

ACT RAEME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RAEME in ACTION

Jan 2024



TO: Members of the ACT RAEME Association

FOR INFO: Members of all other RAEME Associations

Your Committee

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

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

President's Message

Welcome all to 2024.

From my perspective, I know that the recent festive season break couldn't come quick enough and when it did, it did not disappoint! I trust you were all able to allocate the time and energy (or complete lack of) to the people and activities that enable us to take on another year in the best form of ourselves.

Our Secretary, Ian Cook, has provided a summary of the Association in this month's newsletter. As he highlights, our ambition is to offer the opportunity to the RAEME family to periodically come together; I encourage all of you to do so when and where you can, and I look forward to catching up with you when you do!

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
Tues 30 Jan	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 2 Feb	1630-1800h	Welcome Spanner Club	Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure)	Link
Tues 27 Feb	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 1 Mar	1230-1400h	Informal Mixed Lunch	TBA (Send suggestions)	Link
Tues 26 Mar	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link

JANUARY						
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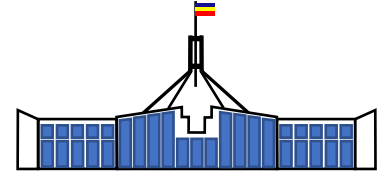
FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Legend Mixed Lunch Informal Drinks Spanner Club Significant Event

The ACT RAEME Association

The ACT RAEME Association is more than just an organization; it is a community built on the shared experiences, camaraderie, and unwavering commitment to the values that define RAEME. As we step into the new year, we embark on a journey to strengthen the bonds that tie our serving and retired RAEME members together.



It is about our people.

Our mission. Bringing together the RAEME family to create a stronger, united community of RAEME members and supporters regardless of when or where you served or continue to serve.

What we envision:

Networking: Engage with fellow members through regular events to facilitate connections and build lasting relationships.

Mentorship: Bridge the gap between generations by offering informal mentorship that allows retired members to share their wisdom and experiences with those currently in service.

Support: Provide a platform for members to offer support during and after their service, ensuring that no one feels alone on their journey.

Celebrating Achievements: Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our members, both past and present, fostering a sense of pride in the RAEME community.

When do we meet. Gatherings are held on the first Friday of each month with either afternoon Spanner Clubs or informal mixed lunches on alternate months. We have informal drinks on the last Tuesday of every month, plus we gather for key events such as ANZAC Day and lanyard presentations to new officers.

How to join: Joining is super simple; any person who lives or works in the ACT region is already considered a member. All we need is your name and an email address.

What membership costs. Nothing but your time. We charge no subscription fees, nor do we sell merchandise. All of our functions are self-funded so you can spend as much as you want on meals or drinks. We will occasionally run a raffle with all funds raised going to provide snack-trays at gatherings such as ANZAC Day.

How we communicate. We maintain three mailing lists; one for people who live in the ACT region; one for supporters who live interstate; and one for key members from other RAEME Associations around the country. We send out a monthly newsletter to everyone but only those who live in the ACT region will receive details and reminders about upcoming events.

Our newsletter. Our monthly newsletter is called *RAEME in ACTION*. It captures key activities held or planned in the ACT region. It is evolving in format but it will generally include functions we are planning, a status of the Corps as provided by the Head of Corps Cell, a little Corps History, Special interest info (eg DVA, AWM or other veteran-specific info), details of planned reunions and whatever else we can find each month that may be of interest to local RAEME members. If you have something to share, we welcome that as well.

Our website. Our Association website (<https://act.raeme.org.au/>) provides a great summary of upcoming events, some of which will include a simple RSVP option. All previous editions of *RAEME in ACTION* are also uploaded to the site. The website will continue to evolve to make it user friendly. Ideas are welcome.

Join us today! Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a current serving member, you are an integral part of the RAEME family. We currently have a mailing list of around 350, but there is always room for more. Get involved, share your experiences, and contribute to the rich tapestry of our community.

Send your contact details to Secretary@act.raeme.org.au to be added to our mailing list! You don't need to live in the ACT region.

