

RAEME in ACTION

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



Edition: 30

June 2025



The funeral procession of 26 Australian soldiers
killed in a training accident at Kapooka
on 21 May 1945

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

 Spanner Club	 Mixed Lunch	 Informal Drinks	 Significant Event
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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			

AUGUST						
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

STREETS TO BE NAMED AFTER KAPOOKA TRAGEDY VICTIMS

Authors: Andrew Mangelsdorf and Jess Scully

Source: [ABC News](#)

On May 21, 1945, Geoffrey Partridge and 25 other soldiers died in Australia's worst training accident just months before the end of World War II.

The army engineers, known as sappers, were training in a bunker at the Kapooka Army Base near Wagga Wagga when an explosion killed all but one.



A flag flies at half-mast at the funeral for victims of the Kapooka Army Base tragedy in May 1945.

Eighty years on, Sapper Partridge's only sister Shirley Booth remembers it like it was yesterday.

Wrong place at the wrong time

"My father turned up [at my school] in tears and I had never seen my father cry," she said.

Black and white photo of young man standing next to a bike, plants and trees in the background.

"The headmaster took him inside, and then the headmaster had come out and told me that my brother had been killed."

Ms Booth, who was 12, said the news didn't fully sink in at first, but when it did, it hit home hard.



Geoffrey Partridge

"I can remember lying on my bed and praying to God it was a mistake, that it wasn't my brother, but it was, of course," she said.

Years later, she learnt her 18-year-old brother had seen the dentist that morning and was told he didn't have to return to training, but he did anyway.

"He said, 'No, I want to keep up with my training', and that was where he walked from Kapooka down to where the accident actually happened," Ms Booth said.



Shirley Booth (right) with her only brother, Geoff Partridge.

Within a couple of hours, her brother was dead.

She said it was only in the 1980s when she obtained records of the incident from the army that she first learnt who had died alongside her brother.

Cherie Benn's uncle Jack Nixon was another killed in the blast.

Her father would say his brother was killed in the war.



Jack Nixon with his daughter Neryl. (Supplied: Neryl Hogan)

It wasn't until 50 years after the tragedy in 1995 that she learned more about what happened that day, and she first attended a commemoration in the paddock where the explosion took place.

A forgotten tragedy

Ex-military investigator Andrew Johnston served at Kapooka in the 1990s and never heard of the tragedy.

Then one day, he stumbled on an internet article about tragedies on home soil.

"Having been a soldier that raised a bit of interest to me," Mr Johnston said.

He decided to write a book on the incident to help bring closure to families of the victims and ensure they were remembered.

In 1945, Kapooka was the training centre for all army engineers.

Mr Johnston said the army had devised a system to conduct military exercises with explosions above ground while lessons were held underground.

On May 21, the soldiers had been learning about explosives and detonators.

Old photo of Herbert 'Jack' Pomeroy dressed in uniform with a woman holding a child, two young boys stand near Jack.



Sergeant Herbert 'Jack' Pomeroy, pictured here with his family, died in the accident on his birthday.

"The instructor, Jack Pomeroy, was giving instruction to his trainees in the dugout with him, and at the time there were high explosives in a box in the corner," he said.

"And then, unfortunately, Corporal Bill Cousins came in with the detonators and something happened in which the detonators sparked and set off the high explosives.

"As a result, everything went up and collapsed the dugout and killed 26 innocent soldiers."

Mr Johnston said the sole survivor, Sapper Allan Bartlett, was looking away when the incident happened, and the exact circumstances around how the tragedy unfolded remain a mystery.

Following the tragedy, the victims received the nation's largest military burial with thousands of people turning out to pay their respects, and then Mr Johnston said Australia effectively forgot.

Streets named after victims

In addition to the annual memorial service for the tragedy, this year for the 80th anniversary, the Wagga Wagga City Council will unveil streets named in honour of the Kapooka tragedy victims.

The School of Military Engineering, now based in Sydney, will send a large contingent of officers.



The funeral procession for soldiers killed in a training accident at Kapooka Army Base in May 1945.

Deputy head of the Royal Australian Engineers, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Whale, said it was important the school's future leaders learnt about the tragic day.

"To ensure they understand this important part of our culture and understand the gravity of their positions and the fact that training incidents like this can happen," he said. "We just want to educate them in the incident itself and make sure they take some lessons out of it."

Lieutenant Colonel Whale said wartime deaths on home soil "don't quite" get the same recognition as those overseas, but the "damage is done either way".

"Whether you die in service overseas or you die preparing for war, it's the same death, it affects the family of that person just the same as the death overseas," he said. "Potentially, we need to look at ways to make sure that we commemorate it in the same manner."

New memorial needed

It comes as the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria pushes for a national memorial to all those killed or injured in training accidents on home soil.

"There are many men and women who do suffer from accidents, incidents and even death on home soil," association president Don Hughes said.

"I think the recognition of that is becoming greater and it's well deserved. Serving a country is done while training as well as while you're deployed on operations and those operations can be here at home or overseas somewhere."

Additional information regarding the Tragedy



The [Army News of 23 May 1945](#) provided a short reference to this tragedy which was understandable given the delays in passage of information at that time.

Disaster, At Kapooka Camp

Twenty-six Australian soldiers were killed and two others injured by a terrific explosion at Kapooka engineering training camp nine miles from Wagga, NSW.

The victims formed a complete section of 28 men who were receiving instruction in demolition work.

The names of the victims will not be released until their next of kin have been informed.

Kapooka is one of the chief training schools for engineers in Australia.

The [Army News of 24 May 1945](#) followed with details of the funeral:

Funeral of Kapooka Victims

The funeral of the 26 dead of the Kapooka camp tragedy took place this afternoon.

Four army trucks carried the coffins, each draped in a Union Jack, and another truck followed with wreaths and flowers. Ministers of four denominations conducted the burials.

A huge crowd watched the funeral procession and many followed it to the gravesides. Most offices and shops were closed for the afternoon.



The fallen

The names of the fallen are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Sergeant Ronald Irwin LINTHORNE | • Sapper Terrence Ronald MOORE |
| • Sergeant Herbert John POMEROY | • Sapper Stanley Robert MORPHY |
| • Corporal William Barclay COUSINS | • Sapper Jack Clinton NIXON |
| • Corporal Alfred Edward WOODS | • Sapper Geoffery Wilton PARTRIDGE |
| • Sapper Colin Francis BOYD | • Sapper Kevin Francis PIERCE |
| • Sapper Joseph James COLLINS | • Sapper Frank Wilfred PLATT |
| • Sapper Norman Rourke John DILLEY | • Sapper Ernest Frederick POSCHALK |
| • Sapper Joseph William FAULL | • Sapper William REID |
| • Sapper Allen FLOOD | • Sapper Edward Charles ROBSON |
| • Sapper Denby Eric GRASBY | • Sapper Stanley Ernest ROSS |
| • Sapper Colin Leslie HURLEY | • Sapper Alfred George WITT |
| • Sapper Kevin Alexander HURST | • Sapper Thomas WOODS |
| • Sapper Leslie John MATHER | |
| • Sapper Ivan Walter Thomas MERRITT | |



Lest we forget

FORTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND MEMORIES

Author and Photos: Captain Cody Tsaousis

Source: [Defence Media](#)

Five uniforms, eight boots, four packs and five rifles – Major Deta Kerschats has seen a lot of change in his more than 40 years of service to the Army.



Major Deta Kerschats receives his Federation Star from Major General Ash Collingburn

In that time, he's enjoyed 17 postings, deployed on three operations and received 11 honours and awards for his long and illustrious service, including the Federation Star clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal, presented by Commander 1st (Australian) Division Major General Ash Collingburn in February.

