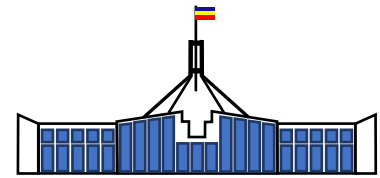




RAEME in ACTION



The newsletter of the ACT RAEME Association

Number 17: April 2024

For the attention of:

Members and supporters of the ACT RAEME Association

For the information of:

Members and supporters of all other national RAEME Associations

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President's Message

Greetings All, I hope that you all were able to enjoy Easter and spend time with family and friends. Our next Association gathering is on ANZAC Day and I encourage all of our members to take the opportunity to either join the march and/or the gathering at the Olim's Hotel; I know that it is a very special experience for me and I look forward to seeing you there on the day. One of our very active Corps members, Steve Howells, was recently presented with his third Federation Star to acknowledge his 50th year of service. I would like to join the rest of the Corps in congratulating Steve on this milestone; legend! This month, Ian has included an article on the trial of the Mog and Mack; and having lived with the outcome and participated in the project for the selection of the next generation of trucks (with the acquisition just about complete), the requirement to operate in challenging terrain in 'adverse' weather and keep the fleet available and mobile seems to be pretty consistent across the ages (and I suspect in the Matt Stone racing team!). For all of us non-cyber warriors, the article on Scam Awareness is worth a read; knowing who you are and what you have is one thing, keeping it that way is another. Stay safe and well, APA

Getting our ACT together

Members, families or friends from other Associations who are visiting the ACT region are welcome to join us at our upcoming events. A reminder for each activity will be emailed to all Members in the week prior to the event. Further details can be found at: <https://act.raeme.org.au/>.

Put these dates in your diaries today!

Date	Time(s)	What	Where	Detail
Thurs 25 Apr	0930h→	ANZAC Veteran's March	Australian War Memorial	Link
Fri 3 May	1230-1400h	Informal Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club	Link
Tues 28 May	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Legend	 Mixed Lunch	 Informal Drinks	 Spanner Club	 Significant Event
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50 Years of Service

RAEME Major Steve Howells was recently presented with his third Federation Star by Major General David Thomae, AM Commander of the 2nd Division to acknowledge his 50th year of Dedicated Service!

Steve has been a great contributor to our Corps, commencing his journey as a 28th Intake apprentice Electronic Technician graduating in 1975. His service has included deployments to Afghanistan (ICAT) and IRAQ 2003. After achieving the rank of WO1, Steve was then commissioned and continues to serve today. He is kept pretty busy dedicating his duties as a SERCAT 5 in ACAU, focusing on NPMA work and also within the HOC Cell.

Also, Steve is Honorary Life Member No.8 and Chairman's Award recipient No.12 of the RAEME Association Queensland. He has supported the Association over many years in a number of appointments.

Congratulations Steve! Over half a century of service to the Corps is a remarkable achievement, and you continue to serve. Well done!



MAJ Howells (28th Elec Tech) being congratulated by WO1s Amir Tito (41st F&T) and Kev Bishop (2/91 VM)

RAEME Rum

Due to popular demand, the RAEME Association Queensland Rum is back!

The Corps, with a rich history dating back to World War II, this association brings together past and present members of the Corps, fostering camaraderie and support among its members. The organisation plays a crucial role in promoting and recognising the corps and its achievements via independent memorial, celebratory, social, fundraising, sporting and other activities.



This inaugural rum has been handcrafted in Queensland by Milton Distillery, blending the Corps and Distillers principles of innovation and creativity. This unique spirit uses a vapour infusion method influenced by gin distillers, making it one of the first vapour infused cane spirits on the market. This spirit will change your perception of rum.

You can buy your bottle for \$90 from the supplier at: <https://miltonrumdistillery.com/product/raeme-rum-2023-limited-edition/>. Members of the Qld RAEME Association get a \$10 discount but they need to go through a member's only link on the Qld website.

ANZAC Day 2024

The War Memorial Parade Ground will be open for this year's ANZAC Day Veteran's March. This provides us the first opportunity to reform as a large contingent to march together. Maximum attendance for this year's ANZAC Day march is therefore highly encouraged, as is our regular gathering at Olim's after the parade for drinks, chats and sharing of memories (true or otherwise).

Key activities are:	4.30am:	Serving and retired ADF members read excerpts from letters and diaries of Australians who have experienced war first-hand.
	5:30am:	The Dawn Service
	9:30am:	The National Veteran's March commences with the ACT Association marching proudly behind our banner. The Anzac Day address to the nation will conclude the commemorations.
	~11:30am:	RAEME Association gathering at Olim's Hotel post-march.
	4:30pm:	The Anzac Day Last Post Ceremony at the War Memorial.

RSVPs for function planning required ASAP

If you haven't done so already, please RSVP for the post-march gathering at Olims ASAP (for catering purposes). To do this:

- Click on: <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/66-anzac-day> This will open the event listing on the Association website.
- Click on the "RSVP link at the top. A new window will open for your RSVP details.
- Enter your name, email address and the number of people who will be attending in your party (including yourself)
- Click on the "Add Ticket" button. A line of text will appear at the bottom of the screen to note that you have correctly added a ticket. If you change the number of people, you will need to click on "Add ticket" again.
- Click on the "Save" button at the bottom of the page. If this worked, you will back to the event.

ANZAC Day Nation-wide

Adelaide

Dawn Service: 0500h at the SA National War Memorial

March: Stepping off 0930h. FUP for Gp 12 is nth side of Grenfell St fronting on to Pulteney Street.

Function: West Adelaide Football Club, 57 Milner Road Richmond

RSVP: For catering, RSVP NLT 15 Apr to raeme.sa.association@gmail.com or 0412-021-411

Brisbane

Dawn Service: 0428h sharp at Brisbane City's Shrine of Remembrance, Anzac Square but arrive early (around 0330h) as the crowds can be quite large.

March: Stepping off at 1000h in Adelaide St, City

Gathering: Post-march meal at the Port Office Hotel. Tickets will be required to enter before 1400h. Tickets will be \$25 per head if ordered early or \$35 at the door (if still available)

RSVP: Tickets will become available: <https://www.qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>

POC: DeputyChairman@qld.raeme.org.au

Darwin

Dawn Service: 0600h at the Cenotaph

March: 0845h form up on the Esplanade for 0900h start.

Hobart

Dawn Service: 0600h at the Cenotaph, Queens Domain

March: 0930h preassemble at Customs House Hotel on Murray St, 1045h Assemble in Macquarie St (near Victoria St) for an 1100h step-off

Lunch: 1230h at Customs House Hotel, Murray St.

Launceston

Dawn Service: 0600h at the Cenotaph

March: 0830h pre-assemble at Launceston RSL, Wellington St, 0915h Assemble in Charles St (near Green GP) for 0945 step-off

Lunch: Launceston RSL, Wellington St after the march.

Melbourne

Dawn Service: 0530h start at the Shrine of Remembrance but arrive early (around 0500h) due to crowd.

March: Stepping off 0900h from Flinders St opposite the Station, near Young and Jacksons Hotel

Perth

Dawn Service: 0550h start from the State War Memorial, Kings Park but arrive early (around 0430h) as the crowds can be quite large.

March: Stepping off from 0900h from St Georges Terrace

Gathering: Rubix Bar and Restaurant at the IBIS Hotel, 334 Murray St from 1000h.

