorials provide a place for people to gather and remember those who served from their local community, region, state or country.

War memorials are not really a new concept. In ancient times, the Romans celebrated military success with large stone monuments. However, these rarely displayed the names of soldiers. They usually promoted the military conquests and victories of emperors and other leaders.

After both the Second South African (Boer) War and World War I, the idea of building a monument to commemorate local people who had served became popular in Australian towns. Many communities spent years raising the funds to build lasting memorials to the war dead.

You'll usually find the names of wars, conflicts or peacekeeping operations on a memorial. Sometimes they list also the names of people who served or died during a war.



Locals gather at a memorial honouring people of Ipswich, Queensland, who served in the First World War, unveiled in December 1917

What it means to us today

Community war memorials come in many forms:

- avenues of honour
- benches in parks
- gardens
- halls and other buildings
- honour boards
- memorial walls
- obelisks
- plaques
- statues
- swimming pools

Some memorials commemorate individual veterans who have served. Many memorials focus on a particular war or conflict, or the role played by a specific group of veterans, such as the Australian Light Horse.



A memorial obelisk in South Perth dedicated to all those who served Australia in wars and conflicts, Remembrance Day 2019

Do a tour or a virtual tour

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra offers [tours for school groups](#). These tours help students and teachers to learn about the Australian experience of war and its impact on Australian society. If you're unable to attend in person, you can try a [virtual excursion](#).

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

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: 02 May 9:30am – 4 pm

More info: [Click here for more information](#)



Doing anger differently

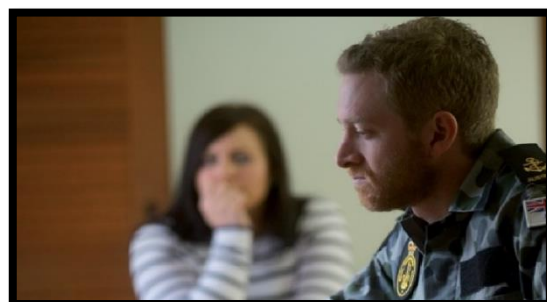
What: A program to help you understand anger and aggression

Who: Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.

Venue: Online

When: 28 & 30 May, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

More info: [Click here for more 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: 3 & 5 June, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm SA Time

More info: [Click here for more information](#)



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: Canberra (TBC)

When: 16 & 18 June , 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

More info: [Click here for more information](#)



Recovery from Trauma

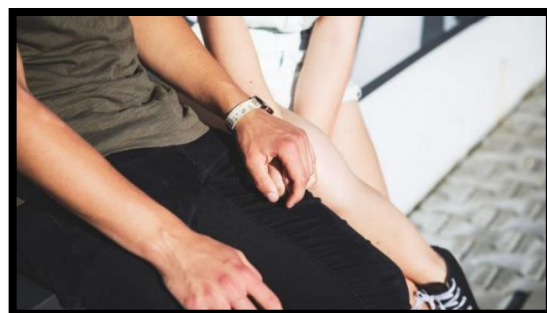
What: A program to help understand and manage the impact of trauma on you and your family

Who: Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children

Venue: Online

When: 5 & 27 June, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

More info: [Click here for more information](#)



SOLDIER'S 5 QUIZ

Answers at bottom of page

1. **People.** Who wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*?
2. **Places.** When were the last of the Allies evacuated from Gallipoli?
3. **Things.** What was the calibre of the Lee Enfield rifle pictured below?
4. **Events.** Approximately how many ANZACs were killed on the first day of the Gallipoli battle, 25 April 1915?
5. **Dates.** In which year was 25 Apr first officially named as ANZAC Day?



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

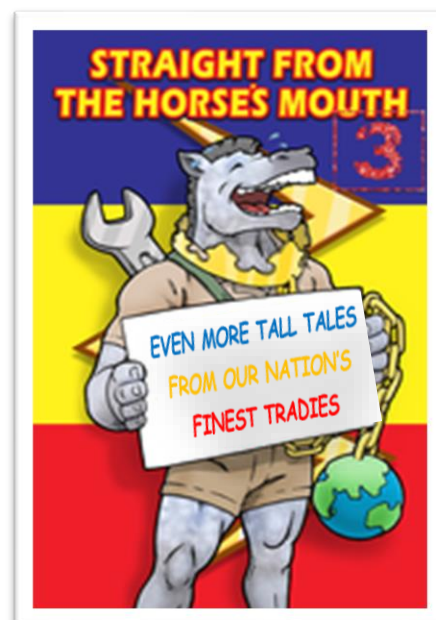
RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

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 up and running online (at <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>) 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. Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae; 2. January 1916; 3. .303; 4. ~2000; 5. The date 25 April was officially named Anzac Day in 1916; in that year, it was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, New Zealand and London.