His journey to this point began as a schoolboy, and a firm opinion about what his future was, or perhaps more pertinently, wasn't to look like.

"It's a bit of a funny story. I was in high school doing Year 12 and my father was a baker," Major Kerschats said. "The expectation was that I was going to take over the business, but being a baker didn't particularly excite me. The Army guys come around to give their spiel at the school and I jumped onto the process, and low and behold I got accepted."

Enlisting as an apprentice vehicle mechanic on January 10, 1983, Major Kerschats was posted to the Army Apprentices School, which at the time was still under construction at Latchford Barracks, Victoria.

He describes his first 'real' posting – having completed his apprenticeship – as 9th Transport Squadron in Townsville.

"It was a different Army back then and 3rd Brigade was always online so we were training to be always ready," he said. "We spent a fair bit of time away, but that was enjoyable."

'The Army guys come around to give their spiel at the school and I jumped onto the process, and low and behold I got accepted.'



Major Deta Kerschats, centre, on his first day in the Army at Latchford Barracks, Victoria, in 1983

Despite relishing the lifestyle, then-Craftsman Kerschats had a family to prioritise. With ever-supportive wife Kerry by his side, and his young son Kieran struggling with the weather, he made the move down to Brisbane and posted into 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry).

In 1993, the year he posted to 49th Battalion, the Royal Queensland Regiment, and promoted from Lance Corporal to Corporal, he took on his first major extracurricular activity within Defence – volunteering to become the South Queensland coordinator for the newly founded Defence Special Needs Support Group.

"Both of my boys have their own special needs, as does my wife, so I was probably a bit unique in that all of my dependents have special needs and back then there was nothing in place to accommodate that," Major Kerschats said.

"It made life a little more difficult but that was the case, and I wanted to keep serving and keep supporting my family."

He continued to do both of those things admirably for the next 10 years, promoting to Sergeant within that time. That was when one of the highlights of his career came along.

Posted to what was now 25th/49th Battalion, the Royal Queensland Regiment, he spent six months in Bougainville as part of the peacekeeping operation, Operation Bel-Isi.

“Experiencing the different culture and learning about how people in the South Pacific lived, and how that whole incident occurred; that was really satisfying,” Major Kerschats said.

Over the next six years he deployed on two more operations – Operation Acolyte providing security to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006, and Operation Astute in Timor-Leste.

‘Stay happy, get out of bed in the morning and enjoy your work.’

Returning to Australia from Timor-Leste in June 2009, then-Warrant Officer Class One Kerschats, who was posted to 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, had a decision to make.

The unit was backing up Operation Astute with Operation Slipper in Afghanistan, but having spent so much time away from Kerry and his two boys, he decided to step away from full-time service – sort of.

On July 4, 2010, he transitioned from full-time service to the Army Reserves and on July 5, Major Kerschats began his first day as an Australian Public Service member within the logistics branch at Headquarters 1st (Australian) Division.

He showed his excellence in that role too, being awarded the Australia Day Medal in 2019 for his work in management of the Pre-deployment Training Fleet and support to the upgrade of protected mobility vehicles in the Middle East region.

Still serving in the Army Reserves during that time, he showed his commitment to Defence remained strong. He commissioned to Captain in 2019 and promoted to Major in 2023.



Major Deta Kerschats receives his commission from Lieutenant Colonel Cottrell in December 2019

After a Major’s position became available in the logistics branch in December 2023, Major Kerschats decided to put his uniform back on full-time, 14 years after transitioning to the Army Reserves and becoming an APS member.

When asked what his secret was to serving for so long, both in and out of uniform, he said it came down to a simple mindset.

“Stay happy, get out of bed in the morning and enjoy your work,” Major Kerschats said.

Congratulations on an incredible career, Deta!

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE UPDATE

The following Determination has been signed and was effective from 8 May 2025.

[**Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment Determination 2025 \(No. 5\).**](#)

This Determination has the following purposes:

- Amend salary advancement provisions within the Officer Aviation Pay Structure to ensure salary advancement for Combat Pilot – Troop Commanders occurs on appointment to Troop Command.
- Include Naples, Italy; and Hwacheon-gun and Inje-gun, South Korea as hardship locations to ensure members who are deployed or on short-term duty to any of these 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.
- Make a range of miscellaneous amendments that:
 - Clarify that transition absence days can be taken as either a full day or a half day.
 - Clarify that when a member is provided a storage benefit in Australia in connection with an overseas posting, that despite having their items moved from storage to their housing benefit location on return from overseas, the two removals count as one removal.
 - Substitute reference to “Maritime disability allowance” with “Maritime deployable support element allowance” as a consequence of the introduction of the Military Factor Framework.
 - Correct typographical errors and promote consistency and the use of contemporary drafting styles within the Principal Determination to improve readability; and
 - Insert a range of directly conferred decision makers into the Principal Determination.

In addition, the following Determination under the Defence Enterprise Collective Agreement 2024 have been signed – only available on DPN. *Defence Enterprise Collective Agreement 2024 (Allowances and contributions) Determination (No. 3)*

CORPS STATUS UPDATE

Source: Adapted from the Corps RSM's monthly report dated 16 May 2025

Before I begin the update this month, I must apologise to you all. I did not send an update in April, it is not an excuse; however, it was an extremely busy time for 16 Aviation Support Battalion and Hamel Lines, as such, some things had to be prioritised. I hope this update makes up for it.

Farewell to a Corps Stalwart

For those not familiar with MAJ Steve Howells, he has been the glue that has held the Head of Corps Cell together for a number of years. He has been instrumental in numerous roles, SO2 Corps Heritage, Treasurer, Secretary and confidant to myself (I would often call him to run my crazy ideas past him prior to attempting to bring them to fruition).

MAJ Howells is wrapping up his career in July, he will be formally dined-out as homage to his service. The intent is for this to be an intimate affair, with key personalities from throughout his career to be invited. I will release more information as I finalise the event.

Brief history:

Enlisted 17 Jan 73. Allocated Corps of RAEME at the Army Apprentice School (remained RAEME entire career)

Promotions:

- CPL 09 Jun 79
- SGT 18 May 83
- SSGT 05 Jun 86
- WO2 (probation) 01 Sep 88
- WO2 (substantive) 07 Apr 89
- WO1 11 Dec 91
- Commissioned – CAPT 01 Jan 01
- MAJ 01 Jan 11

*A younger version of
MAJ Steve Howells*



ASM-Land

For those not aware WO1 Marc Craigie has been announced as the replacement for WO1 Andrew Beaman as our latest Tier C Warrant Officer in the position of ASM-Land. A fantastic achievement that is highly deserved.

For WO1 Beaman, as the inaugural ASM-Land; thank you for your guidance, mentorship and candid conversations (at times about the Regimental Sergeant Majors). You have focussed on the establishment of the position as a trusted Senior Enlisted Advisor, which has proven to be invaluable to the Corps and maintainers across all Army's land platforms and equipment.

A reminder from the current ASM-Land, the requirement for mandatory Non-Technical Inspections (NTI) has been removed, there will still be a requirement for some equipment to be NTI; most likely Loan Pool. Commanding Officers may still enforce an NTI regime if they deem it appropriate.

RMC Graduates

On behalf of the HOC, I would like to welcome our two newest LTs to the Corps. LT Shazeb Mubeen & LT Liam O'Brien. Welcome gentlemen, please be engaging with the Corps members and always ask for assistance if unsure about anything.