Sydney

Dawn Service: 0500h at 5 CSSB, Holsworthy Barracks. To attend, email your name and ID number to President@nsw.raeme.org.au no later than 12 Apr

March: 0900h assembly in O'Connell St, CBD for 1000h start.

Luncheon: Post-march at the Castlereagh Club, 199 Castlereagh St, City. Cost \$35/head.

Townsville

Dawn Service: 0520h at the Anzac Park Cenotaph or 0540h at Thuringowa Cenotaph, Riverway Precinct

March: 0830h assembly the Strand Park for 0900h step-off

Function: Post-march (but open from 0630h) at Flynn's Hotel. Wear/carry something RAEME-related for entry or be escorted by someone with this.

Wodonga

Dawn Service: 0545h in Woodland Grove on High Street

March: 1000h assembly in top carpark of Wodonga RSL, Reid St. Look for Apprentice flag.
1030h form up where directed by marshals for a 1045h step-off
1100h Memorial Service in Woodland Grove on High Street

Gathering: Post-march at the Wodonga RSL sub-branch for refreshments and traditional games.

Looking Back

Most who have served in recent years would be familiar with the ubiquitous Mercedes Benz Unimog, or “Mog” as they are affectionally known as. What is less well-known is how this truck was selected and who its competitors were. Thankfully, we get to learn more about this selection when looking back into *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, Edition 3 of October 1979.

TRIAL TRUCKS ON SHOW

by Major M.H. Drechsler

It is already fairly common knowledge that trials have been underway for some time on a range of new Trucks, Medium, for the Australian Army as part of an ongoing policy of updating our equipment.

Having some involvement in this policy I was given the opportunity of attending a demonstration of the trucks undergoing trials, at Puckapunyal Range. Anyone knowing the area will agree it is a good testing ground for any military equipment and, after a period of adverse weather, even better.

Such were the conditions on the 28th July when representatives of the Department of Defence, the Navy Office (one observer) and I arrived at the demonstration area, accompanied by Major G.J. Clarke, OC Medium Truck Trials Team (MTTT).

Before being put through their paces the trucks, which included the Mercedes Benz Unimog GP 4 tonne 4 x 4, the International 5 ton GS 6 x 6, the Mack RM 6866RS 8 tonne 6 x 6, the Hino ZC 121E 8 tonne 6 x 6 and the Leyland Mastiff 8 tonne 6 x 6, were driven to a viewing point where they were identified and their characteristics explained by Major Clarke.

The International was being used for comparative purposes only but, like all the others, carried a full load, to make the trial more realistic.

Each of the vehicles in the 8 tonne range is designated by initials which identify the manufacturer, for example, MA – Mack, LL – Leyland and HN – Hino, and a number to indicate the trial extras added to a particular vehicle. The number “1” told observers that it was fitted with an EDE 28V Alternator, a “2” that it was fitted with a winch and a “3” indicated it was fitted with a crane.

The demonstration run involved an attempt to climb a steep hill, a turn to traverse the side of the hill, turning back toward the viewing point, crossing to the left to emerge over a bank followed by the negotiation of a series of bumps to show any possible chassis distortion.

The adverse weather had caused the whole course to be somewhat water-logged and, inevitably, the trucks experienced

difficulty climbing the hill. The Mack truck made an early turn on to the side slope as a result and the only vehicle to reach the top of the hill was the Mercedes Benz.

Following the driving demonstration, we were given the opportunity to inspect the vehicles and observe demonstrations of the cranes loading and unloading cargo.

Apart from the general inability to negotiate the steep hill the demonstration was most impressive and well organised, including the hospitality on our arrival and prior to our return to Canberra. Vehicle trials of this nature require considerable effort and, of course, RAEME support which is provided by three officers and fifty seven other ranks which include drivers, clerks, storemen, cooks, vehicle mechanics, a recovery mechanic (just in case, of course!), a medical assistant and a couple of photographers.

The RAEME element is naturally responsible for the maintenance and servicing of all trials vehicles and a maintenance evaluation of them, too.

Whilst in Puckapunyal the MTTT uses the facilities of Puckapunyal Workshop but, during hot wet trials in the Innisfail – Cowley – Tully area and the hot dry trials at Woomera, South Australia, the team will have to manage as best it can.

The MTTT was formed in February of this year with a skeleton staff of four with the special responsibility of evaluating the operating characteristics, advantages and shortcomings of all the vehicles under trial under specific conditions whilst performing first, second, third and fourth line transport tasks. The tasks are planned for completion in April 1980 when the MTTT will be disbanded.

The end result, some time later, will be the introduction into service of new 4 tonne 4 x 4 and 8 tonne 6 x 6 trucks which we, in RAEME, will no doubt get to know very well in the years ahead. In closing, I would just like to take the opportunity of publicly thanking the MTTT for arranging a very good demonstration and providing adequate information for the visitors, much of which is included in this article.



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4



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2



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3



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1. Side on view of the Mercedes Benz Unimog GP 4 tonne 4 x 4 with full load.
2. “How can I get more height out of this thing?” – the Leyland Mastiff at work and ready for working on.
3. The Mercedes Benz Unimog with bonnet removed for driver maintenance tasks.
4. The Hino 8 tonne returns over the bank.
5. The International with which every other vehicle was compared.
6. The Hino stable revealed – 190KW @ 2300 RPM (255 BHP).
7. The Mack proving its lifting capability.

Job Opportunity – Australian War Memorial Council

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs recently announced that the Australian Government will, for the first time, be inviting expressions of interest from the public to fill future Australian War Memorial Council positions.

A number of appointments to the Council are due to expire in coming months. To ensure the business of the Council can continue uninterrupted while the expression of interest process is underway, the Government has made the following short-term reappointments to the Council to 30 June 2024.

- Mr Glenn Keys AO (a former RAEME member)
- Ms Catherine (Rhonda) Vanzella OAM
- Mrs Josephine Gabriella Stone AM
- Major General Aziz (Greg) Melick AO RFD FANZCN SC (Retd)
- Susan Josephine Neuhaus AM CSC

The Government is seeking a broad range of candidates with diverse professional and lived experiences from across Australia to enrich the Memorial's knowledge and capacity to deliver its objectives.

Candidates who have strategic senior leadership or board experience, possess subject matter expertise relevant to the functions of the Memorial and have a deep understanding of Australia's military history and commemoration of military service, including family who have loved and supported them, are encouraged to apply.

The expression of interest opened on Saturday 23 March 2024 on the DVA and the APS Jobs websites, and will be progressively published in various media outlets and DVA & AWM LinkedIn and other social media accounts.

Expressions of interest close at 11:59pm AEST on Sunday, 5 May 2024.

To find out more about this opportunity, or to apply for the position, please visit the DVA job website at:

<https://dvajobs.nga.net.au/cp/index.cfm?event=jobs.checkJobDetailsNewApplication&returnToEvent=jobs.processJobSearch&jobid=1B963A9D-4EB6-4398-8C3D-B13701048AE0&CurATC=EXT&CurBID=8B5941B9%2DD67D%2D4B0C%2D933D%2D9DB401353EDE&jobsListKey=b36ec2cf%2D1318%2D4f16%2Dba87%2D334670b157fb&persistVariables=CurATC,CurBID,jobsListKey,JobID&lid=33826410262&rmuh=B240884357D24A97E62B7BD70CA163DDE9B70663>



Matt Stone Racing + RAEME = SUCCESS!

