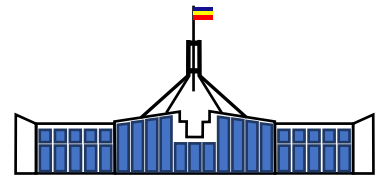




RAEME in ACTION



The newsletter of the ACT RAEME Association

Number 15: February 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 trust this finds you all in good form. Ian has prepared another informative and comprehensive newsletter, including the recent recognition of some of our own on Australia Day. Having had the first-hand benefit of working with (for?) Gwenda over a number of years and roles, I was not only chuffed for her and her family but pleased that her commitment, capability and caring has been recognised in this manner. The same applies to Jeff, Meng and Sean; well done all! Having the first Non-Regimental Tier C WO1 is not only a personal achievement by Jim, but also for the Corps; having the ear of the Chief of Army and his staff is a responsibility that I am sure Jim will both relish and excel in.

Given that it is still early in the year, can I ask that should you see a fellow Spanner in the hallway or around the traps, you confirm that they are on our Association emailing list, and if in doubt, reach out to Ian (his email is to the left) for a list check. Likewise, if you know of someone recently arrived in the region, please point them towards Ian or myself to ensure they receive the monthly newsletters and invitations to our events.

Stay 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
Tues 27 Feb	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 1 Mar	1230-1400h	Informal Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Clun	Link
Tues 26 Mar	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Thurs 25 Apr	0930h→	ANZAC Veteran's March	Australian War Memorial	Link

FEBRUARY						
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			

MARCH						
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

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

Legend



Mixed Lunch



Informal Drinks



Spanner Club



Significant Event

Australia Day Honours 2024

The Australia Day Honours each year give our Nation the opportunity to recognise the service of Australians who go above and beyond for the betterment of our society. This year, we were thrilled to see one of our own honoured; Gwenda Caspersonn. Gwenda was awarded a **Conspicuous Service Cross** for her outstanding devotion to duty as the Army Coordination Officer to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The citation (as published) read:

Lieutenant Colonel Caspersonn's achievements as a Senior Coordination Officer have greatly enhanced Army's reputation as an organisation primarily focussed on the welfare of members and veterans. Through superior stakeholder engagement, leadership and an unwavering devotion to service, she produced outstanding outcomes that directly led to Army meeting its statutory responsibilities in a compassionate, respectful manner. Her professional mastery and authenticity exemplify the finest traditions of the Australian Army.



Other awards to our Corps members around the nation included:

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Mr Jeff Maurice for service to veterans, and to business. In a congratulatory letter, the Federal Member for Fadden, Mr Cameron Caldwell, MP wrote (in part):

Your unwavering commitment to the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association is truly commendable. You have demonstrated exceptional leadership, guiding the Association through a decade of growth and your ongoing support has played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community and support amongst members.



Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

Lieutenant Colonel Meng Wang for meritorious achievement as the Staff Officer Grade One Rotary Wing Development, Headquarters Aviation Command.

Lieutenant Colonel Wang has demonstrated exceptional capability management expertise and strategic acumen in gaining Government approval to rapidly acquire UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters for the Australian Defence Force. His skilful navigation of the One Defence Capability Life Cycle and adept stakeholder engagement produced an exemplar modernisation project within a greatly compressed time period. His leadership and dedication to duty have directly contributed to ensuring a reliable and credible utility helicopter capability within the ADF.

Warrant Officer Class One Sean Weber for devotion to duty as the Regimental Artificer Sergeant Major of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Warrant Officer Class One Weber has been instrumental in proving the concept of Distributed Maintenance Training, championing the General Dynamics Land System – Australia contract renewal, identifying and remediating critical Armour Multi Spectral Surveillance Suite maintainer deficiencies, and involvement in the Regional Sustainment Pool to improve vehicle availability and maintenance processes. Warrant Officer Weber's actions have gone above worn rank, beyond expectations, and greatly enhanced Army's Armoured capabilities.



Well-deserved recognition for fine Corps members who have continually made positive differences not only within our Corps but also across the broader Army and community. Well done, Gwenda and Gents!

Recognition of WO1 Jim Beaman's Appointment

As reported in the Oct 2023 edition of *RAEME in ACTION*, WO1 Jim Beaman was recently announced as the Army's first non-Regimental Tier C WO1.

On 06 Feb, Jim's advancement to Tier C was formally recognised by the Chief of the Army, Lieutenant-General Simon Stuart. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Kim Felmingham, was present in support.

As reported in [Army Newspaper](#) of 15 Feb 2024, Jim's appointment title is "Artificer Sergeant Major – Land". This position was newly created to see a senior enlisted technical advisor in Defence's Land Domain. Whilst he is not officially known as ASM-Army, such a title would be fitting.

In this role, Jim will provide advice to the Chief of Army on the broad range of equipment currently in use but he will also mentor senior WOs in RAEME, RASigs and in RAE technical roles. In a clear sign of support for all technical trades, Jim said his advancement acknowledged the skills that technical tradesmen can provide senior leadership; something not available from regimental WOs. It is clear that the Army's senior leadership is aware of the criticality of having high-level technical advice on hand and the benefit it brings to the Army's capability.

Jim recalled that when he joined in 1991, the most expensive piece of equipment he carried was his SLR whereas nowadays, the service rifle is probably one of the cheapest items and certainly far less technical than the laser range finders, GPS and communications equipment that modern soldiers carry.

For those wishing to advance to such senior positions, Jim's advice is to broaden one's career experience. This can be done through diversity in posting. Positions such as instructional postings allow an opportunity to not only impart knowledge, but also to hone administrative skills. Likewise, a posting to CASG will provide the opportunity to see how Defence equipment is procured and sustained throughout service. If an opportunity for posting to a recruiting position comes up, Jim recommends you take it. This is all very sound advice for anyone seeking to develop in their careers.