Course Information

The Subject Two for CPL is still proving to be undersubscribed, this course is paramount to us as moving elements within the battlespace as Forward Repair Teams, the skills taught enable our junior commanders to gain the appreciation (either as the commander or participant) for the task at hand and what is required as a technical workforce to achieve it.

Vacant positions on sessions are unable to be transcribed / moved into later sessions, therefore these become missed opportunities.

For details re course dates, visit the [Corps RSM's report on the DPN](#).

ECN 411/412 – SUBJ 4 WO AVN TECHN OPS (213751):

Suitable candidates are contacted by EOI for selection to complete the following year via a one year LTS posting to RAMS.

Corps Annual Awards

Corps Instruction 28 – The RAEME Corps Annual Performance Awards has been finalized and is with the HOC for signature. Below are the changes to the Instruction presented to the HOC:

- Previously this Corps Instruction was focused on 'Student of Merit' based criteria to assess a member's ability to perform at the next rank on one particular promotion course. This meant the award was not presented to a member holding the rank afforded to the award being presented and was not indicative of a member's performance throughout the year.
- The purpose of the awards is to recognise the most outstanding RAEME members from junior officer through to soldier each year, thereby encouraging all corps members to consistently strive for excellence in both the military and technical aspects of their roles.

The award for each rank is as follows:

- Junior Officers – The LT Peter Jennings Award
- Warrant Officers – The Artificer of the year Award
- SNCOs – The BRIG Martins, OBE Award
- JNCOs – The Junior Regimental Award
- Soldiers – The Craftsman of the year Awards, including ARA and ARes.

A panel of judges, chaired by the HOC or an officer appointed by the HOC, which is to comprise of the DHOC-L & A, the ASM-L & Corps RSM. All nominations are to be reviewed independently by the panel, with a points-based assessment determining the award recipient.

An awards nomination form can be found on the [RSM's page on the DPN](#).

The form has now been converted into a 'Smart' form, with drop boxes to assist with the nomination process. The dates required for nominations will be reviewed over the coming year IOT ensure we give all members the opportunity to excel and be nominated. Subsequently, we wish for the entire process to be completed NLT 01 Nov of each year so we can ensure the awards are able to be presented at (or around) the Corps birthday celebrations.

DESTRA

LTCOL Palmer has reached out to myself to get some information out to the RAEME Officers IOT ensure they do not miss out on any perspective pay increases. See his request below.

I request attention is drawn to [DESTRA](#), so technical RAEME Officers ensure their pay bump IAW the DFRT TWS.

Additionally, so that ASM actually submit their applications as well.

A PDF (not service connect) [AF126](#) emailed to army.destra@defence.gov.au is all that is required, once 'membership' is achieved further accreditation can then be sought.

Matt Stone Racing – Tasmania

MSR completed a relatively successful weekend in Tasmania recently, the team was supported by two SERCAT 5 members from 2 FSB. The integration of the Total Workforce into the scheme is bloody fantastic and something we will continue to push forward.

Corps Shop

The hoodies that have been a huge success in the past are available through RAEME Clothing:

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

Purchase can be actioned through the Corps Shop: Welcome to HOC Corps Shop (raeme.org.au)

Corps Subscriptions

I have become more aware that people are finding it difficult to find the Corps Fund Subscription Form, the outdated Corps Instruction (PDF) has the incorrect information and pricing.

The current form can be downloaded from the [RSM's page on the DPN](#).

Unit News

10th Fires Brigade – 14th Regiment RAA have provided the following update on their support to Rocket Artillery.

RAEME in support of Rocket Artillery

From: WO2 ME Fletcher – TIS 14th Regiment Workshops

With the Australian Government's announcement of the arrival of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). The HIMARS is a wheeled vehicle which fires guided rockets for precision strike on surface targets. The HIMARS is to be employed by 14th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (14 REGT) at Edinburgh Defence Precinct, Adelaide SA. Workshops at 14 REGT would like to advertise its support to Army's newest capability.



Australian HIMARS

Workshops Role at 14 REGT

Workshops at 14REGT is currently a small, but growing, team of dedicated maintainers based at Horseshoe Lines Workshops on Edinburgh Defence Precinct. We will employ almost all ground RAEME Trades, with a particular focus on ECN 421 Electronics Technician, ECN 229 Vehicle Technician and ECN 226 Recovery Technician. These trades will conduct Technical Maintenance on the HIMARS vehicles as well as bespoke supporting vehicles not utilised currently by any other unit within the Army.

How to get involved

If this interests you, and you would like to get involved; Update your Soldier Career Planning Tool and engage with your Career Manager with a request to post to 14 Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, based at Edinburgh Defence Precinct, Adelaide SA.

SO2 Corps

The HOC Cell members would like to thank MAJ Craig Chatterton for his diligent work throughout his tenure as the SO2 Corps. MAJ Chatterton will be stepping aside due to his role as a reservist and civilian role.

If anyone would like to apply for the role (LT/CAPT/MAJ) please send an 'Expression of Interest' to myself.

Once collated I will put to the HOC for approvals. If anyone would like further information on the role, please contact myself.

Employment Category Managers

Aeroskills Update

In February 2025, both Aeroskills trades submitted proposals to the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT), which included:

- Removal of Sub 2 as a requirement for skill grade advancement
- One Pay Group (PG) increase for:
 - Skill Grade 3 (CPL) to PG6
 - Skill Grade 4 (SGT) to PG7

- Establishment of specialist career pathways:
 - Aeroskills Technician Specialist – enables tradies to remain on the tools at CPL and SGT ranks
 - Master Specialist – WO2 roles
 - Technical Warrant Officer – WO1 roles

All proposals were approved by the DFRT, with an effective date of 08 May 2025. Members should see changes reflected in their pay on 05 June 2025, with back pay applied from 08 May 2025.

In addition, the Targeted Workforce Segment (TWS) initiative — approved as Matter 4 of 2025 — aims to support ADF workforce segments deemed critical or at risk. This initiative will provide a one pay group increase for RAEME soldiers and degree-qualified officers. The effective date for TWS is 05 June 2025, with changes expected in pay by 19 June 2025.

As a result of these two DFRT outcomes, Aeroskill Technicians at Skill Grades 3 and 4 will receive a total increase of two pay groups over the coming weeks.

Warrant Officer Class One Jon Tynan

Regimental Sergeant Major

E-Mail: jon.tynan@defence.gov.au

UPDATE ON ACT ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Recently, nearly all ACT Association members received an email advising them that they needed to renew their memberships. This was sent automatically by our website's back-end system. It was erroneous. This problem arose due to the nature of the IT system used. It is a good system that is used by all Associations nationwide. It provides a series of modules, each of which controls one element of the Association's online presence.

The module that caused this problem is known as the **Membership Module**. It is designed to not only track details of all members, but also record the subscriptions they pay and the dates each member is required to renew their membership.

As we don't have any subscription fees in the ACT, we don't use the Membership Module for that reason however we had engaged it as it also provides members with a means of logging on to our website. We now no longer use that element as it provides no real value to members.

One module we use that is largely set-and-forget is the **Events Module**. This module holds details of all impending events. You can keep abreast of all events by viewing our [online events page](#).

One of the modules we use in much more detail is the **Email Module**. In this, we maintain several district mailing lists to facilitate ease of communications to various members.

The three main email lists we use are:

- **Newsletters** – Members assigned to this email list receive our monthly newsletters and any "Stop Press" notifications that follow. This list has well over 400 members, some of who are not only nationwide, but also international.
- **Local Events** – Members assigned to this email list are those who generally live or work in the ACT region. This list is used to share reminders for events, typically 3-5 days in advance.
- **General Corps Matters** – Members assigned to this email list receive information of significance to the Corps in general, including information that is time-sensitive. This email group is not used frequently.