Author: Adam (Irish) Ireson

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Matt Stone Racing (MSR) team and RAEME, two local Melbourne RAEME Technicians volunteered to support MSR at the Melbourne SuperSprint, Formula 1 over the period 20 to 24 Mar 24; Wes and Adam "Irish" Ireson. Wes had supported MSR at The Bend in 2023, but it was a first for Irish to work with the MSR team.

Day 1 - Wed, 20 Mar 24: It was an early start, meeting the MSR team at the front gate of Albert Park. Day 1 is all about the setup. First order of business was setting up the Team Pit Tent. Unlike some races, where the Team truck is directly behind the pits, at Albert Park, the truck is about 1 km from the Pit Tent. So, besides the larger equipment and vehicles which were dropped off at the Tent, everything else needed to be ferried from the truck. The Pit Tent started like a blank canvas, and was soon transformed into separate areas for each car, storage areas for all the equipment, all the sponsorship banners and shields, and areas for the family to watch the race, race engineers, tyre technicians and communication team.



Once the basic area was set up, it was getting the vehicle scales set. The scales are required to be setup with a laser level to ensure they are perfectly level. This gives an accurate base that all weights, suspension setting, steering adjustments and gauging is conducted from for the remainder of the race meeting. As we learnt, when the vehicle has the setting wheels fitted and it is lowered on the scales, it is called "On the Patch".



Each of the RAEME Technicians were allocated to one of the race cars. Wes was allocated to Car 4, Cameron Hill, and Irish was with Car 10, Nick Percat. Each of us worked closely with the Number 1 and Number 2 Mechanics, helping them with anything they asked.

With the Patch setup, it was time to get started on the vehicles. The team had a list of adjustments and changes the engineers wanted us to make. Without much experience on the Supercars, the Number 1 and 2 mechanics would explain everything to us as we went.

Day 2 - Thurs, 21 Mar 24: It was another early start as the team had their busiest race day of the year, with two x practice sessions, 2 x qualifying sessions and a race scheduled. Each time the vehicles were out on the track, the pit crew would take a tyre trolley and toolbox up to pit lane. It was about a 500m walk through the pit tents, behind pitlane, then down in front of the Formula 2s. The tyre trolley was loaded with a couple sets of wheels, nitrogen cylinder and a tyre deflator gauge. The tool boxes were loaded with all the tools and spare parts required for the session, along with two nitrogen cylinders; one for the spike (vehicle air jack system) and one for the rattle gun.

The practice and qualifying sessions are very busy in pit lane. The vehicles run a couple of laps, then come in for suspension, brake and steering adjustments, as well as new tyres or tyre pressure adjustments. At the completion of the adjustments, the engineers would either rush to get the vehicles out behind another car, or hold the vehicles until another team would leave. These tactics, which all the teams seemed to be following, would allow the drivers to exit pit lane behind another car and slip stream them around the track.



In between each session the pit crew would wheel all the equipment back to the tent. When the vehicles would arrive after qualifying session or races, they would be placed in 'Parc Ferme', which meant we could not touch them until they were cleared by the SuperCars officials. They would randomly select a couple of vehicles to be scrutineered, where they would be weighed and tested with gauges to ensure the suspension and body panels were within the regulations.



When the vehicles were released from 'Parc Ferme', it would be all hands on-deck to get ready for the next session. The race tyres would be removed, the Patch setup and the vehicle would be checked over from front-to-back. The engineers and drivers would review the data and give the mechanics a list of changes to make. These could be adding / removing shims to adjust the steering and suspension, or changing out suspension and brake components. It would also be the time where we would get stuck in to cleaning the cars – It is amazing how much rubber, bugs and debris get caked on the cars. After each session, the cars were cleaned with special sprays and cleaning cloths. After most races, the front splitter would have so much debris, that you would have to remove the grill and splitter to clean out the air intakes. Then you would have to assist with all the patches and repairs. We would be given a 30-second debrief on how they



wanted us to repair the carbon fibre panels, then we would get stuck in with cable ties, race tape and rivets to make it look like new again (at least from a distance it did). Sometimes we would be patching up or replacing the stickers, other times panel beating the heat shields. No job was too big or hard, it was all great fun and done with smiles on our faces.

Cameron Hill, Car 4, ran a good race, finishing in a respectable 13th place. Nick Percat, Car 10, came across the line in third place, but was given a five second penalty, which dropped him to sixth place for Thursday's race (Race 3).

As part of the SuperCars rules, the pit crews have to be out of the pits a set time after the race, and can't start until a certain time before the next day's race. This meant we had to be out of the pits by 2200h on Thursday night.

Day 3 - Fri, 22 Mar 24: After such a busy day on Thursday, it was quite a change of pace on Friday, with only one race scheduled. This gave the team plenty of time to go over the vehicles and make any changes or repairs that weren't finished on Thursday. Car 4 required plenty of zip ties to hold the rear bumper together, while car 10 was discovered to have a cracked engine mount. This meant we had to take out the exhaust manifold, starter motor and a few other bits to allow them to get in and run some fresh welds.

Then, the vehicles were back on the patch for more suspension adjustments and checks, before being wheeled over to the official SuperCars scales for double-checking. And of course, there was always a chance for a bit more patching and cleaning.

Friday was race 4. Cameron Hill, Car 4, ran a good race. After making up multiple positions, he was unlucky to be taken off the track by another car that had locked up coming in to a bend. This took him back to 20th place for the race. Nick Percat moved up some 10 positions and finished well in sixth place. With just the one race for Friday, it was tools down at a much more respectable 1900h.



Day 4 - Sat, 23 Mar 24: Saturday was another early start. After a quick breakfast at the team truck, it was time to open the Pit Tents at 0700h. Saturday was filled with two qualifying sessions and one race. The qualifying sessions were very similar to Thursday. It was multiple times back-and-forth to the pit lane. This time around there were less suspension and steering changes, as the cars were becoming pretty well tuned for the track and the drivers. There were still plenty of pit stops, with minor tweaks, tyre changes and tactical staging to assist the drivers get their best lap times. During the race itself, there were no pit stops. Being Sprint races, of only 14 to 30 laps, there was no chance of being competitive if you had to make a pit stop. You would have lost too many valuable seconds.



Cameron Hill, Car 4, started well in 11th place. Unfortunately, he missed a braking marker and ran wide through the chicane, dropping him back to 15th place. Nick Percat ran another good race, moving up from near the back of the pack (18th place), up to ninth place.

Saturday's race resulted in a little more panel damage for Car 4 (nothing a few more zip ties couldn't fix). There was also a fair bit of damage to Car 10, including front splitter, grill, front quarter panel, rear



bumper and passenger sill. With too much damage to the front splitter and grill for repairs, it was decided to replace them with new ones. The remaining repairs included some surgery with race tape and zip ties, and patching or replacing the stickers to cover up all the battle scars. With all repairs complete, it was a rush to roll the vehicles over to the official SuperCars scales just before the 2200h curfew. With all measurements tested to be within regulation, there was just enough time to roll the vehicles back and throw the covers on for the night.

Day 5 - Sun, 24 Mar 24: With the final race scheduled to start at 1025h, it was another early breakfast at the team truck, followed by opening the pits at 0700h. With another glorious day of weather forecast, the vehicles were dialled in to their limits for the final day of racing. The previous qualifying session on Saturday had Cameron Hill starting in 11th and Nick Percat starting in fourth place on the grid. It was a great start to the race, with Nick moving up to third, before first and second place having a spin, and leaving Nick in front of the pack. Cameron worked his way through the pack and was sitting in sixth place before yet another hit from one of the other cars took him; resulting in him finishing toward the rear of the group. Nick however had an excellent race, holding off the fast-finishing Redbull cars of Will Brown and Broc Feeney. For the first time this season, the Redbull cars did not finish in first and second place. It was a close finish, with Nick running out of fuel shortly after crossing the finish line.

