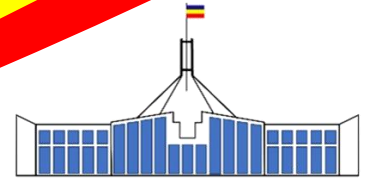


RAEME in ACTION

The Newsletter of the ACT RAEME Association



Edition: 20, July 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All, I trust this finds you all in good winter shape! After what can only be described from a Corps perspective as an epic association, BRIG Herbert "Bert" W Barker (Retd) passed away, having turned 100 back in 2021. Whilst I don't think I ever had the pleasure of meeting BRIG Bert, his influence both when and post serving sets an incredibly high benchmark for all of us to follow. Being recalled as 'one of those magnificent men and women of the Second World War who served their country well and who we soldiers have the highest regard for. He was a true gentleman, a leader, professional and pleasant of manner with an air of dignity about him, apparent even at his considerable age. The Corps owes much to his service, and many members of the Corps owe the success of their careers both military and civil, to the quality of training received under his administration' is something very, very special. With the passing of at least three other Corps members over the last month, it is a timely reminder to be kind to yourself and others, and make every day the best it can be!

Stay well. Cheers APA

GETTING OUR ACT TOGETHER

- Sat 20 Jul RSL Veterans Expo [Details](#)
1000-1500h See inside for details
 - Tues 30 Jul Informal drinks [Details](#)
1930-2030h Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
 - Fri 02 Aug Spanner Club/RMC Lanyard Presentation [Details](#)
1700-1800h Olim's Hotel
 - Tues 27 Aug Informal drinks [Details](#)
1930-2030h Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
- Come Along!

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

- Spanner Club
- Mixed Lunch
- Informal Drinks
- Significant Event

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

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

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30						

VALE TO A LEADER – Brigadier Herbert W Barker

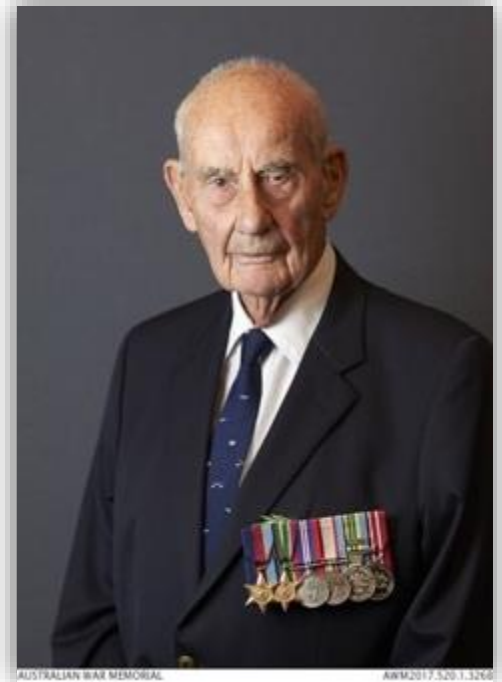
On 17 Jun 2024, our Corps lost one of its founding members, Brigadier Herbert “Bert” Barker. He passed in Melbourne, aged 102.

Until recently, Bert was a resident in aged care at Banora Point on the Gold Coast, moving back to Melbourne to be closer to family, he was focused on making sure his wife Nona was settled in the Victorian retirement village with their daughter. They would have celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary on the 15th July and Nona, herself a WWII veteran, turns 100 on the 31st of October this year.

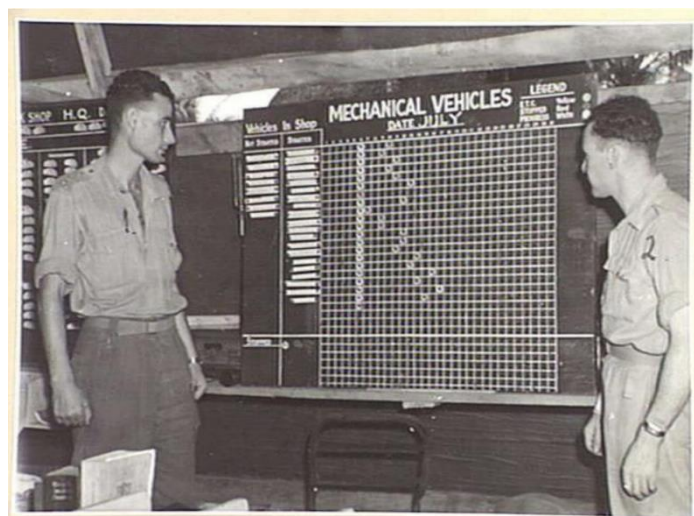
BRIG Bert belongs to a rare cohort of servicemen because he was an original member of our proud Corps at our foundation in 1942. He served in WWII on operations in PNG and through his many postings, his various commands, training and staff appointments over 33 years’ service, it is clear he made a huge contribution to the Corps, the Army and the ADF. He served as Colonel Commandant 1 Military District from 1980 to 1984 before retiring.