Planned Gatherings for 2024

Our calendar for the year is firming up now. Presently, key events are:

January	Tues 30 th	Informal Drinks
February	Fri 2 nd	Welcome Spanner Club
	Tues 27 th	Informal Drinks
March	Fri 1 st	Informal Mixed Lunch
	Tues 26 th	Informal Drinks
April	Thurs 25 th	ANZAC Day
May	Fri 3 rd	Informal Mixed Lunch
	Tues 28 th	Informal Drinks
June	Fri 7 th	Spanner Club
	TBA	RMC Lanyard Presentation
	Tues 25 th	Informal Drinks
July	Fri 5 th	Informal Mixed Lunch
	Tues 30 th	Informal Drinks
August	Fri 2 nd	Spanner Club
	Tues 27 th	Informal Drinks
September	Fri 6 th	Informal Mixed Lunch
	Tues 24 th	Informal Drinks
October	Fri 4 th	Spanner Club
	Tues 29 th	Informal Drinks
November	Fri 01 st	End-of-Year Dinner
	Tues 26 th	Informal Drinks
	TBA	RMC Lanyard Presentation
December	TBA	RAEME Birthday Spanner Club

Note: All dates and venues will be locked in in the month prior to the event. If in doubt, check our website.

Informal Drinks. An informal gathering for all members to share a drink and the time to connect. These are held from 1930h at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club.

Spanner Clubs. Our Spanner Clubs are a great opportunity for both serving and retired members to come together to share stories over a cold beverage. Head of Corps occasionally attends these gatherings which gives all members a unique opportunity to engage at the highest level. Spanner Clubs are traditionally held at Olim's Hotel (The Mecure), near the Australian War Memorial.

Mixed Lunches. We meet to share a meal with friends and families. These have traditionally been held at Ainslie Football Club, commencing from 1230h but we invite recommendations for other venues to make these more accessible to all members.

ANZAC Day. The key event for the year is joining in the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial. We then meet at Olim's after. More details are on later pages.

Lanyard Presentation. Twice per year, we welcome new officers who are about to graduate into RAEME. Our Head of Corps presents each new LT with a Corps lanyard and other Corps-specific information. These are held at RMC Golf Club. Dates will be sent to all members when locked in by RMC.

End-of-Year Dinner. Getting in before other work functions, we have our end-of-year dinner in early November each year for serving and retired members with friends and families.

RAEME Birthday. Celebrating our Corps Birthday is one of the biggest gatherings of the year. Our Corps birthday this year falls on a Sunday so our celebrations may be either Friday 29 Nov or 06 Dec. As soon as this is decided, we will let everyone know.

RAEME Nation-wide

Happenings across the RAEME National Network include:

- **National.** The RAEME National Network provides active representation of the Corps to the highest levels. It is in a period of transition with the long-standing Chair, Ross Grant seeking a replacement to take the helm. Any potential applicants, please reach out. <https://raeme.org.au/>
- **Victoria.** Just before Christmas, the Victoria Association released its latest newsletter, *The Lightning Flash*. In this, the Association has provided a great summary of events held throughout 2023 and those planned for 2024. These include a *Harry the Horse Lunch* on the 3rd Friday of every month and a *Spanner Club* on the 2nd Friday of each month. One strong desire the Victoria Association has in common with the ACT is to see greater participation by younger members in particular those still serving. More details regarding the Victorian Association can be found at: <https://vic.raeme.org.au/>
- **Queensland.** The Queensland Association has published a detailed list of impending gatherings to 2024. This will commence with an RAQ Monthly Meeting at Kedron Wavell Services Club on 07 Feb followed by the RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon at City Gold Club on 11 Feb. Details can be found online at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/>. The RAQ also releases very detailed newsletters called *Spanner News* every March, July and October. You can find earlier editions on the RAQ website.
- **New South Wales.** As one of the more senior organisations within our Corps, the NSW Association has a long history of promoting the Corps. It is very active with hosting regular functions for members. Due largely to their proximity, the NSW Association holds a close bond with the ACT with members from both organisations regularly attending each other's functions. More info about the NSW Association can be found at: <https://nsw.raeme.org.au/>
- **Tasmania.** The RAEME Association Tasmania (RAT) publish very detailed newsletters, *The RAT Newsletters*, generally twice per year. Earlier editions can be downloaded from the Association website at: <https://tas.raeme.org.au/>
- **Western Australia.** The WA team typically releases its newsletter, *The Horse's Mouth*, twice annually. Whilst the WA Association regularly includes details of past or planned events, they also include interesting historical references. <https://wa.raeme.org.au/>
- **South Australia.** Another association with strong representation in the veteran community is the SA Association. With their recently appointed new President, John Prince, they release newsletters typically twice per year along with other reports on Association activities. Earlier editions of the newsletter can be found at: <https://sa.raeme.org.au/>
- **Northern Territory.** As the newest Association within the RAEME National Network, the NT Association is in a largely developmental phase. With a strong committee, they focus attention on the gathering of RAEME members in the Top End. Details about the NT Association can be found online at: <https://nt.raeme.org.au/>
- **Apprentice Association.** The Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc run regular events to connect Apprentices, regardless of Corps allocation. They also release great newsletters called *The Apprentice About*, typically four times per year. Previous editions can be found on the Association website at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/>