Some of you may have noticed that in these photos, Jim is not wearing a RAEME hat badge. The [Army Dress Manual](#) affords Tier C members further recognition in their daily dress in that not only will Jim wear the Coat of Arms as a hat badge (just as the RSM-A wears), he will also wear "Australia" shoulder titles,



Rising Sun collar badges, no lanyard and a range of other smaller changes. He will also transition to Senior Rank Mess Dress. These changes are not to detract from Jim's Corps heritage but to note the Army-wide impact such senior WO1s have and the esteem in which they are held. That said, the Dress Manual consistently refers to "Tier C RSMs" but as Jim is the first non-Regimental Tier C, he may eventually raise a RODUM to have this corrected!

Well done, WO1 Beaman. We all look forward to seeing how you translate your impressive and broad skill set into the action required to support the Army whilst also continuing to advance the importance of our Corps technical trades and the manner in which they can enhance the Army's strength.

Photos: CPL Michael Rogers, courtesy of Defence Media

ANZAC Day 2024

The event with the greatest military significance each year is undoubtedly ANZAC Day.

Pre-COVID, a large RAEME contingent (approx. 40-50+ members) would march behind the Association banner in the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial however during COVID and subsequently due to the construction work at the War Memorial, numbers have typically dropped to around 20.



Thanks to the Australian War Memorial's Director giving his construction team a push in the right direction, **the War Memorial plans to open its Parade Ground for ANZAC Day this year.**

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 for fellowship.
	4:30pm:	The Anzac Day Last Post Ceremony at the War Memorial.

Full details will be promulgated as they are locked in.

Please put this significant event in your diary today!



For more details about the Australian War Memorial's Redevelopment plans, visit their website at:
<https://www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory/ourplans>

Welcome Spanner Club

We held our first Spanner Club of the year at Olim's on Fri 02 Feb.

It was great to see some new faces as well as many of the more regular members.

As has been the experience of Spanner Clubs throughout history, all members enjoyed the opportunity to resolve the world's issues as we all shared our experiences and views on what the future in Defence should look like. In the finest traditions of the ACT Association, we also forgot to get photos so trust us when we say that we had between 1-200 members in attendance!

Of some interest, we also used the opportunity to expand our own knowledge about what changes are being made within Defence such as introduction of new systems such as Enterprise Reporting Program (ERP) which is a single software solution to replace pretty much every other system used in Defence, including maintenance systems. As we learn more about this, we will share more details with all members as I'm sure many take in interest in what is happening in current workshops.

We look forward to seeing more members at the next Spanner Club on Friday 02 Jun or the lunch as mentioned earlier on Fri 01 Mar....which is also the Army's 123rd Birthday!

Army and Navy Adopt New Trades Training System

Source: [Department of Defence](#)

In a move to bolster the technical prowess of its personnel, Navy and Army have introduced a state-of-the-art joint technical trades training system (JTTS).

Geared towards revolutionising trades-related capability, the system has the potential to redefine how technical trades are learned and applied in the field.

Navy and Army signed a contract for the system with Wodonga Institute of TAFE, supported by their National Technical Education Network partners, last year, and Army's training officially began on January 1. Commanding Officer Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Lieutenant Colonel Tim Soper said the project would deliver industry-recognised qualifications to thousands of soldiers and sailors, as well as expand training opportunities in home regions and locations, enabling Defence's training system to meet rapidly changing capability requirements.

"The JTTS contract represents a significant leap forward in our efforts to cultivate a highly skilled and adaptable force," Lieutenant Colonel Soper said. "By harnessing an adaptable and modern training architecture, we are empowering our service members to excel in their respective fields and meet the evolving challenges of modern warfare."

Chief JTTS Officer Adam Jacoby affirmed the commitment to providing Defence with industry-recognised, best-practice training. "Bringing together some of the largest and most respected training institutions in the country in a collaborative and innovative national delivery model will reshape the Defence training ecosystem and be more responsive to the ADF's short- and longer-term strategic objectives," Mr Jacoby said.

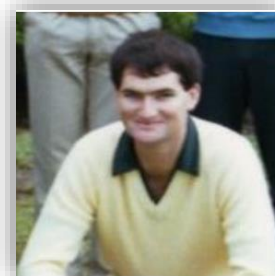
JTTS will deliver capability through nationally accredited and non-accredited technical training pathways to achieve Certificate II, III, IV and advanced trade qualifications in construction, electrical, electronics, engineering, mechanical and, from January 2025, aviation maintenance management (mechanical/avionics).

ADF students who participated in developing the JTTS charter said it was a valuable opportunity to help ensure training was student-focused.

RAEME Nation-wide

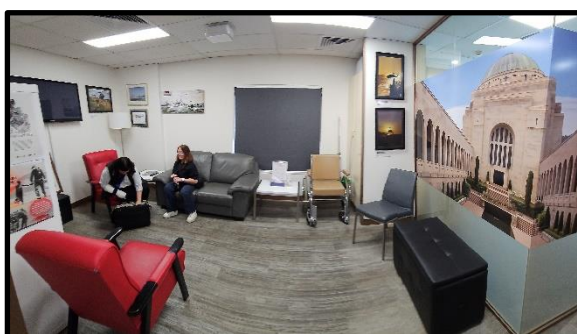
Happenings across the RAEME National Network include:

- **Queensland.** The Queensland Association recently uploaded their plans for impending gatherings and events on their website. The list is too comprehensive to detail here so if you are planning on visiting Qld any time soon, you may wish to visit their website to see if your trip will coincide with any of the scheduled activities. You can find them all at:
<https://www.qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>.
- **New South Wales.** Our NSW brethren will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel & Masonic Club from 1000h on 24 February 2024. All committee positions will be declared vacant at the meeting for members to vote upon either new or current incumbents. We look forward to hearing of the results from this meeting but are confident the Association will move forward in highly capable hands. More details can be found on the NSW Association website at: <https://nsw.raeme.org.au/>
- **Apprentice Association.** The Army Apprentice Association released their latest newsletter, *The Apprentice About*, earlier this month and it is a bumper edition! Aside from including a photo of a much younger Andy Adams, they also include details about various events run around the Corps and some interesting statistics regarding their membership.