The following tribute was written in 2021 to mark BRIG Bert’s 100th birthday.

BRIG Herbert “Bert” W Barker (Retd) joined the Army in 1941, following completion of the second year of a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering course at Melbourne University. Although he didn’t complete his degree, he had previously completed a Diploma of Mechanical Engineering, and as a result, he was allocated to Australian Army Ordnance Corps (AAOC), as a Private. He then attended an Infantry Officer Training Course at Bonegilla.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2017.520.1.3216



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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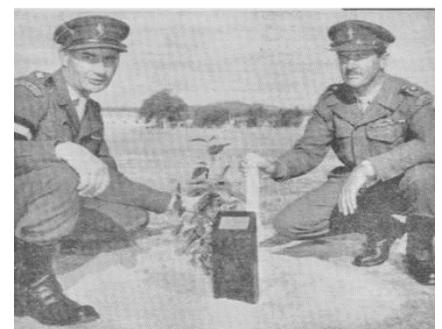
1 Infantry Troops Workshops Pamalnal Plantation, Jaquinot Bay, New Britain, 1944-1945. CAPT Barker and Sergeant S Aaron review vehicle repair and maintenance production.

Bert was commissioned in June 1942 and appointed to raise and command 320 Aust LAD attached to a major Signals unit at Balcombe, Victoria. A short time later, while attending an Ordnance Mechanical Engineering Wireless Course at the AAOC School, Broadmeadows, Victoria, he was transferred to the newly formed AEME Corps on 1 Dec 42. He celebrated his 21st birthday on 13 Dec 42.

Lieutenant, and later, Captain Barker, spent most of WW2 at Oatlands Golf Course, Parramatta, then the Atherton Tablelands (1943) before heading to New Britain in 1944, where he served with 1 Infantry Troops Workshops till War’s end.

Post WW2, BRIG Bert continued his service in several workshop postings in Australia until 1950, when he was sent to UK for two and a half years, to attend the Long Electronics Engineering Courses at REME Training Centre, Arborfield. He attended Army Staff College, Queenscliff, Victoria, in 1956 and was appointed CO & CI RAEME Training Centre from 1959 - 64.

LTCOL “Bert” Barker (left) handing over command of RAEME Training Centre (RTC) in 1964 to LTCOL Bruce C. Sefton, signified by a tree planting in the grounds of RTC.



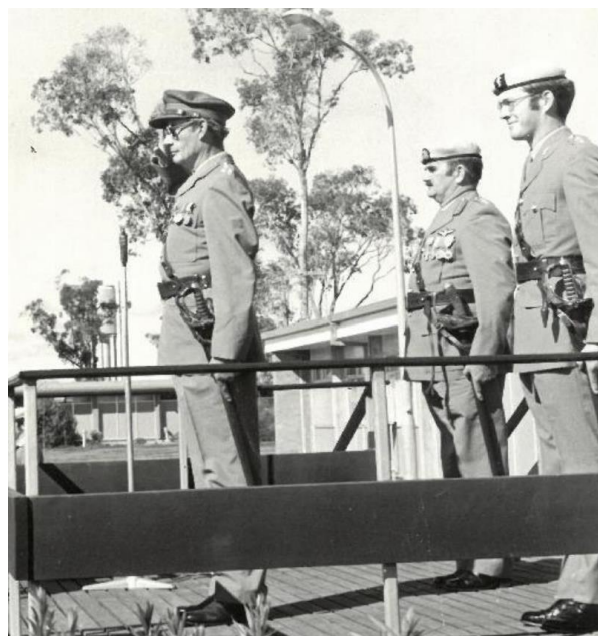
After three years as DDEME Eastern Command, Bert was promoted to Brigadier and appointed as Chief Superintendent Army Design Establishment (ADE), Maribyrnong, Victoria. He served for a further three years until resigning from the Army in 1974. During his time at ADE, he took part in the Rapier trials in Darwin.