As information is promulgated from each Corps Association or the Apprentice Association, a summary will be provided in future *RAEME in ACTION*.

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 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.
	4:45pm:	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!

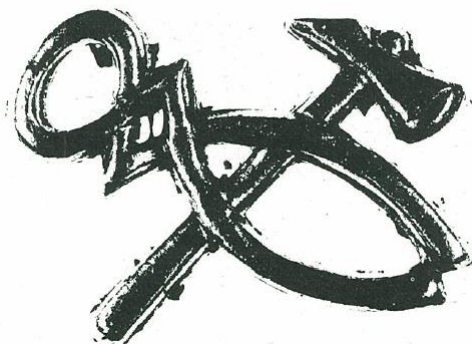


For more details about the Australian War Memorial's Redevelopment plans, visit their website at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory/ourplans>

Looking Back

In 1979, there was some debate regarding the introduction of an Artificer Badge. One member, who when by the pseudonym 'A.N. Artificer' wrote about his views of the topic. These views were published in *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, Edition 2 of May 1979.

AN ARTIFICER BADGE



Distinguishing the trade of one senior NCO from another is difficult at the best of times, but distinguishing a qualified Artificer from any other tradesman is a virtual impossibility in our Corps.

Unless you know an individual's background of training there is very little chance of detecting the trade expert from the non-expert and yet, to a tradesman, the Artificer grading is the top of the tree, tradewise. Years of experience and training, recommendation and selection have preceded achievement of the Artificer status — and for what?

Unless there is a suitable vacancy 'up the promotion ladder' for a newly trained Artificer, on return to his unit, life becomes somewhat of an anti-climax. No promotion. No recognition in your normal daily contacts. No pay rise — nothing but to wait until a position becomes vacant which, hopefully, will involve promotion, too. Am I right?

I know when I passed my Artificer training I wanted everyone to know and appreciate the fact that I had completed the final hurdle in my trade — with success. I didn't have to shout about it, mind you — and I didn't. Why didn't I shout? Because recognition sat plainly on my arm for all to see.

The coveted Hammer and Tongs sat firmly above my three stripes and below the crown of the Staff Sergeant rank that went with the title. I would never have to tell anyone I was an Artificer — they could see for themselves. I would, however, still have to identify my speciality but that became less important as time progressed. The recognition boosted my confidence, too.

In RAEME we no longer have any means of recognising our Artificers — never mind the other aspects mentioned previously. To many of us the attainment of the Artificer status is merely another inconvenience out of the way. Our superiors, frequently, barely acknowledge our achievement in any way at all.

Instead of added responsibility to match the status many of my contemporaries, I know, returned to their former role with hardly a congratulatory remark being passed. How deflating! How demoralising! Something should be done about it.

For some time now there has been talk of trying to re-introduce the 'traditional' Artificer badge. There have been opponents to this, as one would probably expect, because it is of British origin — or so it is believed. As an alternative many designs were submitted in recent years which, whilst having some relevance to individual trades, were complicated in design and, when reduced in size to fit on a sleeve, would have been almost indistinguishable in their meaning.