Check it out on the Association website at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/>

Canberra Hospital Veteran's Liason and Lounge



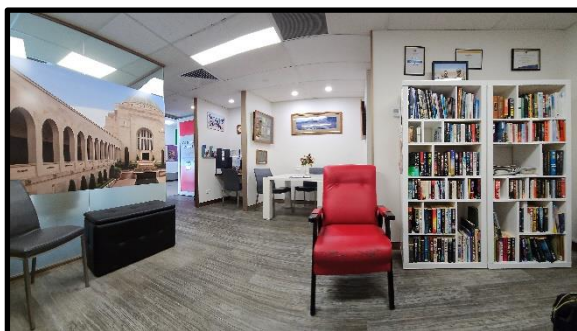
Did you know that Canberra Health Services actively support military veterans and war widow(er)s who are admitted to Canberra Hospital or University of Canberra Hospital. Well, they do and what a great service it is that they provide!

The liaison service is provided by registered nurses who are points of contact for inpatient veteran enquires and assistance.

They are available to give

information about, and make referrals to various Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) services in the ACT and surrounding districts.

There is also a very comfortable Veteran's Lounge in the main foyer of Canberra Hospital. Veterans and/or their families can use the lounge to meet the Veteran Liaison team, have a break from the ward, meet other people, or use as a drop off/pick up point when coming and going from the hospital.



The amazing service provided by the Veteran Liaison team is under threat due to low patronage so if you are anywhere near Canberra Hospital between 8am and 4pm on weekdays, please stop in for a visit. Make sure you sign the visitor's book and comment how valuable the space is so the team can continue to fight the good fight!



More info: <https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/services-and-clinics/services/veteran-liaison>

Corps Update

The following has been summarised or adapted from the Monthly Corps update provided by the Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan.

General

The year has kicked off strong with the Corps leading the way through innovation and change (some forced, others through great foresight).

As the year progresses the Army will see huge changes in order to align to the Defence Strategic Review (DSR). We as a Corps will need to remain resolute and strong, as some of the changes will see us (the Corps) uprooted and /or in new roles not seen in the Australian Army before (more to follow).

Federation Star Recipients

WO1s Rick Colefax and David Clarke recently reached their 40th years of dedicated and valuable service to Army.



Rick, who's service included 3 years as the Corps RSM, has already been presented with his Federation Star however David's will be presented in the near future.

Congratulations, Gentlemen, on stellar careers!

Corps Conference

Submissions have closed for nominations for the location to host the 2024 Corps Conference (Heavy). The lucky location will be announced in a separate email in due course.

Head of Corps will release the minutes for the last Corps Conference (light) soon. This will provide contextualisation of what to expect to be discussed at the 2024 Conference.

Corps Instructions

Corps Instructions recently underwent reviews and rewrites. All are currently with Head of Corps for his consideration and signature.

V8 Supercar Support

WO1 Ben Munro has continued his fantastic work as the conduit between Matt Stone Racing (MSR), the Corps and more widely, the Australian Army. MSR recently formally announced a formal partnership with the Australian Army. Ben was instrumental in development of that partnership. On behalf of the HOC Cell, great work Ben. The opportunities you have opened up for our Vehicle Technicians to gain invaluable experience in a high profile V8 Supercar race team is beyond fantastic.



For those not aware, WO1 Munro has instigated a linkage where up to 2 Vehicle Technicians (local to race locations) will be positioned within MSR for the majority of races throughout the 2024 V8 Supercar season. This will see the Vehicle Technicians attend the workup days (Thursday / Friday) as an induction, followed by the Saturday and Sunday as an integral part of the mechanical team working side by side with the team's race mechanics.

Photo: Courtesy Matt Stone Racing website

RAEME Corps Awards

To all units, please begin to consider nominations for awards to serving members. The Corps RSM will release more information in a month or two (relating to the changes within the Corps Instruction).

Editor's note: I strongly recommend any units wishing to recommend a soldier for an award that you read the relevant Instructions. Having been part of regional selection committees, I can advise that the soldiers who stand above others are those who are well-rounded, ie those who go above and beyond having exceptional trade skills but also are active members of the unit and broader community. It is much easier to select a recipient when the nomination speaks about how much they achieve in different fields as opposed to that one time they did something amazing in the unit, out field or on deployment. The Corps proudly applauds the fine efforts of all members but the broader the range of nominee's high performance, the more likely that member will be selected.

Regional Trade Training

Regional Trade Training (RTT) will be run as a trial for 2024, limited to in-service-transfers to ECN 229 Vehicle Technician in Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane. 9 candidates for this training were identified in late 2023. Each will remain in their existing location to complete their trade training.

RTT is similar to a civilian apprenticeship with trainees undertaking their 'theoretical' learning at a regional TAFE and developing their trade skills in Defence workshops.

The trial commenced in Townsville in January with 2 apprentices completing subjects at the Queensland TAFE campus in Townsville and On-the-Job Experience (OJE) with 102 Field Workshops at 3 CSSB. A further 2 apprentices will commence their training in Townsville in March. The trial will commence in Darwin in May with 2 apprentices completing TAFE subjects at Charles Darwin University TAFE and OJE with 5 RAR workshops. Finally, Brisbane will see 3 apprentices start in July completing TAFE through Queensland TAFE campuses in Brisbane and OJE with 8/9 RAR workshops.

ASEME is currently in discussion with other units in each location to bring on-board more OJE units for each location. The trial will enable ASEME and their Joint Technical Trades Training System (JTTS) contracted partner, Wodonga Institute of TAFE (WIOT), to further develop this training model into a scalable solution for all trades into the future. This will provide an attractive option for potential in-service-transfer that contributes positively to retention, whilst also contributing to capability in unit workshops.

Workforce and Training Group

Workforce and Training Group (W&TG) are working with ASEME to determine the pay trigger point for a member undergoing RTT. For example, currently an ECN 229 studying at ASEME will become ECN 229-2 (Pay Grade 3) at the completion of ASEME residential phase, prior to going on OJT. This is the same point that a trade transfer changes to RAEME and is promoted to CFN. The trigger point for RTT may be '2 years and a minimum of n Units of Competency completed'; with the exact detail yet to be finalised, agreed to by AHQ and then published in the Employment Specifications (ES) at the Manual of Army Employments RAEME page. Serving members can find their current ES by typing 'MAE' in the DPN search bar then select our Corps badge.