In his subsequent civilian career, BRIG Bert worked as Regional Engineering Manager for STC, 1975, the Boy Scout Jamboree Executive Officer and CEO of Australian Fire Protection Association, each for about a year before relocating from Melbourne to a warmer climate in Northern NSW in late 1977.

He served as Colonel Commandant 1 Military District from 1980 to 1984.



BRIG Barker, COL COMDT 1 MD visiting 5 Base Wksp Bn 1981, Oakey, discussing repairs to an aerofoil with CO, LTCOL Bob Millar.



BRIG Barker taking the salute on the occasion of the 9th Anniversary of 5 Base Wksp Bn, Oakey 31st July 1981.

Bert married Nona in 1944 and they have three daughters, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

He and Nona live in Darlington Retirement Village, Banora Point, NSW. Whilst Nona receives full time care, he enjoys semi-care in the same facility, and is still driving his car and routinely attends local RAQ events.

Bert turned 100 on 13 Dec 21.

BRIG Bert belongs to a rare surviving cohort of servicemen, not just because they are closing in on their 100th Birthdays, but also because they are original members of the proud Corps of RAEME, which will celebrate its 80th Birthday in December 2022. Bert is indeed a pioneer of the Corps and through his many postings, his various commands, training and staff appointments, over 33 years' service, it is clear he made a huge contribution to the Corps, the Army and the ADF.

also by those members of the Corps who came later. Most recently, he has been an inspiration to a new generation of RAEME servicemen and women (serving and retired), as an active member of RAEME Association Queensland, where he regularly attends its many activities and lunches in Brisbane, and on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Congratulations Bert on this most important anniversary.

A recent photograph of two RAEME Brigadiers, old and new, BRIG Bert Barker and BRIG (now MAJ GEN) Andrew Freeman AM at an RAEME Association Queensland Lunch, Sunshine Coast Maroochy RSL, 2019.

BRIG Bert is much admired by his peers but



Lest we forget.

2024 ACT VETERAN'S AND FAMILIES' EXPO ON 20 JULY

The Hughes Community Centre will transform into a hub of information, resources and connection that joins together organisations dedicated to Veteran's wellbeing and services.

The Council on the Ageing (COTA) ACT is excited to announce that with funding from the ACT Government, the 2024 ACT Veteran's and Families' Expo will be held at the Hughes Community Centre on Saturday 20th of July, 10 am until 3 pm.

This exciting, family-friendly event guarantees a fun day out for veterans and their families, current and ex-service personnel and those transitioning out of military service with a wide range of veteran organisations, community groups and service providers, informative presentations and more.



Together with partners [Open Arms](#) and [Canberra Legacy](#), the not-for-profit organisation is preparing for a day that brings veterans in the Canberra region closer to services that provide services and support which may be of interest to them and their family.

Minister for Community Services, Seniors and Veterans Emma Davidson said the expo will help veterans and their families feel more connected to Canberra and the broader community.

"Canberra is a fabulous place to live – it is a kind, connected and caring community. We know particularly for veterans and their families it can be hard moving to Canberra and adjusting from service to civilian life. The Veterans' and Families' Expo will bring together all the things you need to adjust to life in the ACT. It may be employment, education, health, community services and social groups to ensure veterans and their families thrive in Canberra," said Minister Davidson.

The Hughes Community Centre space will include over 40 veteran's service providers and organisations, balloon-modelling and facepainting, a sausage sizzle provided by the Hughes Community Shed and Garden, a designated coffee van and family-friendly entertainment.

With three targeted sessions through the day:

- a quieter hour from 10am – 11am,
- an ageing and transition focus from 11am – 1 pm, and
- family fun and activities from 1pm – 3pm

COTA ACT hopes to bring together people of all ages to enjoy a day of connection and community for veterans and their families.

The 2024 Veteran's and Families Expo is supported by the [ACT Government](#).

Free tickets available from: <https://cotaact.org.au/act-2024-veterans-and-families-expo/>

RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

The third editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* is currently being drafted.