We provide provision for members to join the association by requesting general information [online](#).

We also provide an [online form](#) to manage their subscriptions to any of the above email lists. You don't need to be a member of the ACT association to subscribe to any or all of our email lists.

We did however have a minor hiccup in the system with a couple of members reporting they had made changes to their entry in the different email lists but it didn't seem to have changed. This has now been reviewed and changes made so everyone should be up to date. If you observe any future errors, please don't hesitate to let me know.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT

Coming Events

On Fri 06 Jun, we will be holding our regular Spanner Club at RMC Golf Club. This will kick off from around 1630h.

The regular and much-loved sausage sizzle may not be a feature this month due to a couple of administrative clashes but it will be a great opportunity to catch up and chat with old friends.

After that, our next gathering will be informal drinks at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club on Tuesday 24 Jun. If you are not a member of the Golf Club and would like to be signed in, please email us at: Secretary@act.raeme.org.au

For a full list of impending events, please visit: <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>

Recent Events Report

On Fri 02 Jun, we enjoyed lunch at Ainslie Football Club. It was great to be joined by some serving members as it gave all of us a chance to discuss the changing nature of the Army and of course, it allowed some of the more mature members to provide much-needed advice as to how we can solve all of the world's problems together.

We were delighted to be joined by the Corps RSM and several serving RAEME-ation members at the recent Tuesday night drinks at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club. It was great to hear about some of the active changes in the aviation space, especially the exciting growth at Oakey and interesting posting opportunities available in N-Qld.

What's on in the Region

75th anniversary of Australian service in the Korean War

What: Nationally broadcast commemorative service to mark the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Korean War

When: Wednesday 25 June 2025

Where: The Australian National Korean War Memorial, Anzac Parade

RSVP: Please register via the [online registration system](#). Alternatively, you may provide your name and contact details for registration to DVA via email to Commemorative.Events@dva.gov.au.

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



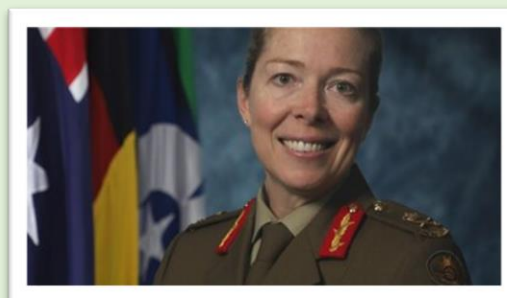
Winter Tales presents Lieutenant General Michelle McGuinness CSC

What: Join National Cyber Security Coordinator Lieutenant General Michelle McGuinness CSC as she reflects on her life and work. This event is held in association with the National Foundation for Australian Women and the Australian Women's Archives Program (AWAP).

Where: National Library of Australia

When: 29 Jun 2025 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

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



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 the names on the Roll of Honour.

Where: Australian War Memorial, Commemorative Courtyard

When: Commencing daily at 4.30 pm AEDT

Details: <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>



PLANNED GATHERINGS NATIONWIDE FOR 2025

Planned RAEME gatherings across Australia for the next few months 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
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 from 1600h Please RSVP NLT 03 Jun via the event link or via email .
	Sat 7 th	S-Qld	SE Qld Army Apprentices School Reunion 2025 Bulimba Bowls Club, Thynne Road
	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.
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 to be signed in.
	Fri 11 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sun 20 th	NSW	Christmas in July Luncheon Ingleburn RSL Club
	Tues 29 th	ACT	Mixed Drinks Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club.
August	TBC	ACT	RMC Lanyard Presentation RMC Golf Club – Details to follow when received
	Fri 1 st	ACT	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle RMC Golf Club Please RSVP NLT 29 Jul via the event link or via email .

Month	Date	Region	Event
August	Fri 1 st	ACT	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle RMC Golf Club For catering purposes and to assist RMC Staff planning, please RSVP NLT 29 Jul via the event link or via email .
	Wed 6 th	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 8 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Wed 3 th	S-Qld	RAQ Sunshine Coast Luncheon Maroochydore RSL
	Sun 17 th	S-Qld	RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion Brisbane 2025 Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch
			RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon – Vietnam Veteran’s Day Toowoomba
			Spanner Club / Lunch Ross Hotel Ross 1200-1230h
		Tasmania	Mixed Lunch/Meet and Greet- Southern, Northern, North-West members Ross Hotel, Main Rd Ross, 1200 for 1230h RSVP NLT 14 Aug via email rclark-7@hotmail.com
	Sat 23 rd	S-Qld	RAQ Gold Coast Luncheon Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC
September	Mon 25 th	NSW	Spanner Club Victoria Barracks, Sydney
	Tues 26 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
	Tues 2 nd	SA	Harry the Horse Luncheon West Adelaide Football Club Contact Bob Killoran on 0412-060-315 by the Friday before the luncheon
	Wed 3 rd	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
		SA	Committee of Management Meeting Plympton-Glenelg RSL
	Fri 5 th	ACT	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 02 Sept via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Thurs 11 th	NSW	Committee Meeting and Casual Luncheon Ingleburn RSL Club All members welcome for luncheon from 1200h
	Fri 12 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 13 th	S-Qld	RAQ Sunshine Coast Luncheon Maroochydore RSL
	Weds 17 th	Wagga	Spanner Club 56 th anniversary of RAEME Aviation technical trade training at RAAF Wagga

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SA

The SA Association recently released their latest newsletter. The main focus of this newsletter is to provide a report to its members from ANZAC Day activities. On review of the reporting, it appeared to have been a great day for all members to remember those who had gone before of and those who serve today.

To view the SA's newsletter archive, visit:

<https://sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters>

....or click on the cover image to the right to go straight to the latest edition.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RAEME APPRENTICES



The Army Apprentice Association also recently released their newsletter, *The Apprentice About*.

There is a great piece in the start of the newsletter by our own Jeff Heron in which he details the benefits of membership in the Apprentice Association. I commend this to all former apprentices who

members who join at set points, for example, member numbers 920, 930, 940.....1000.

The Apprentice About provides details of functions scheduled to be run nationwide, including the ACT Region Quarterly Lunch at Ainslie Football Club on Wed 11 Jun.

One larger event being planned now is the 30th Anniversary Reunion to commemorate the cessation of the Army Apprentice Scheme. This will be held in Albury/Wodonga Over 24-26 October 2025. Check out the newsletter for more details.

All of this and so much more can be found within this edition. You can download your copy today by visiting the Association website at:

<https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME NT ALTC driver training in the Top End



The Darwin wet season really turned it on for the High Mobility Transporter – Extenda (HMT-E) 'Supacat' course over the last couple of months, run by the Regional Driver Training Team (RDT) – Northern Territory.

Throughout March and April, 18 trainees from the Darwin region were put through their paces in attaining a HMT-E qualification: a platform designed to rapidly move the fighting echelon through the battlespace, regardless of terrain. Heavy

rains made for perfect conditions to train and assess difficult terrain operations; the spectacle even drawing the attention of some resident crocs.

RDT–NT is part of Army School of Transport's Regional Driver Training Wing, which has additional teams in Townsville, Amberley and Brisbane. It delivers training to local Units and Brigades on Defence's new logistics fleet to ensure that they can get themselves to, though, and return from the fight!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SE-QLD

Toowoomba RAQ Catch-Up – 18 May 2025

Our May gathering in Toowoomba saw a smaller turnout than usual, with approximately 20 attendees. This was not unexpected, as the May function historically sees lower numbers with many locals heading north to escape the winter chill. Interestingly, the "Oakey Old Boys" function held at the same venue last Thursday experienced a similar drop in attendance.