Craftsman Magazine

All articles received will be collated and organised by Mr David Clarke for printing. Thank you to all those who have provided an article. I implore you all to save / take note of BDE and/or Unit activities as we move through 2024, so we may have more articles for the next edition.

Corps Shop

The Head of Corps shop is now live. You can find it at <https://raeme.org.au>. Please continue to provide feedback to RAEMEHOCC@defence.gov.au with suggestions for the items you would like to see offered for sale.

Modernised Officer Training Being Trialled

Source: [Department of Defence](#)

A contemporary approach to officer training is being trialled by Royal Military College – Duntroon (RMC-D) this year, condensing the current 18-month program to 12 months. Trainees will receive the same training in a shorter format, meet the same graduation standards and qualifications, and graduate as lieutenants on completion of the course.

Commandant Land Combat College Brigadier Jason Groat said the 12-month officer commissioning program (OCP), being trialled from January 2024 to December 2025, marked a significant development in Army's commitment to deliver an integrated force that meets the requirement to be simple, scalable and agile. "As with all training, we will monitor and evaluate trainees throughout the program. If adjustments need to be made, we will make them," Brigadier Groat said.

The trial OCP will comprise six modules that include practical applications of leadership, command, foundation warfighting and military planning. It is designed to enable the same initial foundation and leadership skills for all officers.

Commanding Officer RMC-D Lieutenant Colonel Brian Hickey said: "As we re-shape and contemporise our training approach to be more effective, the training will retain the same core performance elements and critical skills that are the mainstay of Army's ab initio officer education pathway".

The program design presents an opportunity to increase the speed to capability for service category (SERCAT) 7 generalist officers and inform a training design to benefit other SERCAT and training audiences. Lieutenant Colonel Hickey said the trial aimed to remove duplication by incorporating technology and new methods of instruction that are sources of efficiency and value for training systems and the receiving units.

On July 1, 2023, RMC-Australia and Combined Arms Training Centre aligned to become Land Combat College (LCC) with headquarters in both Canberra and Puckapunyal. LCC is the single training authority that delivers foundational training and combat capabilities for land specialists.

Legal Support to Veterans

Whilst serving members can generally receive legal support through Defence Legal, additional free legal support is available for veterans and their families through the Defence & Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS).

DAVLS was originally established to provide support to people lodging submissions for the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide however that support has now been extended to now include provision of free legal support to serving and ex-serving Australians. That support can include information, general legal advice, preliminary assistance and guided referrals regarding issues such as:

- family law problems (including parenting arrangements and the division of assets)
- veteran entitlements and compensation
- family violence and domestic violence orders
- employment law (including discrimination, harassment, unfair dismissal, and the transition into civilian industries)
- consumer law (including issues relating to insurance, consumer credit and debt)
- wills and estates
- redress for abuse in the Defence Force
- mental health rights
- traffic issues and more.

For more info, visit <https://www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au/> or call 1800-33-1800.

Calling all fighters!

Have you ever felt the need to punch someone but refrained because you didn't think anything good would come from doing so?

If that sounds like you, we may have the remedy; the **Veteran's Challenge Boxing Tournament!**

The Veteran's Challenge Tournament is a charity event to be held at the Hellenic Club on Saturday the 26th of October in partnership with the ACT Branch of the Australian Commando Association. Funds raised will go to support the work the Association does with Special Forces veterans and their families.

The event is open to males and females from around the country who have served, or are currently serving within the Australian Defence Force - even if you have never boxed before. There is also a Masters category, for boxers aged over 40.



Tickets will be available for spectators online closer to the event. Doors open at 6.30pm, with the first fight starting at 7:00pm. A pay-per-view livestream will also be available for purchase, with details to be released in future.

Details regarding this event can be found at:
<https://www.boxingact.org.au/events/212014/>

Australian Military Wives Choir

Are you a lady?

Do you like to sing?

Do you want to meet new friends?

If you answered yes to these questions, then the Australian Military Wives Choir want to meet you.

The Choir is open to women of all ages with a connection to serving ADF or foreign Defence members. Whilst the Choir has the term "Wives" in the title, this is taken to include spouses, partners, girlfriends, mothers, daughters, sisters etc. Female serving members are also welcome.

Having heard the Choir perform, I can confirm that they sound absolutely amazing. For more details, visit the Choir's website at <https://amwchoir.com>.



How Ranks Work in the Military

Some may argue that the key difference between the boy scouts and our politicians is that the scouts are led by adults. When looking at leadership within the military hierarchy, things are a little trickier to decipher. What follows is a guide to how ranks work in the military.

Ranks in the military may be equated to the branches in a tree that is home to a large group of monkeys. Each of the branches may be considered a rank. The higher the branch; the higher the rank.

The branches near to the top are closest to the sunshine, hence are the most desirable. The higher branches also have access to the biggest bananas. As the tree thins near the top, there isn't much room so advancement becomes highly competitive for the monkeys who want to climb higher.

How do the monkeys get to advance to the higher branches? Firstly, it is important to note that any advancement is controlled by the senior monkeys on those higher branches; they are the ones in power and they therefore strongly defend their places on the tree. They do however have the ability to create space for junior monkeys who impress them.

Some of the smarter junior monkeys work hard in the hope that the senior monkeys will see attributes they like. If they do, the seniors will provide extra training to the juniors to help them find an easier path through the lower branches. Sometimes, the senior monkeys will reach down and pull the juniors up to the higher branches.

The more cut-throat junior monkeys stand on the shoulders of other juniors so they appear taller. They may even actively work to highlight the weaknesses of their peers so they appear stronger by comparison. These worrying techniques work for some but they are eventually found to have limited true ability. Any realised gains are only temporary in nature.

Some junior monkeys simply wait for a senior monkey to fall off their branch so they can jump up whilst the branch is still warm.