There is clearly a lot of funny stuff that happens in RAEME service but the editors need more stories!!

This is your chance to share any funny stories you have from your service.

If you have any stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com. Even if you have heard someone else's story or made it up, we want it!

Stories don't have to be true, just believable!

The editors understand that not everyone has the time or talent to write something funny so they will accept stories over the phone. All you need to do is to email your contact details to them at the above email address. Include your preferred days or times to receive a call from the editors and take it from there.

As a special incentive for this edition, the editors will be awarding a free edition to the member(s) who submits the funniest story for this edition. Depending on how many stories are received, this may be expanded to a series of prizes for funniest story in each category, eg service vs retired, barracks vs field, appy vs thick and so on. The editors will work that out based on the number of submissions they receive.

Whilst all story contributors will be named in the book, this will be in the back and not listed against any particular story. This is to ensure your anonymity.

Re anonymity, the editors will change all names provided to ensure the guilty are unidentifiable. Those who were there at the time will know the truth but they don't plan on embarrassing individuals (too much). Likewise, any current unit name will also be changed as the purpose of this book is to have a laugh, not to embarrass the ADF.

If you didn't get your order in for Edition 1 or Edition 2, it is not too late. Our Head of Corps Cell was gifted several hundred copies for sale from the Corps shop with all funds raised to be made available to support serving and retired members of our Corps.

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online (at <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>) but at time of writing, they haven't as yet uploaded their books for sale. When they do, we will let you know but in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Head of Corps Cell at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.

Send your funny story or contact details today! FunnyStories@raeme.org.



ARMY LIFE BEFORE RAEME

On the 1st of Jul 1942, being only months prior to our Corp's formation, the *Army News* released stories about what was important at that time. Some of the more interesting stories have been partially extracted below for your reading pleasure. To see full details, visit: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3350626>



U.S. AIRCRAFT ATTACK WAKE ISLAND

United States' bombers attacked Japanese positions at Wake Island, in the Pacific Ocean, on Saturday night, states a report from Washington.

The air force planes bombed aircraft and destroyed enemy planes on the ground. They also demolished valuable installations.

The aircraft appeared from the island area, over 2000 miles away, in the largest one-night bombing mission as yet.

All the United States' planes returned safely.

Vicky Indis, quoted Tokio, said yesterday that the Japanese had made a minor landing on the Hawaiian Islands, near the coast of Alaska.

There is no confirmation of this landing from Washington.

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The aircraft operated from the Hawaii area, over 2000 miles away.

It is the longest over-water bombing mission on record.

All the United States' planes returned safely.

Looters To Be Punished

A warning to looters, that they will be heavily punished if they are found looting houses or property left vacant owing due to enemy action, was given from Canberra last night. Regulations to this effect were passed yesterday.

IT WAS REVEALED IN A cable message recently that gliders are included in the equipment now in mass production in American factories. United States' aviation units are now receiving instructions to use these gliders at the army's first glider training school in the desert near California.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Active Service Duty Extended

Navy, Army, or Air Force personnel on full-time duty in operational areas in Australia, and air crew on active service duty, will be entitled to make operational flights to sea on December 7, 1941, will be entitled to the active service badge.

In the past the badge has been issued only to personnel who left Australia for overseas or were for 28 days in a warship at sea.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley, said yesterday that he had decided to issue the badge to all personnel who have been directly involved in the war effort since the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific, north of the Tropic of Capricorn, as from January 8, 1942, as from February 22 and June 22, 1942, as from March 10, 1942.

The medals and ribbons will be issued to personnel who are eligible in relation to all members of the forces.

Flight To Save Burning Ship

Personnel from the 11th Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, were yesterday in the air over the sea near Darwin, in the north-western Gulf of Carpentaria, to save the ship from being lost.

The aircraft, a Catalina, was seen to be on fire, and the crew was seen to be abandoning ship.

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AMERICAN PRIVATES NOW WORLD'S HIGHEST PAID

The U.S. Senate's decision to increase the minimum pay of the armed forces makes the American private the highest-paid servicemen of his rank in the world.

First-class privates will get a minimum of \$50 (£15/18/4) a month, corresponding ranks in the US will get \$54 (£16/18/-). Americans on foreign service receive an additional 20%.