Congratulations to the winners of the lucky door prize \$50 RAQ Shop vouchers:

- Lloyd Bowles
- Alan Farnham
- Larry Martin

Remaining Toowoomba Functions for 2025:

- 17 August – Vietnam Veterans Day Function

- 16 November – RAEME Birthday Function

Looking ahead, Sandra and I will be overseas in August. I'm therefore seeking someone local to take the lead on coordinating the August function.

I'm also floating the idea of hosting an informal outdoor (BYO) BBQ in Queens Park this September, to coincide with the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers.

Thanks to all who attended, and we look forward to our next gathering.

Regards,

Pete Pile

RAQ-DD Rep

southwest@qld.raeme.org.au

Craftsman's Reserve Bourbon – RAQ's 2025 spirit is coming soon!

The RAQ is proud to announce that the next RAQ Spirit, set for release in 2025, will be the Craftsman's Reserve Bourbon.

Scheduled to launch around mid-year, this limited-edition release will be strictly capped at just 500 bottles. And here's the exciting part, the RAQ are giving its members the exclusive opportunity to win Bottle No.1 of this unique run! To celebrate the release, the RAQ are holding a label design competition. The winning design will be featured on the front label of Craftsman's Reserve, and the lucky designer will take home the very first bottle produced, Bottle No.1 of 500 and of course bragging rights!

Full competition details, including how to enter and submission deadlines, will be announced shortly. So, start sharpening your pencils, firing up your design apps, dust off your creative skills or just ChatGPT it! This is your chance to leave your mark on a one of a kind RAQ release.

Stay tuned! Text



2/14 LHR (QMI) - Massive maintenance effort - Brisbane

The Light Horse RAEME team, supported by AFV crews, have put in the hard yards during the Regimental Maintenance Surge.

For two weeks, our spanners, gun plumbers, sparkies, reccy techs, metalsmiths and boffins focussed entirely on "production". In layman's terms, they put in back-to-back 10-hour uninterrupted days for two weeks to churn through over 1800 hours of maintenance.



Why? Simple. To ensure Battlegroup Warhorse is ready to deploy for two months on the Diamond Strike and Talisman Sabre exercises. These legends have worked overtime to get the Regiment's horses turned around and in pole position to carve it up at Shoalwater Bay in the coming weeks.

Their work never stops. They are the unsung heroes of the Light Horse. We bloody love em!

Images and information courtesy of Defence

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME VICTORIA

ALTC Welcomes and Congratulations

Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Hans Hamilton proudly welcomed our newest lateral transfer from the British Armed Forces, Private Daniel McNaught, with his Enlistment Certificate.

Alongside this, LTCOL Hamilton also presented Sergeant Shane Avery with his Defence Long Service Medal - just in time for Anzac Day.

Please join us in congratulating these gentlemen.



Fundraising for the Everyman

On the 17th August 2025 a large group of around 50 trainees and staff from ASEME and ADFSH are gearing up to tackle a Marathon. With such a large group training together, we thought why not try and raise some money for a charity and we have chosen to donate to the Everyman's. They survive solely on donations and every year it gets harder for them to continue providing their services to the ADF.



Everyman's Welfare Service is funded through donations from individuals, businesses, and churches let your donation count. Please support us and help us run this marathon!!!

This is bigger than ourselves and we count on our friends and family to help us achieve this outstanding goal for this charity.

[Click here](#) to donate today.

Thank you from Charlotte, David and the whole team.

Editor's Note: Everyman's Representatives receive ADF accreditation and hold honorary officer status. They work from recreation centres on bases and travel with the troops supporting them on Military Exercises and operational deployments. They are a non-Government funded, not-for-profit charity. All donations over \$ 2.00 are Tax deductible. [Click here](#) for more.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REME UK

Engineering Cup

On 21 May, REME RHQ hosted the final of the Engineering Cup, an engineering challenge for technical college students.

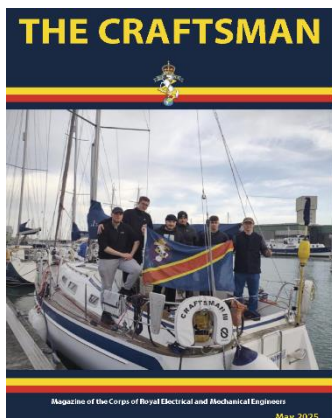
Over the course of eight months over 150 students from eight colleges across the South of England worked in teams to tackle an engineering project based around the CrARRV armoured recovery vehicle.

With support from the 8th Training Bn Recovery Section throughout, they developed solutions to a range of problems, with the best five teams invited to the final in MOD Lyneham.

Demonstrating not only their engineering knowledge but also their project management and presentation skills each of the teams thoroughly impressed the judging panel, headed up by the Corps Col. After much deliberation, Banbury College were selected as the winners with Team 2 from UTC Reading coming in as close runners up!



Well done to the winning team, to all those selected for individual prizes, and to all the participants from across the colleges for your efforts and excellent team work! Thanks too to the Recovery Section for your support and most of all to WO2 (AQMS) Powell for running the event!



The Craftsman Magazine

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

Feel free to take a look by [clicking here](#).

Of interest in this edition is a report of the Chelsea Pensioner's recent visit to Prince Philip Barracks.



ACT TRANSPORT OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

The ACT Government recently announced a [student transport program](#) that provides students of many Defence members with free public transport services.

The student transport program is for eligible primary, high school and college students. It provides free travel on Transport Canberra services from Monday to Friday during the school term.



Eligibility

To be eligible for free travel on Transport Canberra services the student must:

- have a [MyWay+ account](#) in the name of the student with a unique email address (with a linked MyWay+ travel card if using to travel*)
- be able to prove the student (or their parent or guardian) hold one of the following benefit cards:
 - a valid Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Australian Government which shows the applicant's name
 - a valid Health Care Card issued by the Australian Government which shows the student applicant's name
 - a valid Department of [Veterans' Affairs Health Care card](#)
- use the same residential address listed on the benefit card on the student transport program application

- be aged between 5 to 19 years, ACT residents and be either:
 - primary school students living outside a one kilometre radius of their school, or
 - high school, college or CIT year 12 equivalent students living outside a 2 kilometre radius from their campus.

Please notify 13 17 10 if a student changes schools during the year.

The student transport program will not address claims for travel based on any other circumstances.

* A student can use a MyWay+ travel card with a student concession (or other preferred contactless payment method) while waiting for approval of their Student Transport Program application. The student can also use the card to travel on weekends and during school holidays. Remember to link the MyWay+ travel card or other contactless payment method, as well as register the concession type, in the student's [MyWay+ account](#) to receive the correct fare when travelling.



Applications

To apply complete the [Student Transport Program online form](#).

Applications are free and should be submitted 4 to 6 weeks before the school term begins. This allows time for the application to be processed before the start of the term.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RCEME CANADA

As noted in the May 2025 *RAEME in ACTION*, our Canadian brethren celebrate the RCEME Birthday on 15 May each year. Here is how they Corps [reported](#) events from the day in Latvia. Happy Birthday, RCEME!

The warm weather and the bright sunshine made it a perfect day to get outside and enjoy some friendly competition. The morning kicked off with coffee, snacks, and smiles as 160 RCEME members hit the fields for a variety of sports, including beach volleyball, racket sports, basketball, soccer, and floorball.