With the race won, Nick was off to the podium for his trophy. Meanwhile, the pit crew had to push his car back down pit lane. Once the Formula 2 had rolled out of the pits for their race, it was back through pit lane and back to the Pit Tent area. With Nick winning the race, it was off to scrutineering for Car 10. With no issues at scrutineering, it was back to the pits for 'Park Ferme'. While waiting for the officials to release the cars, it was time to start packing down anything that wasn't needed. This was mixed with Nick and the Team conducting multiple interviews with media outlets, lots of high fives and hugs from the families and sponsors, and some happy snaps with the trophy.

In Addition to the first-place trophy for race 6, the MSR team was also awarded the team trophy. What a great way to finish up the weekend.



End-ex. With all the celebrations complete, it was time to collapse the Pit Tent. Down came all the sponsor banners, all the separate areas were packed in to trunks, tools and equipment was packed up, power cables were wound up, and anything that could be wheeled over to the team truck was taken. The large trunks and vehicles were left for the team to load up when the team trucks could roll in after the completion of the Formula 1 race.

For the two RAEME Technicians it was the end of a busy few days. The whole team went back to the team truck for a late lunch and farewells. We worked hard and made some new mates. Matt Stone and the team were incredibly gracious and thankful for our support. We went away with some new skills, another item ticked off our bucket lists, tired bodies, the team shirts and hats that we wore as part of our uniform and memories that we will keep forever.

Volunteering to support the MSR Team is well and truly worth the lack of sleep and hard work. The team at MSR are not too dissimilar to RAEME. They are a professional, hard-working group, that love a good laugh and a bit of banter. Any current serving technician that is keen on motor racing and wants to try their hand at something new should speak with their chain of command and volunteer for the next race in their local region.



This is a great opportunity for our members, and another reason to love our great Corps.

Arte et Marte



Editor: Click here to see the MSR Team enjoying the Army experience: <https://youtu.be/8A0gi5olQQQ>

Invictus Australia – Exciting Canberra Community Defence Day Filled with Sport, Social Connection and a New Milestone

Author: Sara Pizzinato

Source: <https://invictusaustralia.org/canberra-defence-day-2024>

Sunshine, smiles, and a spirit of inclusivity filled the air at Invictus Australia’s Canberra Sports Day, marking a momentous occasion – surpassing 10,000 veterans and family members supported through sporting events.

Held at Tuggeranong Archery Club, the day welcomed over 700 veterans and family members of all ages and abilities, who enthusiastically participated in a diverse selection of sports, spoke to ex service organisations who could offer them support and connected with those in their local community with shared experiences.

The third annual Sports Day could not have been possible without Stephen Slack, Invictus Games Alumnus, who knows first-hand the importance of sport in a veteran’s recovery journey.

Slack was diagnosed with mental health and physical injuries in 2019 which led to him being discharged from the Defence Force after back-to-back deployments. He credits archery to getting him up off the couch and reconnecting with his local community. His skill and interest in the sport led to him being selected to represent Australia at the Invictus Games The Hague 2022.



Steve Slack (right) and Nicole Lawder MLA at the Tuggeranong Archery Club

” Whilst I am shooting arrows, wheeling a rugby chair around, coaching or volunteering, there is no time for negative thoughts, and it makes me move and get off the couch. Sport provides me with a purpose, and like a bow and arrow you sometimes need to go backwards to go forwards to reach the target.” – Steve Slack.

Slack has been part of this day since its conception three years ago and continues to facilitate the use of Tuggeranong Archery Club each year to be used for this important event for the local Defence community.

Along with the more than 700 veterans, it was so valuable to have Senator David Pocock and Nicole Lawder MLA in attendance to experience the power of sport on the Defence community, as well as chat to local current and former serving veterans to help identify areas where support is needed in their local community. Reflecting on the event, Senator Pocock described it as a success.

“Sport is at its best when it is creating safe spaces for people to come together, to connect, to challenge themselves and really create a community.” SENATOR DAVID POCOCK

Continued Support from Corporate Sponsors

We were so lucky to have the support of two of our Premier Partners, NEC and IPAR, who brought the fun with them by donating an ice cream van and lawn games which became a favourite among the attendees – especially the kids!

Jamie Hollebhone, Director of Commercial Partnerships at Invictus Australia, reflected on what this continued support means for the organisation.

“We are incredibly grateful for the fantastic support we received from our Premier Partners – IPAR and NEC Australia during this year’s Community Defence Day.



Senator David Pocock (right) chats with Invictus Australia’s Debbie Dimmock

Having these leading organisations stand alongside us demonstrates a shared commitment to empowering veterans through the power of sport. We look forward to continuing this collaboration and creating even more impactful events in the future.”



A Day of Sport and Connection

From archery and wheelchair rugby to table tennis, pickleball, and bowls, the event offered something for everyone. For those seeking a high-intensity workout, indoor rowing provided a challenging yet rewarding experience. For those wanting to explore emerging technologies, there was a chance to race drones or try out esports.

This vast array of options ensured that all participants, regardless of physical limitations or experience, could find a sport that would allow

them to connect with the other members of the Defence community present.



It was so lovely to hear the positive effects sport can have on the Defence community through chatting to the attendees of this day. Like that of a defence spouse, who says that sport will be an amazing way for her to form relationships since she is new to the area.

“We moved to Canberra three months ago and don’t know anyone in the community. With my husband away working and two kids to look after, seeing

all these local sports on offer for me and the kids – this will get us out of the house and making friends in the community.” – Canberra Defence Community Day attendee

Special thank you to our sporting partners and the local clubs that were on deck to help facilitate these sporting opportunities: Tuggeranong Archery, Raiders Wheelchair NRL, Table Tennis Australia, Pickleball ACT, Bowls Australia, Rowing ACT, Australian Esports League, Veteran Gaming Australia.

Volunteers: The Heart of the Event

The success of the Sports Day was significantly bolstered by the dedication of a fantastic team of volunteers. These individuals generously donated their time and energy to ensure a smooth-running and enjoyable experience for everyone. From assisting participants with equipment to providing enthusiastic encouragement, the volunteers truly embodied the spirit of Invictus Australia.



We were so lucky to have a number of relevant organisations present to provide advice and support to the veterans and family members that attended. The Defence community was able to connect with key Defence Support Organisations, including DMFS, Defence Health, Defence Bank, Australian Military Bank, Smart Salary, Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, Duntroon Community Centre, Kookaburra Kids, Australian Military Wives Choir, and many others. The conversations had and support provided proved the importance of collaboration when providing support to veteran communities at a local level.



A Milestone and a Promise

The event was the perfect backdrop for an important milestone – surpassing the 10,000 veterans and families mark of participants at community sporting events. Hearing the personal stories of how sport can be essential in the Defence communities’ social connection and wellbeing means there is still so much more of the Defence community that could be positively impacted by sport. We remain committed to expanding our reach and providing even more opportunities for veterans and families to reconnect, rebuild their strength, and rediscover their passions.

When asked to reflect upon this event, it was clear that for event lead and Veteran Engagement Manager Debbie Dimmock, sport is the aspect that makes the day such a favourite.