The minimum wage for a wife of a soldier is \$50 a month of which the serviceman pays \$22 (£6/18/9) a month.

An Australia private is the 2nd highest paid soldier in the world. He receives £11/4/- a month, including 2/- a day deferred pay. Australian forces receive 3/6 a day for a wife, 2/6 for a first child, and 1/6 for each succeeding child.

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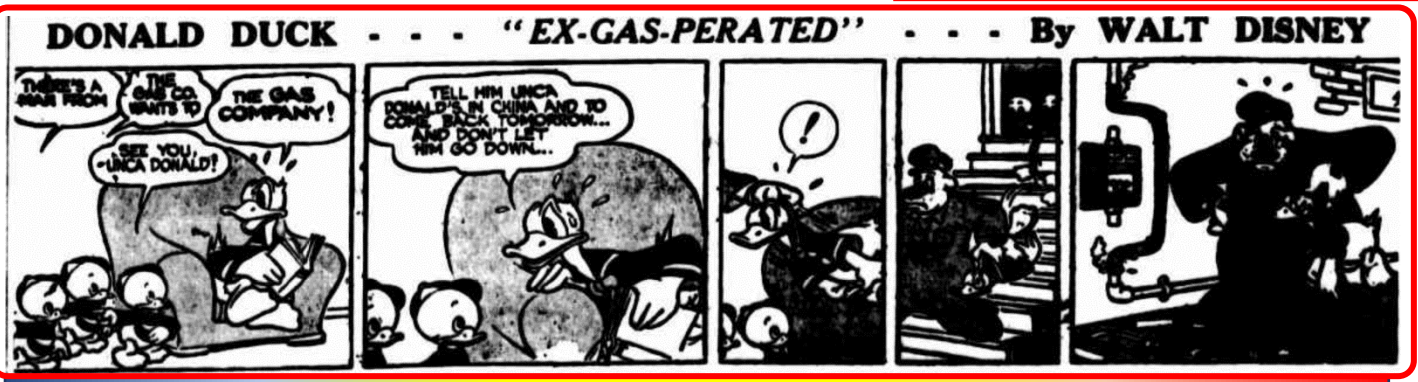
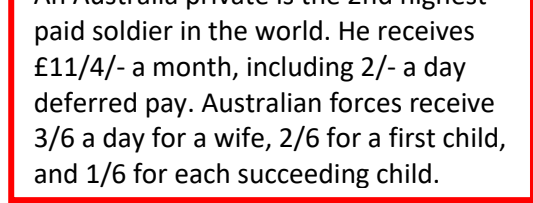
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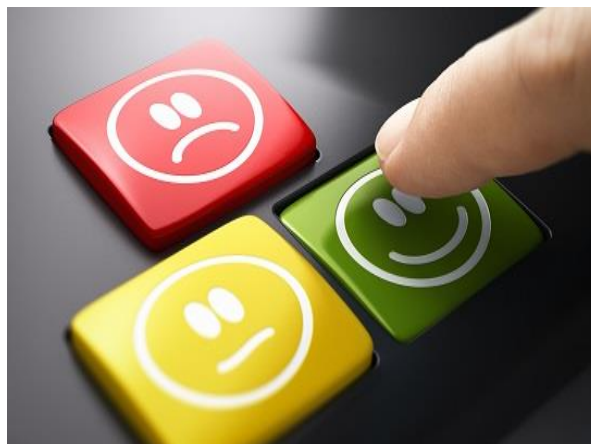
DVA NEWS – AN ESO PEAK BODY – TELL DVA WHAT YOU THINK

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/eso-peak-body-tell-us-what-you-think>

Correct as at: 5 July 2024

DVA is working with the veteran community to develop options for a new Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Peak Body that meets the needs of veterans, families, ESOs and other organisations providing veterans and families with advocacy support.

An independent ESO Peak Body has the potential to become a unified and representative voice to strengthen advocacy across the ESO sector on issues affecting veterans and veteran families. By fostering consensus and collaboration, it would help to streamline consultation processes, reducing duplication of efforts.



To ensure DVA get this right, an ESO Peak Body Options Paper will present multiple options for the new body that consider work already undertaken by the sector, including insights and feedback from stakeholders on various options for a model.