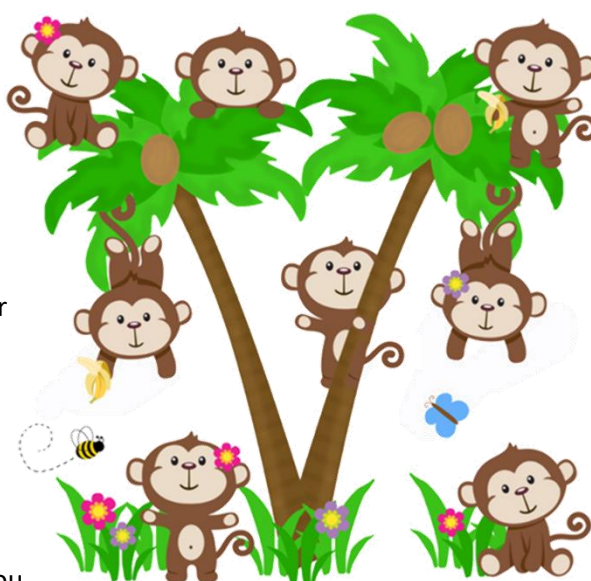
Not all monkeys actively try to climb higher. Some find great comfort in their particular branch and they work hard to stay there. Some recognise the power of the middle branches so they build strong nests and then defend those nests to ensure no other monkey can get in to see the bananas they have amassed or more importantly, the system by which they amassed them.

To ensure a sense of order in the tree, there are strict rules that must be complied with. The more senior the monkey, the greater control they have over those rules but they aren't exempt from them. If a monkey breaks one of the tree's rules, they may have bananas taken from them or they may be forced to a lower branch. They may also be forced to the base of the tree and placed under the control of guard-monkeys for a set period before being allowed back into the tree. Even then, they may not be allowed to return to their original branch but instead be allocated a lower branch. If the tree-rule breach was serious enough, a monkey may be forced off the tree for good.

Some monkeys also choose to leave the tree of their own free will; occasionally because they think that there are bigger bananas in other trees. Some just need a change of scenery and others move on to make room for younger monkeys.

When the senior monkeys at the top look down, all they see are the smiling faces of those junior monkeys who are striving to climb higher.

When all of the monkeys on lower branches look up, all they see are a bunch of monkey's bums and where do you think the poop ends up!



Looking back into *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, Edition 2 of May 1979, we found this interesting story about the early history of RAEMUS Rover.

'RAEMUS ROVER' TAKES TO THE TRACKS

Valuable practical experience gained in preparing for and driving in the BF Goodrich All Terrain Enduro has provided Puckapunyal Workshop Company with an enthusiastic team of off-road rallyists with ambitions to enter their vehicle, "RAEMUS Rover" in future events of this nature.

The Workshop's team, comprising of Apprentices and ARA members of RAEME, were formed when, quite by chance, word was received that the Off-Road Competition Association (ORCA) was organising and conducting such an event on the Puckapunyal Range in February '79. Knowing also, quite by chance of course, there was a series two quarter ton Landrover in the workshop awaiting confirmation of a UR sentence, hasty consultations were entered into with interested parties, approval to compete obtained and the preparation of 'RAEMUS Rover' commenced.

Now, bouncing around in a Landrover over any type of terrain is an accepted feature of an Army driver's role. To do the same thing for fun could, therefore, be considered slightly eccentric, which, of course, it is.

But there is a growing band of eccentric Australian enthusiasts competing regularly in off-road rally events in machines ranging from 1200cc powered overgrown go-karts to V8-powered utilities. The addition of a few more eccentrics with a background of all-terrain driving seemed the natural extension of their profession. Besides, the opportunity for apprentices to exercise their technical knowledge, to develop their repair skills and witness the fruits of their labour being put through an extremely rigorous test was too good to be missed.



Sgt Ian Gough (left) supervises Apprentices Gary White, Brian 'Libel' Droscher and Jim McCarthy preparing 'RAEMUS Rover' for the BF Goodrich All Terrain Enduro.

The task of preparing 'RAEMUS Rover' was assigned to third and fourth year apprentices as a training activity under the supervision of WO2 Peter Leslie and Sgts Ian Gough, Vic Seedwell and Ken Harris. These members of the clean overall brigade developed a sudden urge to get their hands dirty but, with some firm, gentle persuasion they accepted their role in directing "apprentices only". Technical advice was provided by Capt J. A. Lowe, himself a rallying enthusiast.

Off-road rallies appear to have evolved as a result of frustrated farmers giving their children old cars to drive as an alternative to them doing wheelies in the strawberry patches. This form of 'paddock-bashing' became so popular that its enthusiasts formed a controlling body, ORCA, which is a subsidiary of CAMS, the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport, the controlling body for all motor sport in Australia.

The aims of the sport have not changed, however, and still remain "to complete a course of impossible terrain in a wheeled vehicle, as fast as possible, without causing bodily harm to the driver". It should be noted that damage to the vehicle is not considered.

CAMS regulations for off-road rallies are stringent and strictly enforced. To conform to these rules RAEMUS was fitted with a roll cage, four point harness and other safety accessories. The terrain to be encountered dictated the need for other modifications if RAEMUS was ever to finish the event.

The UR Landrover had previously been modified by 4/19 PWLH and entered in the BP Off-Road Rally at Hattah in Victoria. After some enquiries the roll cage, sump guard and other safety accessories which had been removed were located and re-fitted.

In only ten days this very tired quarter-tonner was transformed into a robust, sweet sounding vehicle and was duly baptised — 'RAEMUS', King of the Wheel Removers.

Another set of shockies were fitted to the front suspension to improve stability, reduce the chance of suspension damage and to lessen the load on the driver. Bucket seats with head restraints were installed, to give added security and comfort; the head of the engine machined, ported, polished and double valve springs fitted; the engine itself balanced and dynamometer tested and the sump guard and a tool box fitted.

All the modifications were completed, creditably, by Apprentices Gary White, Gary McConnell, Brett Cox, Mick Callahan, Ray Black, Brian Droscher, Peter Norman and Jim McCarthy and their supervisors, who gave up much of their 'own' time to complete the task. Their obvious enthusiasm prompted the OC to comment that he'd "never seen apprentices work until 2.00 a.m. and on weekends before, without grumbling".