“Sport has such a powerful impact on the Defence community. It brings people together, helps them find their tribe – whether they want to play in the sports themselves or if they want to volunteer. It gives people a purpose, it is fantastic for physical and mental health and so important for social connection.”
Debbie Dimmock, Regional Veteran Engagement Manager – ACT & Southern NSW

This Community Sports Day was a testament to the transformative power of physical activity, community spirit, and unwavering support. With continued collaboration from volunteers, corporate partners, and sporting and ex-service organisations, we will continue to work to strengthen the lives of veterans and families through sport.

Our local engagement team runs community sports days, and facilitates a variety of sporting events, in the local communities they oversee. To get involved and to be notified of local events in your area, sign up to your local Facebook group below.

Looking to get involved in sport in your region? Connect with our staff through your regions Facebook group or email support@invictusaustralia.org

- [ACT Local Facebook Group](#)
- [SA Local Facebook Group](#)
- [Sth East QLD Facebook group](#)
- [Nth NSW Local Facebook Group](#)
- [NSW Sth Coast Local Facebook Group](#)
- [Victoria Facebook Group](#)
- [WA Facebook Group](#)

**INVICTUS
AUSTRALIA**
.....
UNCONQUERED TOGETHER
.....

Editor: For more information about Invictus Australia, please visit them at: <https://invictusaustralia.org/>

Australian War Memorial News

Sculpture dedication. As reported in the last *RAEME in ACTION*, a ceremony was recently held at the Australian War Memorial to dedicate a new Sufferings of War and Service sculpture, *For Every Drop Shed in Anguish*.

The AWM has now published the video from this ceremony which can be viewed online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxQYNhoAvc>



Touring exhibitions. The following exhibitions are currently touring:

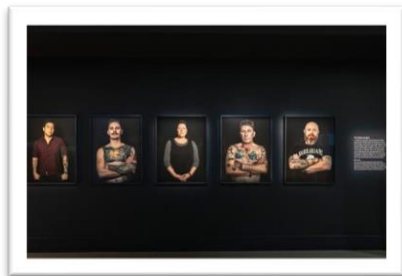


Action! Film and War

ACTION! Film & War follows Australians armed with cameras who have shared their experiences as they record history and bear witness to conflict – either as a professional duty or for their personal record.

Learn more at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/action-film-and-war>

Gallery	Start	Finish
NSW – State Library of NSW	6 Oct 2023	28 Apr 2024
TAS – Queen Victoria Museum	3 May 2024	25 Aug 2024



Ink in the Lines

Inscribed on skin are their identities as veterans, the commemoration of loss, experiences of trauma and overcoming adversity, the bonds of family and friends, and acknowledging the experiences that make us who we are.

Learn more: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/ink-in-the-lines>

Venue	Start	Finish
QLD – Redcliffe Museum	24-Feb-24	12-May-24



Art in Conflict

Art in Conflict is a touring exhibition of contemporary art from the collection of the Australian War Memorial. A showcase of diverse responses to war, the exhibition includes more than seventy paintings, drawings, films, prints, photography and sculptures.

Learn more: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/art-in-conflict>

Gallery	Start	Finish
QLD – Noosa Regional Gallery	20 Apr 2024	09 Jun 2024
NSW – Glasshouse Pt Macquarie	09 Nov 2024	02 Feb 2025



RAEME Nationwide

Happenings across the RAEME National Network include:

- **Queensland.** Our friends in Queensland have been trying a few revised options for gatherings, including off-base Spanner Clubs. These have proven to be a huge success with great turn outs, especially from serving members. Responses they have received are certainly making other Associations jealous. Well done Qld team and well done to those serving members who attend or more importantly, encourage younger members to attend!

Also, the Qld Association recently released their first *Spanner News* for the year. This is quite a comprehensive edition but a key point of interest to me was a great wrap up of 101 Fd Wksp by the ASM. As a former OC 101, it is great to see the workshop kicking goals! 3 CER and 5 Avn Regt also provide reviews of their recent activities.

Our own President, Andy Adams also appears in this edition of *Spanner News*. The Qld team included a letter Andy wrote about the spirit of RAEME whilst approaching the end of his tour in Afghanistan and also the end of his lengthy career in uniform. It is well-worth a read (starting Page 18). You can download this edition to read more about these inclusions and much more at the Qld Association website at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/> (under *Publications*).

- **South Australia.** Our SA brethren recently released their latest Newsletter in which John Prince introduced himself to the membership as their new President and thanked them for entrusting him with that role. As a long-serving member of our Corps (who I have known since the 80s), the SA Association is in good hands. We also wish outgoing-President Richard Moyses well as he commences his new role in the Top End.

The latest Newsletter also includes a great summary of last year's RAEME Birthday celebrations. It looks like the SA crew really know how to turn it on for a great day out! You can read more about this and everything else going on in SA at: <https://sa.raeme.org.au/>

- **Apprentice Association.** Expressions of interest are sought from members for the AGM and Australian Army Apprentices Association Dinner, to be held at the Maroochy RSL, Sunshine Coast Qld, on 26th October 2024. There will be an all-intakes get-together on the preceding Friday evening, with casual drinks and food at attendees' cost, to see who you can remember and those that you can't. The 2024 AGM of the Association will be held on the Saturday morning starting at 1030 hrs.

Members' attendance is appreciated to see what is happening within the Association and also a chance to be part of the voting for those positions on the Committee that become vacant at the meeting. Or in fact to nominate for a position prior to the meeting. A formal sit-down 3-course meal for Association members and their partners will be held on the Saturday evening at 1830 hrs for 1900 hrs start. Seating will be at round tables to allow easier conversations to be held. To enable the Committee to better select the venues and best pricing we can negotiate, an indication as to the number of personnel who will be attending the get-together, AGM and dinner is required.

Please provide the following information to treasurer@austarmyapprentice.org by 30th April 2024:

Name

Regimental number

Association Membership number

Intake

Total number of personnel attending, i.e., self and how many others?

 Saturday morning AGM YES/NO

 Saturday evening Dinner YES/NO, number

As time comes closer, the Association will provide a registration form which will provide actual pricing. Further details are at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/>

Reunions or Gatherings

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

RAEME Association of Tasmania Reunion

Who: All past and present serving members who have served in Tasmania

Where: Hobart

When: 15 Nov – 1730h for 1800h – Welcome Drinks – Venue TBA
16 Nov – Dinner at Queens Head Hotel
17 Nov – 1230h for 1300h – BBQ lunch at Derwent Barracks

Cost: Dinner cost TBA closer to the event

RSVP: https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php?option=com_rsform&view=rsform&formId=16

Note: The Committee understands the financial burden of travelling to Hobart but needs sufficient numbers to make the reunion viable. If the Committee determines that it is not viable the event will be cancelled and notification will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

This decision will be made by Friday 10th May 2024 therefore please do not make any firm travel plans until after this date.

60 Year Reunion – 19th Intake Vehicle Mechanics

Who: All intakes are welcome

Where: Sunshine Coast TBC

When: 23-26 Apr 2024

POC: Peter Leslie (0413-620-945, Petel28@outlook.com), or
Pete Culnane (0439-726-100)

RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members.