Following the sports, it was time for an artisan skills competition — a RCEME tradition that brings our maintainers together to showcase the technical craftsmanship that defines our Corps. This year, the maintainers were called to build trebuchets. Overall, 5 trebuchets entered to competition launching 100kgs of cabbages.



Taking the third place in the competition, HQ and Sigs came up

with a sturdy, full-metal throwing arm trebuchet. The Multinational Battle Group's team claimed the second place with a well-functioning trebuchet, featuring a simple but effective release system and a V-shaped loading tray. In the end, it was the Admin Company from the Multinational Logistic Unit that stole the show. Their wooden trebuchet was a testament to craftsmanship and RCEME pride. It launched at the greatest range, height, and with the best accuracy. It also stood out with its coat of paint and the proud inscription of "Arte et Marte" across its frame, which captured the essence of the Corps' motto — with skill and fighting spirit.

After a morning of competition and cabbage carnage, it was time to refuel. Everyone gathered for a classic lunch of burgers and sausages. The afternoon wrapped up with a closing ceremony where the trebuchet winners were announced, followed by a ceremonial cake cutting photo— a sweet finish to a full day of celebration. As the temperature began to cool, members enjoyed one final slice of cake and slowly made their way out, bellies full and spirits high.

RCEME day is about coming together, no matter where in the world we find ourselves, to celebrate the spirit of our Corps. It's about the maintainers who keep the wheels turning, the soldiers who build siege engines out of spare parts to launch cabbages, and the teammates who cheer each other on through sport and craftsmanship. This RCEME Day in Latvia was a shining example of our dedication, innovation, and comradery.



RAEME'S FIRST YEAR

Below is the Army newspaper from 01 Jun 1943, being the first year of RAEME's establishment. This can be reviewed at:
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/38334824>



TWO NATIONALITIES (From Page 4)

A soldier with two nationalities, British and Italian, figured in a district court martial in Adelaide.

According to evidence the soldier was born in Italy and came to Australia where his father became a naturalised British subject. The son joined the Army in 1941 and on attaining his majority, filled in a declaration for aliens and renounced his British nationality.

He is Corporal Patrick Carbone, who was charged with having been AWOL from May 6 to May 18. On May 18, according to the evidence, he was arrested at his own request in civilian clothes at his home at Findon. He pleaded guilty.

Counsel for the defence suggested that the court discharge Carbone from the Army.

The prosecuting counsel asked that he be transferred to a non-combatant unit. The Court's decision will be promulgated later.

100 FORTRESSES. ROAR OVER NAPLES IN DAYLIGHT

THE Allied air blitz in the Mediterranean continued yesterday with unrelenting intensity. Naples was bombed heavily. One hundred Flying Fortresses roared over Naples in daylight and delivered a four-pronged attack with devastating results.

One formation concentrated on the dock area and marshalling yards. Two other formations bombed airfields just outside Naples. The fourth formation scored direct hits on a large aero-engine plant. One of the Fortress formations was attacked by 50 Axis fighters from the sides and above, where an attempt was made to bomb them. The fighters were beaten off by terrific fire-power and 10 were shot down. Fifty Liberators bombed an airfield 80 miles north-east of Leghorn, destroying large transports on the ground. The raid on Naples was its 64th this war.

Italian Admissions

Rome is beginning to let news of the great damage to Italian and island cities slip out, says the London "Evening Standard." News from other sources supports Rome accounts and discloses growing fears of an invasion. "Giorale, d'Italia" publishes an article, on the raids on Naples, which says "More or less all parts of the city have suffered from bomb attacks. Since the first raid against the city, Neapolitans have spent over 250 hours in air raid shelters."

Vichy Radio declares that the whole of the residential area of Catania, in Sicily, has been destroyed, and Rome Radio admits damage at Reggio di Calabria, in Southern Italy.

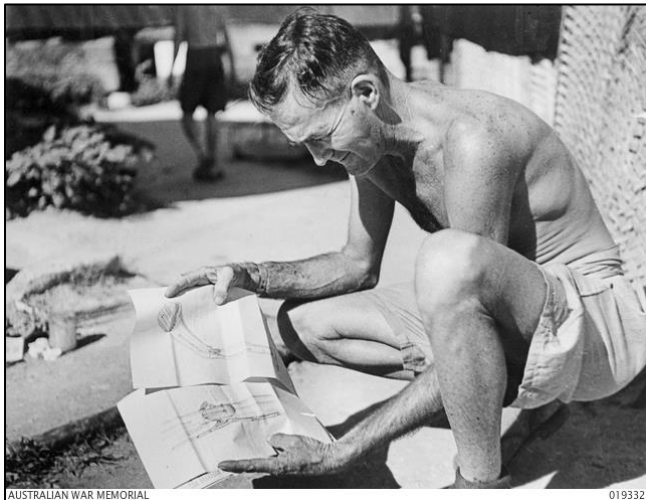
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL NEWS

Mechanical Ingenuity at a Prisoner of War Camp: Arthur Purdon and the Changi Artificial Limb Factory

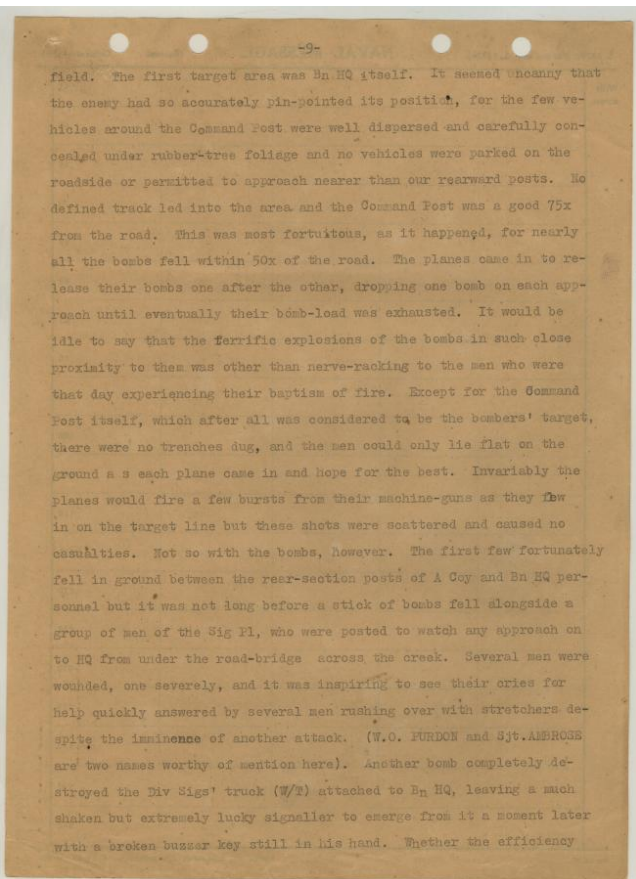
Author: Lucy Thiele

Source: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/ingenuity-at-a-prisoner-of-war-camp>

After the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, Changi became home to some 15,000 Australian prisoners of war. Internees of Changi displayed ingenuity and resourcefulness during their imprisonment, establishing facilities including a prison library, a university, soap factory, rubber factory, pottery manufacture and broom manufacture. Also established within the prison camp was an artificial limb factory, the result of Arthur Henry Mason Purdon's hard work and motivation.



Arthur Henry Mason Purdon, 1945.