Despite passing the eagle eyes of the CAMS' safety scrutineers the day before the event, the driver, Sgt Vic

Raemus Rover's More Recent Life

Raemus spent about 20 years in storage until she was rescued & refreshed by Team Raemus. When ready, she was raced in the Finke Desert before the chassis broke in several places; the poor old girl had just spent too long in storage. Team Raemus is now completely rebuilding the car to accommodate able-bodies & mobility-restricted veterans alike. She may even get a few more horses under the hood.





'RAEMUS Rover' being put through its paces on a test drive prior to the rally.

Seedwell, was not altogether happy with the performance of RAEMUS' gearbox.

Subsequent examination of the gearbox and transfer case revealed some errors in reassembly after overhaul had been made and a complete rebuild was necessary. Libel laws prevent reproduction of the comments offered the apprentice responsible for the reassembly by his team mates.

Work on the gearbox commenced at 1400 hours on the Saturday and by 0100 hours on the Sunday, the day of the event, the assembly had been removed, overhauled and replaced.

At 0200 hours every nut, bolt and screw on the vehicle was tightened and torqued; the toolbox checked for completeness and the engine tuned to perfection in a final pre-race examination.

The 'RAEMUS' team had their first view of their competitors when they arrived at the venue next morning — all one hundred and fifty-seven of them, ranging from 1200cc dune buggies to \$18,000 V8 Range Rovers. The mechanical preparation and care taken with the external appearance of these vehicles gave some indication of the strength and enthusiasm of the competition. The 'RAEMUS' team, however, had some grave doubts as to the ability of some of the competitors to successfully complete the course.



The one hundred and fifty seven competitors' vehicles ranged from 1200 cc dune buggies to ... Above, one well prepared competitor gets under way.

Our aim was to complete the three laps of the 110 km course without incident. Winning, or winning a prize would be a bonus.

Believing 'RAEMUS' would have a strong advantage over rough terrain in softer ground, the team prayed for rain to create a course better suited to cross country strength and agility rather than speed. It rained — as only Puckapunyal residents know it can, by the tanker load.

The complete pit area and starting grid were laced with torrents of water and subsequent puddles. The three thousand spectators already at the scene returned to their cars or discarded their shoes and waded around regardless.

At 100 hours it was announced the event had been postponed until an examination of the course had been made. At 1130 hours the decision was given that the race would proceed but, owing to the conditions of the track and the possibility of damage to the range, only one lap would be completed. Not expecting anyone to complete the course, competitors were given the chance to withdraw and have their fees refunded. Few, if any, accepted the offer.

At 1155 hours the first vehicle departed in a spray of mud and water and others followed at one minute intervals.



'RAEMUS Rover' sets off to battle the 110 Kilometre course.

'RAEMUS' was not scheduled to leave until 1420 hours which gave the crew the chance to conduct a final check. Sgt Seedwell had complained that the accelerator was heavy and slow to respond. Hand throttle linkages, it was found, had been damaged during preparations and were fouling on the engine compartment. The offending linkages were removed and Vic Seedwell was satisfied.

'RAEMUS' finally faced the starting flag at 1430 hours with driver and navigator both showing signs of anxiety. The flag dropped and 'RAEMUS' roared off, down the straight, to loud cheers from a hardy band of spectators.

By this time the first competitor had completed his lap, his immaculate machine now unrecognisable. Equally unrecognisable were the occupants who expressed their delight at the course claiming it to be the most challenging rally course they had ever seen.

Of the 110 km course, only 25 km could be described as third class tracks.

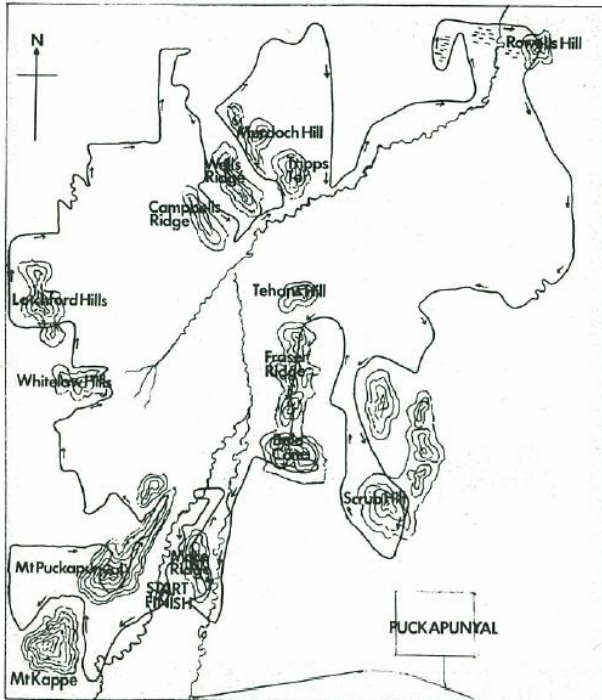
From the start line, one kilometre east of Mt Puckapunyal, near Gardiners Creek, the course headed south, crossed the creek then turned north, running parallel to Mt Kappe and along the Range/State Forest boundary. It then veered east through medium scrub then south again to merge into the east side of Mt Puckapunyal. After climbing Mt Puckapunyal the course followed the

About the RAEMUS Program – Adrenaline Therapy

The concept of adrenaline therapy isn't a new one, the method of how Raemus Rover utilises the highly dynamic genre of Off-Road Racing and combines that with a peer-to-peer counselling and support program is unique. A fully recognised and successful race team in its own right, the majority combat veteran staff, volunteer their time and expertise in providing a very personal experience to assist veterans in transition and reintegration challenges associated with military service.



**B. F. GOODRICH
ALL TERRAIN ENDURO
DISTANCE : 110 KMS.**



ridge then descended along the northern spur and around Boase Hill before rejoining the range boundary and continuing past Whitelaw and Latchford Hills. The track then headed east to Twin Tree Hill, winding in and out of The Campbells, Wells and Whitelaw Ridge features before turning north-east along Gardiners Creek, over Rowells Hill, south across Lyons Hill around Scrub Hill and bounced over the Tank Training Razor Backs.

From Tehans Hill the course turned south over Frazer Ridge and Bald Cone and then followed Bylands Creek south to Warfe Hill, north along Mace Ridge, crossing Gardiners Creek and returning to the start/finish line.