Where: Toowoomba City Golf Club

When: Sun 19 May 2024

Army Museum of SA – History Lunch

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Army Museum of SA

When: 22 May 2024 from 1200-1400h

Cost: \$30 per person (\$25 concession)

POC: Greg Rosser on GregRosser@adam.com.au or 0423-715-464

SE QLD Apprentice Reunion

Who: All apprentices

Where: Bulimba Bowls Club

When: Sat 1 Jun 2024

Reunions or Gatherings continued

Annual OCS Portsea Alumni Lunch

Who: Alumni, Staff and other friends of Portsea are most welcome to attend
Where: Kittyhawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club
When: Tues 16 Jul 2024
POC: <https://www.ocsportsea.org/ocs-alumni-lunch-2024/>

101st Field Workshop Reunion

Who: All past and present members of 101 Fd Wksp
Where: Ingleburn RSL Club
When: Sat 17 Aug 2024
Cost: TBA once locked in
POC: Karen Cairns, karencairns@bigpond.com, 0438-385-109
Michelle Lafferty (nee Bond), dmjjj@bigpond.com, 0404-004-775
Rebecca Yoxall, Rebecca.Yoxall@defence.gov.au, 0414-483-302

RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Who: All past and serving reserve members
Where: Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL
When: Sun 18 Aug 2024

RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Toowoomba Golf Club
When: Sun 18 Aug 2024

RAQ Gold Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC
When: Sat 24 Aug 2024

RAQ Sunshine Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Maroochydore RSL
When: Sat 21 Sep 2024

RAQ Darling Downs RAEME Birthday Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Toowoomba City Golf Club
When: Sun 17 Nov 2024

Defence Capability Symposium Review

Source: [Department of Defence](#)

Senior leaders provided an update on Australia's accelerated capability development to more than 9000 people who virtually attended Defence's Capability Symposium on March 13.

Priorities from the 2023 Defence Strategic Review, such as long-range anti-ship, naval-strike and land-based strike missiles, were shown to be progressing, while a fictional scenario describing the ADF's planned ability to strike targets over hundreds of kilometres showcased the progress of cyber capability.



Vice Chief of the Defence Force Vice Admiral David Johnston said turning the Government's expectations to reality more quickly is an imperative.

He said a strategy adopting minimal viable capability was needed.

"We need to abandon the pursuit of the perfect solution or process and focus on timely and relevant capability delivery, which means delivery to the operators who need it in the shortest possible time," Vice Admiral Johnston said.

A more agile capability acquisition system will be backed up by more frequent updates to Defence strategy.

'We need to abandon the pursuit of the perfect solution or process and focus on timely and relevant capability delivery.'

A new National Defence Strategy document will be released every two years, replacing periodic Defence White Papers.

The first National Defence Strategy is set to be released in coming months and will be the authoritative basis for all Defence planning.

"The biennial cycle gives us the opportunity to determine where we're performing well, where we may have been underperforming and what we will do to shift," Vice Admiral Johnston said.

"The Government is prepared to make hard decisions to cancel and reprioritise Defence projects and activities when they are now less relevant to the environment in which we find ourselves."

Deputy Secretary Defence Strategic Review Implementation Tom Hamilton told the symposium that Defence was making good progress towards delivering a more focused and integrated ADF, capable of responding to increasingly challenging circumstances.

These included:

- accelerated acquisition of long-range strike capabilities
- completion of the Surface Combatant Review and announcement of the Government response
- completion of the Defence Estate Audit
- key changes to Army's units and formations as well as changes to Army's posture
- critical capability acquisition and sustainment outcomes involving C-130J-30 Hercules aircraft and remote and autonomous systems such as the MQ-28A Ghost Bat.

"Defence is working to simplify and streamline its capability acquisition systems. It is focusing on speed to capability and value for money, coupled with appropriate strategy and policy settings across government to reduce the complexity for industry when working with Defence," Mr Hamilton said.

Soldiers Build Relationships and Billy Karts

Source: [Department of Defence](#)

Soldiers from the Army's 5th Combat Service Support Battalion (5 CSSB) put their construction and driving skills to the test building and racing two billy karts in the annual Monaro Billy Kart Derby at Cooma Showgrounds in late February.

It was the first time the soldiers from 5CSSB had participated in the event, an initiative of the Cooma Car Club.

Major Nik Beattie, the operations officer at 5CSSB, said the unit's participation in the derby was a win-win for his soldiers and the Monaro community.

"For our soldiers it was a wonderful chance to get involved with a great community, which we have a growing connection with," Major Beattie said.

"We entered two teams, one from 103 Workshop Company at Holsworthy and the other from 111 Workshop Company at Adamstown [Newcastle]. The soldiers used their military trade, leadership and teamwork skills to build and race the karts, while at the same time demonstrating their commitment to the community."

5 CSSB has a close relationship with the communities of the Monaro and south-east NSW, established during the 2019 bushfires and reinforced during recent training exercises in the region.

More than 50 billy kart teams competed across a number of different categories, using a custom-built track.

Sergeant Martinus Vermast, of 103 Workshop Company, said it was a great test of driving skills.

"We've certainly learned a few things to take into account when preparing karts for next year," he said.

Event coordinator Tony Nassar, of the Cooma Car Club, was full of praise for the soldiers.

"Having the troops take part this year added a whole new dimension to the event and they were great competitors. We look forward to seeing them again next year," Mr Nassar said.

Sergeant Vermast said 5 CSSB was proud to play a key role in enhancing the Army's relationship with the community.

"It was great to get out and be involved directly with the community at an event like today. While the racing was tough and fun, a highlight for us was the chance to interact with the locals, who were keen to look over our vehicles and have a chat about what we do," he said.

Bragging rights on the day went to the team from 103 Workshops, whose driver Craftsman Hugh Polson - on a highset, three-wheeler kart - clocked an impressive 39km/h down the track, which was the second fastest on the day. His efforts led the 103 Workshops team to an impressive overall second place in the open division.

The team from the Adamstown-based 111 Workshop put in a valiant effort, but team driver Craftsman Zac McCloy just couldn't get the speed required from their more traditional lowset, four-wheeler kart.



*CFN Zac McCloy on the track
at the Monaro Billy Kart Derby in Cooma*

DVA: New Veterans' Legislation – How do the changes impact you?

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation/how-do-changes-impact-you>

Last updated: 12 March 2024

Benefits of the Bill

Moving to a single ongoing Act will provide greater clarity for veterans and their families regarding their benefits and entitlements, and address the perception of the inequitable treatment of veterans under the different Acts. Adopting an improved MRCA as the single ongoing Act will mean veterans are treated equitably and not disadvantaged because of when they served.

Those receiving benefits immediately prior to when the new arrangements commence will continue to do so under 'grandparenting' arrangements without any reduction in payments. This is a key feature of the new model that is designed to give financial certainty to veterans and their families. The provisions also operate to ensure that any payments being received will continue to be indexed annually.

The approach will provide greater accessibility to rehabilitation and compensation entitlements that also recognise the unique nature of Australian Defence Force service.

I'm currently covered under the MRCA

Veterans currently with MRCA only coverage would continue to have their compensation and rehabilitation benefits governed under the improved MRCA.

I'm currently covered under the VEA

Veterans with previous coverage only under the VEA may now become eligible for incapacity compensation payments, which were not available under that Act. Incapacity compensation payments are paid to veterans under pension age who are incapacitated for service or work due to service-related conditions, and are calculated based on pre-injury earnings. Under the new arrangements, veterans with VEA eligibility may also be eligible to receive compensation in respect of impairment/functional loss paid as a lump sum under the MRCA. Previously this was not possible under the VEA.

I'm a partner of a deceased VEA veteran

Partners of deceased VEA veterans whose death is due to service would also benefit, as they would have the choice to receive compensation as an age-based lump sum and receive increased compensation, compared to claims made under the VEA.