2/30th Battalion War Diary entry noting Purdon's actions at Gemas

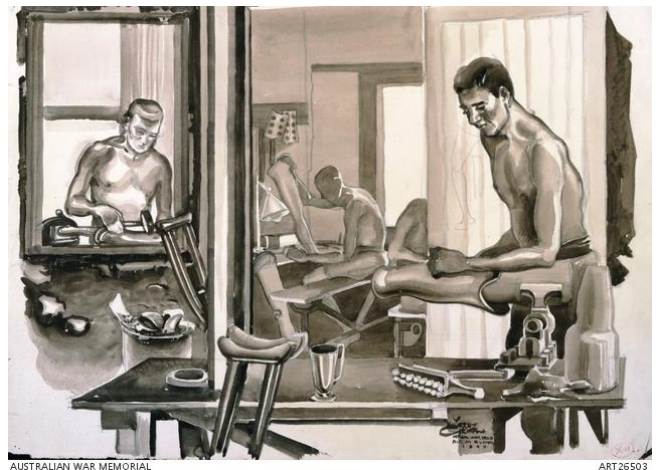
Arthur Purdon was born in Sydney in 1900 and served as a member of the 2/30th Battalion. He was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery during an overwhelming Japanese attack in the Gemas area on 16 January 1942. The last person to leave the battlefield, Purdon remained in danger to assist wounded men, while being subjected to enemy fire.

Before the war, Arthur Purdon worked as a health inspector. His experience gave him the skills to establish the artificial limb factory. The factory was born out of necessity; due to disease within the camp, amputations took place. The factory was established alongside the convalescent depot building, which was used for rehabilitation of individuals who had lost limbs.



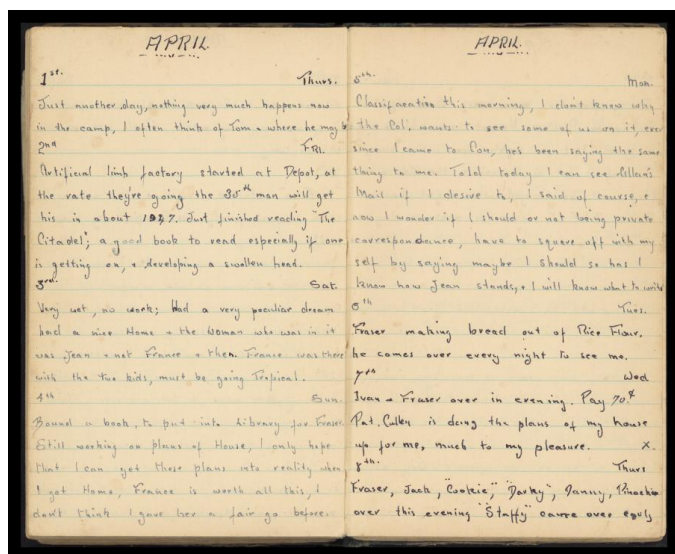
Selarang Barracks compound.

Purdon's factory was resourceful. Materials and tools were improvised using scrap metals from Japanese dumps and repurposed items; a drilling machine was made using the ironwork of a stretcher, a jigsaw was powered by a refrigerator motor, and some artificial feet were made from spruce from a billiard table. Other materials repurposed for use as part of artificial limbs included bolts from cars, aluminium from kettles, and split angle iron from steel cupboards.



Murray Griffin, Artificial Limb Factory, Changi, 1943, brush and brown ink and wash over pencil on paper, ART26503.

As described in the diary of Private Francis Russell James Day, a fellow Changi internee, the factory began slowly. Day described its beginnings on 2 April 1943, stating that “at the rate they’re going the 35th man will get his in about 1947”.



Diary of Francis Russell James Day, noting the establishment of the artificial limb factory

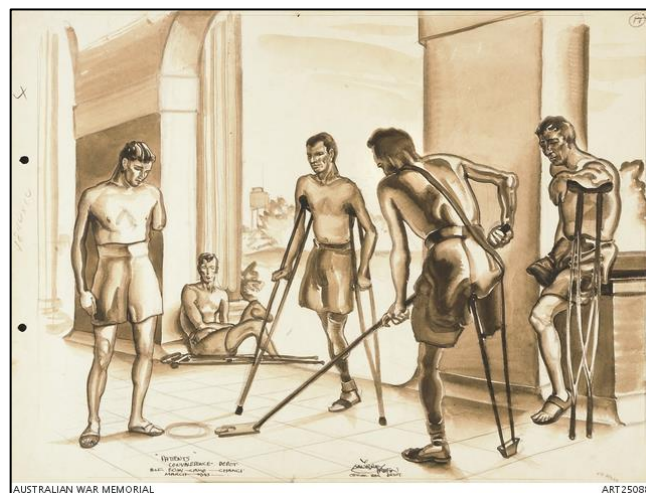
While Purdon and his comrades faced some initial struggles, trial and error allowed them to perfect and refine their manufacturing techniques. During his factory work, Purdon invented the Purdon Joint, designed to allow limbs to move similarly to a normal leg. Practical use of the artificial limbs was monitored. The use of a limb started at one hour a day, allowing the stump on the amputated limb to harden, with practice allowing the wearer to eventually walk naturally, without the aid of a walking stick.



Men at Changi Prison Camp wearing artificial limbs made in Purdon's factory, 1945. Photographer unknown. AWM019327

Prisoners of war missing limbs came together for rehabilitation at the convalescent depot, which focused on

improving capabilities and healing. Sports such as golf, cricket, basketball, volleyball and tennis were a popular form of rehabilitation. When it was discovered that falls caused pain in the amputated limbs of individuals, a warrant officer who knew ju-jitsu, set about training his peers to fall in a safer manner.



Men play deck golf at the convalescent depot.

Individuals with amputations above the knee often had trouble adapting to the artificial limbs, which were longer and heavier to wear. A daily parade was established to encourage those who struggled to practice wearing their artificial limbs without crutches.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Webster of the Australian Army Medical Corps noted, “the force here and the limbless are very much indebted to ... Purdon. He has been most practical, ingenious and arduous in his untiring energies at all times, never sparing himself in the problems to be worked out.”

The digitised diaries of the 2/30th Battalion, with details of Purdon's bravery at Gemas, as well as those of Private Francis Russell James Day and Lieutenant Colonel Robert M.W. Webster, offer a fascinating insight into the artificial limb factory.

Editor's Note:



Further information can be found in multiple areas on the internet, including:

- [The Australian War Memorial Collection](#)
- [Virtual War Memorial Australia](#)
- [DVA Nominal Rols](#)

For more details about what is happening in the Australian War Memorial visit: <https://www.awm.gov.au/>



INVICTUS AUSTRALIA NEWS

Date	Time	State	City/Region	Activity
Sun 01 st	8:00 am - 10:00 am	N-Qld	Townsville	Introduction to Mountain Biking – Short Course
Mon 02 nd	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra, NSW
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program - Toowoomba, QLD
Tues 03 rd	10:00 - 11:00 am	ACT	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm		Gungahlin	Yoga at Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Chapel
Weds 04 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		N-Qld	Cairns	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Thurs 05 th	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	Townsville	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
Fri 06 th	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	Maitland	(not)parkrun Walking Group
Sat 07 th	7:30 am - 11:00 am	N-Qld	Townsville	Expressions of Interest! The Great Island Trek
Sun 08 th	8:00 am - 10:00 am	N-Qld	Townsville	Introduction to Mountain Biking - Short Course
Mon 09 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra, NSW
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 10 th	9:00 am - 1:30 pm	NSW	Jervis Bay	Discover Sailing - South Coast
	10:00 - 11:00 am	ACT	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm		Gungahlin	Yoga at Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Chapel
Weds 11 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Cairns	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	Stockton	(not)parkrun Walking Group
Thurs 12 th	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Yoga Term 2
Sat 14 th	10:00 - 12:00 pm	NSW	Shoalhaven	Veteran and Family Bowls
	10:00 - 11:30 am	ACT	Lyneham	Defence Community Archery
Sun 15 th	8:00 am - 10:00 am	N-Qld	Townsville	Introduction to Mountain Biking - Short Course
Mon 16 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 17 th	10:00 - 11:00 am	ACT	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm		Gungahlin	Yoga at Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Chapel
Weds 18 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Cairns	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
Thurs 19 th	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm		Toowoomba	Yoga Term 2
Fri 20 th	7:30 am - 2:30 pm	NSW	Worrigee	Invictus Australia Defence Golf Day
	9:30 am - 11:00 am		Maitland	(not)parkrun Walking Group