The favourite choice is still the 'traditional' Hammer and Tongs worn by Artificers in our sister Corps in Britain, New Zealand, Malaysia and Canada.

After contacting the Corps Secretariat REME in UK to determine how the Hammer and Tongs 'tradition' began we learned the following:

“... the hammer and tongs badge was one of several badges worn to denote tradesmen — the others known being the wheel (Wheelwrights) and the spur (Farrier). The hammer and tongs were used by Blacksmiths and Armourers, and these metal working trades were at some time in the past classed as Artificers. This word then had the same meaning as the word Artizan has now and it was only in the 19th century when machinery became more complex that the word Artificer was given the meaning to denote a higher class of metal working tradesman. In the Army, with the appearance of 80- to 100-ton Fortress guns operated by steam power, steps were taken to form a Corps of Artificers and in 1882 this new Corps was formed and comprised 1 Warrant Officer and 49 Sergeants.

In being before then was the Corps of Armourers, administered and trained by the Inspection Branch of the Small Arms Factory at Enfield and members of this Corps generally wore the uniform of the regiments to which they were posted for duty, with the hammer and tongs badge to symbolise their calling.

These two Corps (the Corps of Armourers and the Corps of Artificers) were amalgamated in 1894 — with the Ordnance Store Corps (formed in 1865) to form The Army Ordnance Corps, the forerunner of the RAOC and, of course, the tradesmen brought their badges with them and retained them when REME was formed in 1942 . . .”

From the foregoing it is clearly seen that the Hammer and Tongs have been accepted as an Artificer symbol for nearly 100 years. Although primarily indicative of a higher class of metal working tradesman in the days before electricity and electronics, what is the point, really, in distinguishing between trades when what we really want is the recognition that we are higher class tradesmen, the Artificer, in whatever trade we specialise in.

The benefits of wearing the symbol include instant recognition of our status by superiors and subordinates alike with, hopefully, more respect being shown for our experience and ability, no matter who we work for.

A. N. Artificer

Editor: Comments to support, or oppose, the re-introduction of the Hammer and Tongs for Artificers are encouraged. Letters to The Editor, "The RAEME Craftsman", DGEME (AO), Russell Offices, Canberra, ACT 2601, will be most welcome.

2024 Napier Waller Art Prize Extended

The Napier Waller Art Prize is open to all current and former service personnel in the Australian Defence Force. The prize encourages artistic excellence, promotes the transformative power of creativity, and raises awareness of the experiences and talent of service personnel.

Serving personnel and veterans are invited to enter an original artwork and artist statement. Each year, entries are judged by a panel of art experts and professionals, and a winning artwork selected on merit. Entries using diverse artistic media and original concepts are encouraged.

The winning work is accessioned into the Australian War Memorial collection, with the winning artist receiving a \$15,000 cash prize. Finalists' works are displayed on the Australian War Memorial's website for the general public to vote for the People's Choice award, the winner of which will receive \$5,000.



2022 Winning Entry:
The promotion
by Anneke Jamieson

Applications for the 2024 Napier Waller Art Prize opened on Friday, 8 September 2023, with veterans from across the country invited to apply. The closing date has been extended. Submissions now close midnight Sunday 28 January 2024



2020 People's Choice Winning Entry:
Afghan diggers' ghosts at the AWM 2020
by Gary Ramage

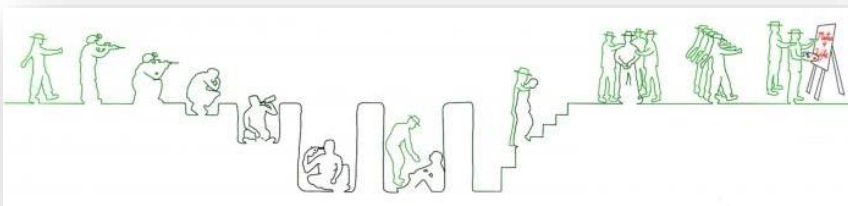
drawing, sculpture, digital, decorative, and installation. There is no theme for the award, and entries do not have to address military or service topics. Entries using diverse artistic media and original concepts are encouraged.