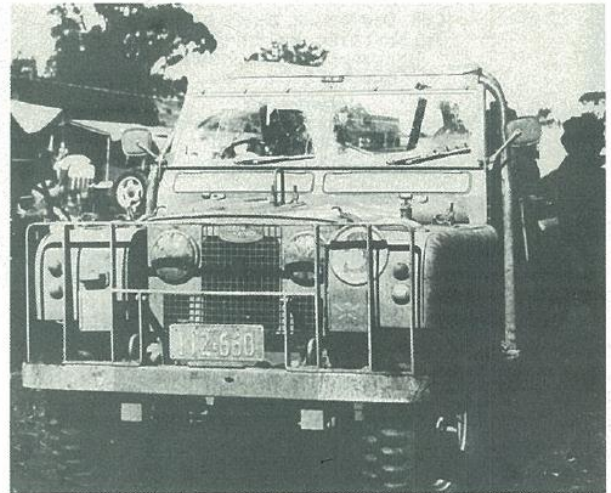
Those readers who know Puckapunyal will appreciate the variation and ruggedness of terrain of the course which also included anything from sand hills to muddy fords and shale rock.

Competitors finishing the course whilst 'RAEMUS' battled on looked as though they had well earned a rest. Cars appeared with smashed suspension arms. Complete wheels were missing or the cars ran on their wheel rims after the crew had used their spare tyres. The course certainly took its toll.

One driver who completed the course told of numerous cars bogged or broken down and one or two that had rolled. 'RAEMUS' by comparison was clean when it finally crossed the line.

The rain had passed and many spectators were getting slightly sunburned. As Capt Lowe commented, "Puckapunyal is one place where you can be up to your neck in mud and still get dust blown in your eyes."

'RAEMUS' had sustained no damage and driver and navigator, although tired, were quite happy. According to Ken Harris they had stopped twice. The first time to dry the distributor after going through a creek and the second to lend their spare tyre to a stranded competitor.



'RAEMUS Rover' finished in a fairly clean condition.

From start to finish 'RAEMUS' had generated a great deal of spectator support. Its pit crew spent their time starting, making minor repairs or helping to unditch other vehicles. The other entrants were treated to a display, by practical example, of the technical ability and resourcefulness of our tradesmen.



Sgt Ken Harris, navigator and Sgt Vic Seedwell, driver after the event. Slightly tired but non the worse for wear.

The apprentices had worked extremely hard, had made mistakes they will not repeat, we hope, and, after a very nervous wait, seen 'RAEMUS Rover' finish in far better condition than other competitors. The object of Exercise 'RAEMUS Rover' had been achieved.

We hope to enter more rally competitions in the future with the same aim — to finish with the crew unharmed and the vehicle in good condition.

Stop Press: 'RAEMUS' came 5th in its class and 25th overall.

How you can help RAEMUS Rover team

With a real focus on people, the RAEMUS team holds regular open workshops, family race day challenges, race competitions and veteran wellness days.

You can support the team through participation or if you are able to, donate a little to help sustain their operation.

Visit the team's website to learn more – <https://www.raemusrover.com.au/>

Well done, Team Raemus!

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>

Sculpture Dedication

Lead: Australian War Memorial

What: A dedication ceremony of the sculpture to commemorate the suffering of war and service.

Crafted in marble by artist Alex Seton, *For Every Drop Shed in Anguish* will provide a place at the Memorial for visitors to reflect on the ongoing trauma that can result from war and military service.



Where: Australian War Memorial, Sculpture Garden

When: Thursday 22 February at 0930h

Registration: <https://www.awm.gov.au/about/our-work/projects/sufferings-of-war-and-service/dedication-ceremony>



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*.



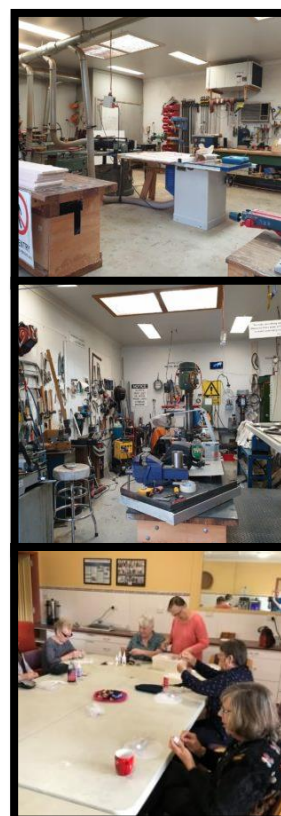
Contact. VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and their web address is: <https://www.vscact.org.au/> The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au.

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 1000-1200h (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.

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*.

Tailored veteran support and services coming to Southeast NSW and the ACT

The Australian Government recently awarded RSL LifeCare with a \$5 million grant to establish the Queanbeyan Veterans' and Families' Hub.

The grant means that veterans and families across the Southeast of NSW, the ACT and surrounding regions will soon have better access to tailored supports and services. This is a wonderful outcome for more than 26,000 current and ex-service personnel who live in these regions.

The hub will be tailored to the needs of local veterans and families and offer enhanced access to services supporting physical and mental health, wellbeing, education, skills and employment, housing and accommodation support, and more.

The Hub will connect with a number of RSL sub-branches in Queanbeyan, the ACT and surrounding regions, to provide outreach into regional areas such as Goulburn.

RSL LifeCare has significant experience in providing veteran and family services through hubs; it currently operates three self-funded hubs located in the Riverina (Wagga Wagga), Dee Why and Newcastle, as well as the Nowra Hub funded under the Veterans' and Families' Hub Program.

All current serving ADF members, veterans and families can access support services and activities through any Veterans' and Families' Hub.

Visit the [Veterans' and Families' Hubs webpage](#) to learn more.

Alternatively, you can visit one of the other established veteran hubs or their websites.