I'm currently covered under the DRCA

DRCA veterans would also be potentially eligible for increased incapacity compensation payments (i.e. income replacement payments), as incapacity payments under the MRCA include a remuneration loading and are not reduced by a notional superannuation amount. DRCA veterans may also become eligible for the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) and the Gold Card under certain circumstances.

The draft legislation also proposes that DRCA veterans would be able to appeal adverse decisions to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB).

The draft legislation would also streamline the administration of the legislation through merging of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC) into the Repatriation Commission (RC), removing duplication of responsibilities, and providing greater administrative clarity about governance matters.

Over time, the changes proposed in the draft legislation would reduce the burden on veterans and their families, advocates and DVA associated with submitting and processing claims ensuring better service for veterans and families.

What the changes mean

Single ongoing Act – amendments

The key objective of this Bill is to simplify and harmonise the legislation governing rehabilitation and compensation for veterans. This will be achieved by adapting the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) so that it is the 'single ongoing Act' for veterans' rehabilitation and compensation.

The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) and the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) will be closed to new liability and compensation claims from 1 July 2026. The MRCA will be open to claims arising from service prior to 1 July 2004, which previously would have been determined under either the DRCA or the VEA.

Various provisions which had previously operated differently across the MRCA, the DRCA and the VEA will be standardised. This includes retaining war widow/er auto-grants, and posthumous grants of Permanent Impairment compensation [Schedule 1].

Single ongoing Act – enhancements

Proposed changes will see the MRCA enhanced for various entitlements. Enhancements include:

The introduction of a new Additional Disablement Amount (ADA), similar to the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) available under the VEA. Like EDA, the ADA would compensate veterans who are Age Pension age or older and who have a high degree of incapacity due to service-related conditions.

The introduction of 'presumptive liability' which means the Repatriation Commission would be able to specify injuries and diseases that can be determined on a presumptive (in other words automatic unless proven otherwise) basis where they are known to have a common connection with military service.

Consolidation of household and attendant care, travel for treatment, and retention of automatic granting of VEA funeral benefits in the MRCA.

An increase to \$3,000 for funeral allowance for previous automatic grant categories under the VEA, and the availability of reimbursement of funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service related deaths.

The availability to all veterans of the higher travel reimbursement amount, regardless of kilometres, when a private vehicle is used to travel for treatment.

Standardisation of allowances and other payments, including: acute support packages, Victoria Cross and decoration allowances, education schemes, prisoner of war ex gratia payments, and additional compensation for children of severely impaired veterans.

Enhancement of the Commission's ability to grant special assistance to veterans and their dependants [Schedule 2].

Review of compensation decisions

An important benefit of this reform would see the review of compensation decisions standardised across the three Acts. This includes aligning appeal pathways for decisions under the DRCA, to the MRCA. This means that from commencement, initial review of decisions made under the DRCA would be through the Veterans' Review Board (VRB), rather than the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) [Schedule 3].

Merging commissions

It is proposed that the powers and functions of the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission are consolidated, with the Repatriation Commission (originally established in 1920) continuing. This change would give administration of all veterans' rehabilitation and compensation legislation to the Repatriation Commission [Schedule 4].

Repatriation Medical Authority and Specialist Medical Review Council

To enable the change, governance of the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) and the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC) would need to be transferred into the MRCA. Importantly, there would be no change to the functions or powers of either body [Schedule 5].

Disability compensation payments

When a veteran receiving a disability compensation payment (DCP) dies, the payment and allowances stop at the end of the fortnightly pay period before the date of death. Schedule 6 changes the final date of payment of DCP (and associated allowances) to be the veterans' date of death [Schedule 6].

Application and transition

The interaction between the law now, and the law as it will be once reforms commence, are contained in Schedule 7. In addition, transitional provisions are also included, which help the transition from one set of rules to another. For example, the transitional provisions outline how undetermined claims on the day of commencement will be handled [Schedule 7].

Consequential Amendments

'Consequential amendments' are changes that need to be made to other Acts as a result of the reforms being made to veterans' legislation. These changes ensure that existing laws are aligned with and support the implementation of new legislation [Schedule 8].

Examples of how the changes work

A range of scenarios have been developed that demonstrate how the single ongoing Act may impact you.

You can view all such scenarios at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation/veterans-legislation-reform-scenarios/scenarios-single-ongoing-act-consultation>

Alternatively, you can visit this site and select the scenario of interest from one of the drop-down lists: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation/veterans-legislation-reform-scenarios>. The drop-down lists allow you to start by selecting your circumstances from one of the following:

- I currently don't have any claims with DVA
- I have an accepted service-related condition
- I am receiving DCP at the General Rate (10-100%)
- I am receiving DCP at Above General Rate (TPI/EDA/INT)
- I am receiving or have received Permanent Impairment payment(s)
- I am a veteran receiving payments under multiple Acts.
- I am receiving incapacity payments
- I have coverage under the BNT, SEATO, BCOF
- I am a dependant of a deceased veteran

For further information

For further information regarding the proposed changes to legislation, please visit:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/veterans-legislation-reform-consultation-proposed-changes>

Make your voice heard!



DVA – Webinars to provide information about proposed new veterans’ legislation

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/webinars-provide-information-about-proposed-new-veterans-legislation>

Veterans and families are invited to attend online information sessions (webinars) about the proposed [new veterans’ legislation](#).

Three webinars will be held on 3, 9 and 17 April 2024. To participate, go to [How to get involved page of the website](#) and enter your email address. You will then be emailed the links to all of the webinars. Then select the relevant link for the webinar you wish to attend when it starts.

DVA representatives will talk through the proposed changes in detail and offer attendees the chance to ask questions and provide feedback on the draft legislation.

The webinars are part of a broader consultation process underway on the draft legislation, which seeks to simplify the veteran compensation system so that all claims are considered under a single Act.

This legislation reform process was recommended by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide in its Interim Report.

Following the consultation process, amendments to the Bill will be made before it is introduced to Parliament. It is proposed the new legislation would commence on 1 July 2026.

How you can provide feedback

It is important that we hear from veterans and their families, and other key stakeholders, about the proposed legislation changes. Comments on the draft legislation may be made anonymously and will not be published without your permission.

[Submission Guidelines](#) are available to assist you with providing feedback.

Comments close on 28 April 2024.

Website. You can submit your feedback via [this website](#) during the consultation period.
https://dva.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9L03abvVPrHwBE

Email. You can submit your feedback via email to legislation.reform@dva.gov.au.

Post. You can submit your feedback via post: GPO Box 9998 Brisbane QLD 4001

Webinars Webinars are being conducted to provide an opportunity to hear more about proposed legislation changes. DVA representatives will talk through the proposed changes in detail, and you will be able to ask questions and provide feedback. Webinar dates and times are below.

Webinar 1 **Date:** 3 April
Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm AEDT

Webinar 2 **Date:** 9 April
Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm AEST

Webinar 3 **Date:** 17 April
Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm AEST

Click here to attend one of the webinars

<https://www.dva.gov.au/node/21439>

Information sessions

Information sessions will be held in all State and Territory capitals, and Townsville. These sessions will be held with, but not limited to, ex-service organisations, individuals who have provided feedback previously and DVA’s National Consultation Framework forums.