Details of how to enter are on the Australian War Memorial site at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/napier-waller-art-prize-hub/how-to-enter>

The Memorial invites entries in all visual art mediums, including (but not limited to) painting, photography, printmaking,



2019 Winning Entry:
You are in danger and I am far away.
by Natalie Duncan



2018 (Inaugural) People's Choice Winning Entry:
Mates, for life
by Ian Cook



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 4.45 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>



Australian War Memorial News

Critical Witness: Official war artists after 1999

The Official War Art Scheme was initiated during the First World War and is one of the longest-running art commissioning programs in Australia. Since 1999, official war artists have deployed internationally and within Australia to “observe, record and interpret” the activities of the Australian Defence Force.

Official war artists are critical witnesses to contemporary conflict and the experience of Australian service personnel. They embed with Australian forces in dangerous and charged environments, recording the dramatic and violent, as well as the routine and cultural aspects of military operations.

This exhibition presents work by official war artists since 1999, including Tony Albert (Girramay/Kuku Yalanji peoples), Rick Amor, Lyndell Brown and Charles Green, Jon Cattapan, Peter Churcher, Shaun Gladwell, Susan Norrie, eX de Medici, Lewis Miller, Ben Quilty, Wendy Sharpe and Alick Tipoti (Kala Lagaw Ya people).

Critical Witness: Official war artists after 1999 is located on the lower level.



For further information about this new exhibition, please visit the Australian War Memorial’s website at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/critical-witness>.

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*.



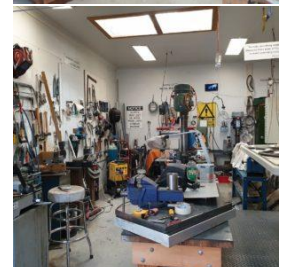
Contact. VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and their web address is: <https://www.vscact.org.au/>
The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au.

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 this *RAEME in ACTION*.

DVA News: AIHW publishes report looking at the Social Connectedness of Australia's Veterans

A new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report was released today, measuring the social connectedness and feeling of belonging and connecting with others amongst our veteran community.

The Veteran Social Connectedness report profiles veterans and presents key insights into their social connectedness, including comparisons to the wider Australian population.

Key findings in the report found veterans were not too dissimilar to the Australian public when it came to social connectedness. However, compared to the broader Australian population, veterans in 2021-22 were more likely to undertake volunteer roles, particularly veterans with a disability, and veterans are more likely to be active members of a club or association than people who have not served.

- Nearly 1 in 10 (9.4%) veterans are socially isolated, this is similar to people who had never served in the ADF (11%).
- Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) veterans reported to be lonely, this was similar to people who had never served in the ADF (19%).
- Over 1 in 4 veterans (27%) did not feel part of their local community, this was similar to those who had never served in the ADF 26%.
- 22% of all veterans had infrequent social contact with others, this was similar to those who had never served in the ADF (20%).

It is recognised, that due to the unique nature of military service, veterans can experience both protection from and vulnerability to issues with social connectedness. The report finds that veterans who are in poor mental health and/or distress ranked poorly in comparison to those in the general population:

- Veterans in poor mental health were nearly twice as likely to have infrequent social contact (47%) as persons who had never served in the ADF (26%).
- Over half of veterans in psychological distress (51%) did not feel part of their local community, this was higher than those who had never served in the ADF (39%).

To read the full report, visit the AIHW website at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/veterans/veteran-social-connectedness/contents/about>. For more information on loneliness and social isolation, see Ending Loneliness Together (<https://endingloneliness.com.au/>).

The Australian Government is committed to supporting vulnerable veterans access the health services they need to live well:

- Any veteran who has completed one day of full-time service in the ADF can access fully funded mental health treatment through Non-Liability Health Care - mental health, with some reservists also eligible.
- Some veterans are eligible for the Coordinated Veterans' Care program, through which social assistance is available to provide short term support with community and social connection.
- The Government is delivering on its \$46.7 million commitment to deliver eight new Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country. Hubs provide a space for veterans' services and advocacy organisations to co-exist and provide integrated support to current and ex-service personnel and families which may include health and mental health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and social connection.
- DVA also offers free and confidential counselling services to veterans and their families, available 24/7 through Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling. For more information or support call Open Arms on 1800 011 046 or visit www.openarms.gov.au

For more information about services and support available visit www.dva.gov.au or call 1800 VETERAN

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/vetaffairs/vetaffairs-vol-39-no3-december-2023/aihw-publishes-report-looking-social-connectedness-australias-veterans>

Note: The ACT RAEME Association will continue to focus on member wellbeing through regular gatherings. We therefore encourage the broadest possible attendance at all events.