<u>City</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Perth	ANZAC House Veteran Central 28 St Georges Terrace Perth WA	Veteran Central - RSLWA RSLWA
Adelaide	Veteran Wellbeing Centre 216 Daws Road Daw Park SA	Veteran Wellbeing Centre SA Health (South Australian Government)
Townsville	The Oasis Townsville 1 Staging Camp Avenue Oonoonba QLD	The Oasis Townsville
Nowra	Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre 124 Wallace Street Nowra NSW	Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre - RSL LifeCare RSL LifeCare
Wodonga	Veterans and Families Hub 149 High Street Wodonga VIC	The Veterans & Families Hub Wodonga RSL Victorian Branch
Darwin	Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre 39 Stuart Highway Stuart Park NT	Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in Stuart Park Mates4Mates
Caboolture	Veterans' and Families' Wellbeing Hub 12 King Street Caboolture QLD	Veterans' and Families' Wellbeing Hub Lives Lived Well

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/tailored-veteran-support-and-services-coming-southeast-nsw-and-act>

DVA News: Everything you need to know about the Veteran White Card

The Veteran White Card provides access to clinically required treatment anywhere in Australia for accepted service-related conditions. All veterans with at least one day of full-time service, and some reservists, are able to access free treatment for mental health conditions through Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) without the need to prove the condition was caused by their ADF service.



In addition, some veterans are eligible for NLHC for cancer and tuberculosis. Some states, territories, local governments and private businesses offer concessions or discounts to Veteran White Card holders; however, these vary according to your card and the state or territory you live in.

Funded treatment for service-related conditions

The Veteran White Card covers you for clinically required medical treatment in Australia for your accepted service-related injuries or conditions. This includes treatment at a hospital or day procedure facility, treatment provided by a general practitioner (GP), a specialist, an allied health professional, dental or optical professional, pharmaceuticals, community nursing, and pathology and medical imaging.

Additionally, the Veteran White Card provides access to clinically necessary services and support for accepted conditions. This may include things such as aids for assistive listening, speech and communication, cognition and memory devices. It may also cover bathing, toileting, continence and personal hygiene products, appliances and home modifications, travel to and from medical appointments and care services (including help around the home and garden). Services and support are free or low cost.

Funded treatment for mental health conditions through Non-Liability Health Care (mental health)

For veterans with at least one day of full-time service, part-time reserve members who rendered border protection or disaster relief service, or were involved in a serious training accident, a Veteran White Card can also provide access to NLHC for mental health treatment. NLHC covers the cost of mental health treatment even if it isn't related to your service.

Funded treatment for cancer (malignant neoplasm) and/or pulmonary tuberculosis through Non-Liability Health Care

Some veterans who have a diagnosis of cancer or pulmonary tuberculosis are also entitled to funded treatment. This treatment is available to Veteran White Card Holders with one of the following types of service: eligible war service, operational service, warlike service, non-warlike service, peacekeeping service, hazardous service, and British Nuclear Test Defence service, as defined in the legislation. Veterans with certain peacetime Defence service between 1972 and 1994 are also eligible for this treatment.

There is no need to establish that these conditions were caused by your ADF service.

Using your Veteran White Card

Always check with your medical provider before your appointment that they will accept your Veteran Card. Treatment by specialists and certain allied health professionals is available on referral from your GP. Medical treatment, services and support are generally provided at no cost if you see a provider who accepts your Veteran Card.

However, there are some services which may incur a cost, including some out-of-pocket expenses for certain high-cost dental items, prescription items provided under the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and contributions towards help provided in the home through the Veterans' Home Care program.

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/vetaffairs/vetaffairs-vol-39-no3-december-2023/everything-you-need-know-about-veteran-white-card>

Reunions or Gatherings

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

RAEME Annual Get Together

Who: All serving or retired members
Where: Bjelke-Petersen Dam, Moffatdale, QLD
When: 23-25 Feb 2024
POC: Steve Pointon, pixie_and_pauline@bigpond.com

ACT Region Quarterly Apprentice Lunch

Who: All intake apprentices
Where: Ainslie Football Club
When: Wed 06 Mar 2024, from 1200h
POC: news@austarmyapprentice.org

RAEME Association Queensland Monthly Meeting

Who: All RAEME Association Qld members
Where: Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside
When: 06 March, from 17:30 until 19:00
POC: secretary@qld.raeme.org.au

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), Pete Culnane (0439-726-100)

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,
Michelle Lafferty (nee Bond), 0404-004-775

Did that really happen?

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

A few years back, my unit was sent to Shoalwater Bay to emulate a mining community so the brass could formulate a plan work out how they could extricate civilians from danger.

We were tasked with antagonizing the local population (the perceived enemy). I took this responsibility personally and made sure I did. At one stage we were stopped at a check point, where we were not allowed to pass. I argued and said if they didn't let me through, that I'd be back with my brother, 'Mack'.

My access was refused so I went back to our unit, retrieved a Mack dumper full of sand and returned to the checkpoint. I asked to get through again, and was once again refused. I did a U-turn, reversed to the guard's Land Rover and proceeded to dump the complete load of sand onto the vehicle.

I returned to camp and the SSM pulled me aside and said "CPL, you should be on a leash; keep up the good work!"

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!

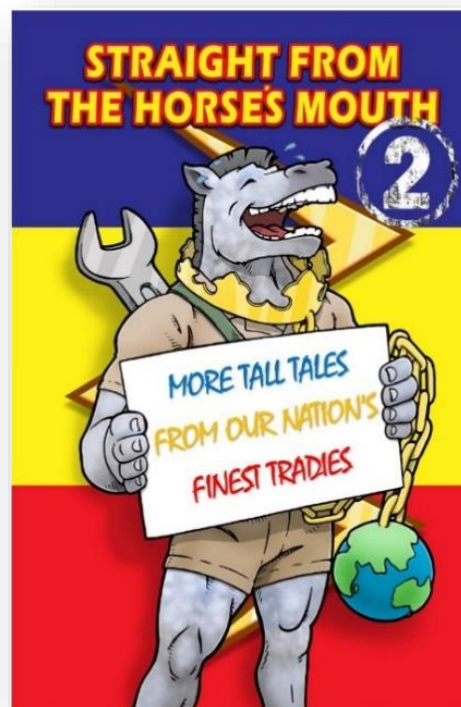
The editors already have about 25 stories ready to go but they need more.....lots more.

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