Scam Awareness

One of the more common scam types is that involving sending an official-looking SMS with a link in it for the recipient to click on. Whilst most people tend to ignore such scams and even block the senders, not all are so fortunate. According to a recent study by the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](https://www.abs.gov.au), 2.5 % of persons (514,300) experienced a scam in 2023. In the first quarter of 2024 alone, the Governments Scam Watch website (<https://scamwatch.gov.au>) reported over 45,000 scams recorded and over \$55million lost to scammers.



What you can do to avoid scams

Common scam types include:

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

The first step for dealing with these scams is to avoid them by remaining aware of their existence and by avoiding responding to suspicious links received in emails or SMSs. Official Govt departments will never send an SMS or email with a link to confirm any details, nor will they ask you to pay debts using gift cards.

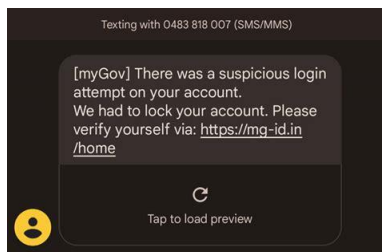


Some of the more sophisticated scams seek to target you in small, continuous amounts. No official agency will ever ask you to send gift cards as payment and none will ever ask you to pay exorbitant fees for “auditing” or to access money you have already “invested”. If you have sent money to a suspected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

In some cases, clicking on a link may have been enough for malware to be installed on some devices. Run your antivirus software on the affected device, and then disconnect your phone from the internet. If you feel confident, you can try the following. Otherwise, ask your local IT service provider for help.

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

What happens if you click on a link in a scam SMS



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

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

The scammers may change your bank account details to their own to divert any payments you may receive to themselves. They can also lodge claims on your behalf in the hope that they will be approved and funds transferred to them. They simply have no regard for you or the impact this will have.

What you need to do if you click on a suspicious link

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

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

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

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

These are just the initial recovery steps. For those who inadvertently click on links, the journey continues.

Remember, the scammers have no regard for you so they will now attempt to steal your identity. When they have enough personal identifying information, they can open bank accounts or even take out loans in your name. As the scammers now have your identity details, it may be time to change some of them. This may include getting a new:

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

Other general tips include:

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

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

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

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

Further support

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

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

To make yourself less susceptible to scams

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



What's on in Canberra

The following public events are scheduled for the ACT region:

Happy and Glorious

- Lead:** The Museum of Australian Democracy
- What:** An exhibition of The Queen's Visit in 1954.
- Old Parliament House was central to the royal tour while the Queen was in Australia and the exhibition is presented in the very room the Queen used while she was at Old Parliament House. You can explore this room in the President of the Senate's suite and see how it was while she was visiting.
- Where:** Old Parliament House
- When:** Daily until 03 May 2024
- Cost:** Free
- Details:** <https://bit.ly/HappyAndGlorious>



Last Post Ceremony

- Lead:** Australian War Memorial
- 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
- Registration:** <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>



View the original Australian Constitution

- Lead:** National Archives of Australia
- What:** Don't miss your chance to view the original Australian Constitution and the Royal Commission of Assent signed by Queen Victoria
- Where:** National Archives of Australia, Kings Avenue Parkes, ACT 2600
- When:** 20 Apr or 17 May only
- Cost:** Free
- Details:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lifting-the-lid-view-the-original-australian-constitution-tickets-803615835597?aff=oddtcreat>



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*.



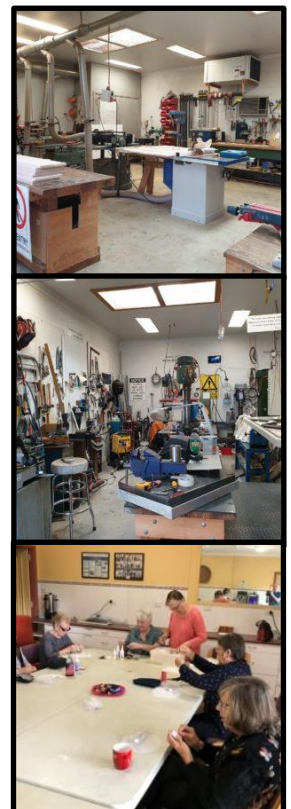
Contact. VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and their web address is: <https://www.vscact.org.au/> The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au.

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 the Department of Veterans Affairs
- 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 1000-12000h (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.

Membership. 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. It also gives access to early notification of a wide range of social activities held by the VSC. The VSC offers a place to get together with a mob of like-minded Veterans.

Cost: \$50.00 Single - \$55.00 Family. VSC warmly welcomes veterans or all ages but like many valuable organisations, they would appreciate the opportunity to support younger veterans.

The VSC membership form may be downloaded from the VSC website or as attached at the end of the January edition of *RAEME in ACTION* (<https://act.raeme.org.au/> Look under Publications).

Did that really happen?

The following is a summarised version of a story published in Edition 1 of *Straight from the Horse's Mouth: 101 Tall Tales from our Nation's Finest Tradies*.

One night during an adventure training activity in a four-wheel drive park, two of the crafties, Jack and Jez, had a bet to see who could chew on super-hot chillies for the longest before having to take a drink. Jez was turning all shades of red and was sweating but Jack showed no reaction. Concerned that Jack was somehow cheating, Jez demanded proof from Jack so he spat the chewed chilli into his hands. He then re-chewed it and spat it back in his hands to prove the chilli had no effect on him.....at least not then. Everyone then grabbed their "lemonades" and sat by the camp fire as Jack ducked over to use the latrine. Unfortunately, Jack didn't wash his hands first so he ended up holding his privates with hands that were covered with chilli residue. Whilst his taste buds could handle the chilli, his little friend couldn't. Jack started screaming in pain. Between laughter, someone suggested Jack should put the nearby garden hose into his shorts. He did this and turned it on full blast but it did nothing other than to make a small muddy puddle in which he was standing. Someone then suggested Jack should cake the mud on his junk. He did but that didn't help. After about 15 minutes of singing and dancing in languages never before heard in that part of the world, Jack finally got his pain levels under control. Most people wash their hands after going to the bathroom. Jack now washes his before as well, just to be safe!

RAEME Humour Book

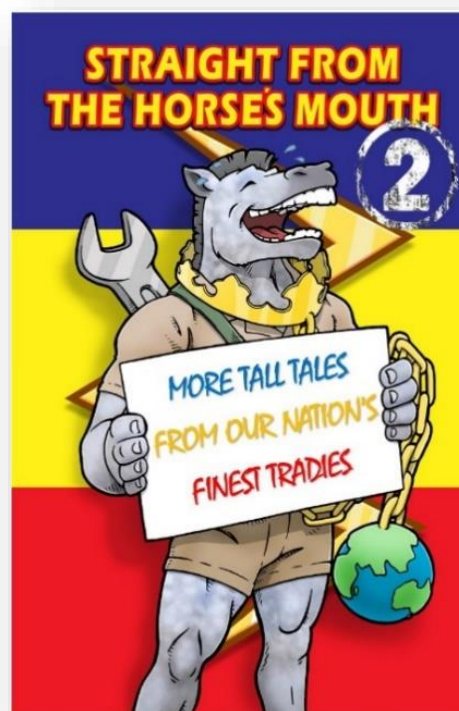
Due to the huge success of the First and Second editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* a third edition is being drafted now. The editors need stories!!

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!

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. Ian also has a handful of copies left for sale (\$20 for Edition 1 and \$25 for Edition 2). He will take them to the next Association gathering. but once they are gone, they are gone!

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online but 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 Cell at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.



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 published relevant to the Corps, please email us at: Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association