Date	Time	State	City/Region	Activity
	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	N-Qld	Cairns	Veteran and Family Pickleball Session
Mon 23 rd	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program
Tues 24 th	10:00 - 11:00 am	ACT	Queanbeyan	Yoga
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm		Gungahlin	Yoga at Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Chapel
Weds 25 th	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Cairns	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
		SE-Qld	Toowoomba	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	Stockton	(not)parkrun Walking Group
Thurs 26 ^h	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2- Yoga
	5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	SE-Qld	Brisbane	Women in Fitness HIIT Program
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm		Toowoomba	Yoga Term 2
Mon 30 th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Nowra	Term 2 - Indoor Rowing Program

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.



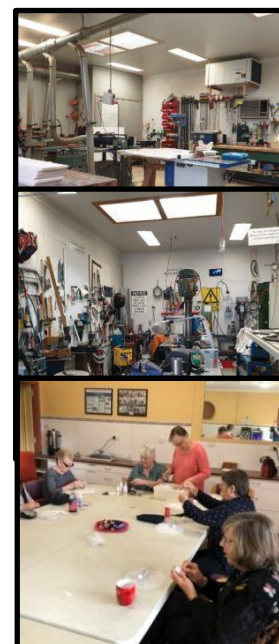
Services. Services provided by VSC include, but are not limited to:

- Advocates are available on week-days to assist with filling in paperwork and lodging claims with DVA
- Representation at the Veterans Review Board (VRB) and Administration Appeals Tribunal (AAT)
- Trained Wellbeing Advocate to support members
- The Food Van, which attends various community functions and a main source of fundraising

Regular activities. If any of the following regular activities sounds interesting to you, reach out to the VSC regarding your possible attendance:

- Mondays Gardening group from 1000-1200h
- Tuesdays Walking groups. Contact the organiser, Terry Lawler on 0401 109 550 or terrylawler71@bigpond.com to confirm starting locations each week.
Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h
BBQ lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Wednesdays Coffee Connections for veterans and families from 1000-1200h
(Sponsored by Open Arms and the VSC)
- Thursdays Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h
Pie lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Fridays Guitar group (all skill levels) from 0930h
Ladies Craft Group from 1300h (3rd Friday of the month)

Please contact the office for more details regarding any event.



LOOKING BACK

Looking back into *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, Edition 4 of May 1980, we found the jottings from the 7th Military District, being those folks posted to the Top End.

I have no doubt that countless stories of greatness were told by the Crafties of the day as they “prepared” their beer cans to fashion the Larrakeyah Beer Can Boat in the “Battle of the Super Boats”. It is great to hear the team won that race so I’m sure the team got busy preparing cans for next year’s race!



7MD JOTTINGS

LIFE AT THE TOP

by WO2 “Spike” Leayr

Anyone who thinks life for the “Top End Bluebells” is little more than token support for 7MD should give it a try sometime. Since our last contribution to “The RAEME Craftsman” – and we apologise for missing the past two issues – we, of 7MD EME Platoon, have been involved in numerous and varied support activities.

In the main we’ve supported 7 Independent Rifle Company on exercises and at annual camp. One patrol type exercise took us deep into Arnhemland, covering over 3,000 kilometres of rugged country.

In support of “GOOTO III” and Dusty Dare”, two HQ 7MD infrastructure exercises, we covered 5,000 kilometres of the Northern Territory. Catching some beautiful Barramundi was one of the perks.

Less energetic support was provided for 4 Field Survey Squadron from South Australia. Whilst they busied themselves on topographic duties from a base in the Tindil area, we assisted them, when necessary, with as many spares as were needed – with the minimum possible delay.

Still, it hasn’t been all work and no play.

We did assist in the reconstruction, modification, transport and on water support of the Larrakeyah Beer Can Boat in the “Battle of the Super Boats”. We won, too!

Then came the Bouganvillea Grand Parade. I doubt if anyone could genuinely recognise our well camouflaged wrecker and tilt bed trailer. And then there was the pleasure of a surprise visit from a former Darwin “Bluebell” – “Blue” McAndrew. Naturally old times and friends were discussed in the mess over a few tinnies. “Blue” is doing well as a civilian in Bris-

bane and wishes to be remembered to all old friends and acquaintances as do Peter Drescher and Dick Lowe, also former Darwin “Bluebells”. Both are residing and working in Darwin and keep in touch with us, if only to receive their copies of “The RAEME Craftsman”.

Like “Blue” they are doing well in civvy street. We’ll try to get them to write a few words about life as a civvy at the top end.

On the personnel front Sgt Roger Clark moved on to 5 Base Workshop Battalion and is replaced by Sgt Mick Fardy. Cfn Tony McAllister is now in Townsville which is where his replacement, Cfn Ray Swallow, came from.

Cpl Jim Jones, our Radio Mechanic and Cfn Peter McLinden were not replaced when they left, nor was our civilian R & I/Trade Repair clerk. He was declared redundant when the establishment changed.

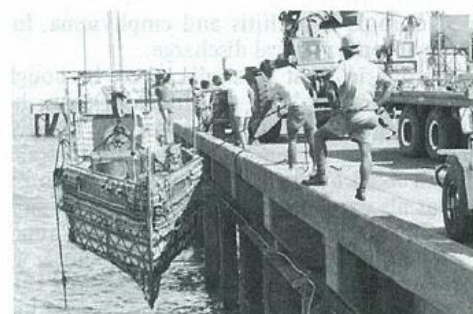
1980 has the promise of more interesting activities and exercises for 7MD EME Platoon. This should provide plenty of scope for contributions to our favourite communication – “The RAEME Craftsman”.

By the way, if you’re reading this, Ian Rowe – eat your heart out! We’re getting a new M816 Wrecker to replace the old work horse.

And there, as the monsoon clouds sink slowly over the horizon – we think, we bid you a wet season farewell, until the next time.



Who could possibly have recognised our well camouflaged Wrecker and Tilt Bed Trailer?



Assistance was given with the Larrakeyah Beer Can Boat.

SOLDIER'S 5 QUIZ

Answers at bottom of page

1. **People.** On what date did Prince Philip present his banner to our Corps? For bonus points, where was the banner presented and name at least one Association member who was present on the parade.
2. **Places.** In what city would you find Borneo Barracks?
3. **Things.** In what year was the M113A1 introduced into Australian service?
4. **Events.** In which conflict did Australia first deploy Leopard tanks?
5. **Trade.** If 10 vehicles are in a convoy and they are exactly 100m apart, what is the distance from the front of the first vehicle to the front of the last?



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



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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. 20 May 1986, Bandiana Victoria, LT Andy Adams; 2. Cabarlah, Qld; 3. 1964; 4. They didn't; 5. 900m or for those who are a little more pedantic, 900m plus the length of the first 9 vehicles, assuming of course that saying the vehicles were 100m apart meant that there was 100m from the back of one vehicle to the front of the next.