RAEME Humour Book

The Second Edition of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies* has now been published and sent to all purchasers!

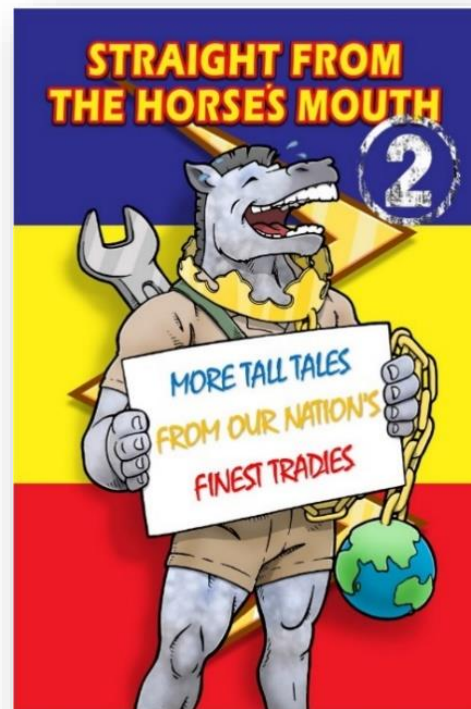
If you didn't get your order in before they shut off, you may still be in luck. Ian has a handful of spare copies of both Edition 1 and Edition 2 that he will take to future Association events but once they are gone (at \$20 and \$25 respectively), they are gone!

Alternatively, the Head of Corps Cell shop has several hundred books for sale with all funds from which to be made available to support serving and retired Corps members. When the Cell shop is up and running online, all members will be notified as such however in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Corps RSM at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.

The Editors are now collecting stories for Edition 3. Whilst several funny stories have already been received for Edition 3 (thank you to all who sent them), more are required.

If you have any funny stories to share, true or otherwise, please send them to the editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com.

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



Other News

Over the coming months, we are going to introduce a series detailing support mechanisms open to serving and retired members. This will include a summary of concessions available to veterans (which varies greatly depending on which State or Territory in which one lives) and more generic information, such as:

- DVA news
- Veteran Health Check
- Australian War Memorial
- Equine Coaching and Training
- Legacy
- Australian Military Wives Choir
- Support for Seniors
- Veterans Grant Program
- RSL Veterans' Employment Program
- Veteran's Portal
- Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families
- Legal Support
- and more

If you would like to see or learn about any particular subject, or if you would like us to prioritise or summary of any particular topic, please send an email request to Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association





Veterans Support Centre Belconnen

ABN: 58534419650

Address: 9 Burkitt Street, Page, ACT 2614

Phone: (02) 625 1599



Membership Renewal Form

Title	Surname	First Name	Second Name(s)
Address		State	Postcode
Postal Address (If Different)			Marital Status
Phone Contact 1	Phone Contact 2	Preferred Contact Method Email / Phone / Mail	
Email Address			
Next of Kin	Relationship	Phone Number	

Membership

Membership of the Veterans Support Centre is available to all Veterans regardless of area of operations.

The centre is here to provide support to members and Advocates through the provision of office and administration services, and to its members through woodwork and metalwork workshops, bus tours and other social events.

Membership and donations are tax deductible.

Subscriptions are **\$50.00 for Single** and **\$55.00 for Family**

Membership \$		Donation \$		
Membership Receipt Number	Date	Donation Receipt Number		
EFTPOS	Cash	Credit Card	Direct Debit	Other
Database Entry	Entered By	Date	Membership Number	

You can pay by Cash or EFTPOS at the Centre, Debit/Credit Card payment can be taken over the phone (02) 6255 1599, and Cheques made out to VV & VF ACT INC.