Rather than looking for a single solution, this project will consider proposals that have already been put forward while further exploring options for a future ESO Peak Body to inform DVA's response.

The Department has engaged Nous Group to conduct the latest round of consultation, including through a survey (https://nousgroupau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1AfcJSDMoQkHP4W) that seeks feedback from a range of stakeholders to understand how veterans and families interact with organisations that provide veteran and family advocacy support.

Your views are important to DVA and will help to develop a shortlist of viable options for the establishment of an ESO Peak Body.

Please complete the short 10-minute survey (https://nousgroupau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1AfcJSDMoQkHP4W). The survey is open until 19 July 2024.

The information from this survey will be stored securely and kept confidential. No personal details will be collected – all responses are anonymous and will be used only for research purposes.

Your opinion will help to inform what a future peak body does and how. DVA thank you for your support.

MATT STONE RACING – Army Vehicle Mechanics, Craftsmen Joel Gandy and David Gadsden, spent the weekend working in the pits with Matt Stone Racing Team for the Townsville 500 Supercars



SO YOU WANT TO BE AN ASM

Author: WO2 Jamie Harwood

Working as an Army technician, aspiring to be an ASM, is an admirable career goal. However, it is important to note that the path to becoming an ASM is not an easy one. In fact, less than 30-40% of your peers may actually get the opportunity to sit in an ASM seat, making it quite the accomplishment if you are selected. To reach this position, you will need to complete various career courses, specialized trade courses, serve in multiple areas of capability, and earn at least four positive PARs that confirm your competence to run a trade facility. It requires a great deal of effort and even being considered for the role should be acknowledged as an achievement.

But before I get ahead of myself, I need to send a clear message. Experiences may vary. Some of you will read this and think that it's way off the mark, some will recall fond memories of time gone by and others will read this and shudder while deeply repressed memories arise of times and places you'd rather forget. It's based off what I've experienced and what I know from my time as both an ASM in an Infantry Battalion and in an ARes CSSB. I apologise in advance if it's not what you expected and I acknowledge it may not align exactly with everyone's experiences. That being said, here's a few lessons I learnt along the way.

It begins with that phone call from CM-A. "G'day, this is your Career Manager, would you like to run a workshop next year?" For the most of us, it's an automatic response. Of course I want my own workshop. For others it depends on the unit you're being offered and the awareness of the responsibilities and experience you're predicting you'll have. Many ASMs in times gone by have regretted specific posting under specific command and the old and bolds have plenty of stories to tell about OC's and CO's that were famous for reasons good and bad. It's ok to decline the first offer and/or request another option if you have no desire in spending the next two to three years in a workshop you may think you won't enjoy. However, most of us will grasp this opportunity and begin the process.

Once the posting order arrives, you initiate communication with the member you are replacing and the handover-takeover process begins, which often includes a relocation to a new locality. You set up your office, ensuring it is a comfortable workspace since you will be spending a significant amount of time there over the next few years, and the real work begins. However, be prepared for the work you encounter to not resemble what you expected. The obvious requirements such as MILIS, Work Orders, MSTs, multiple lines of repair, JLU relationships etc. are already in progress and you would assume that you should never have to rectify or change anything. The maintenance system is already established and has been running for years! I was lucky and inherited a system that was well laid out and complete but you'll find that, not everyone will be as lucky. It's important to learn and understand the unit's specific requirements, its idiosyncrasies and the reasons behind the way your predecessors have conducted technical business. It's also important to know that you can maintain current processes and procedures OR you can adjust certain things to suit your methods, your new command and your experiences. And that's the first lesson.

**** You don't have to carry on everything from previous years, and if you believe you have a better way to achieve the outcome, then do it. You're the ASM now. But make sure you communicate the 'why' behind your decisions to the people it effects.***

From this point onwards, you will encounter many new faces: New Coy HQ staff, new OC, new TQ/RQ, a new Transport Manager and a new CSM. It is crucial to establish good relationships with all of them. Take the time to get to know their skill sets, strengths, and weaknesses. Get together with the CSM and make sure you're both on the same page with regards to responsibilities and understanding how his requirements match your own between trade and regimental. One of the most important relationships will be with your new PI Comd. You're about to spend the next few years working shoulder to shoulder with this member and it's extremely important to get this right. Mentoring should be the key responsibility for you in this relationship as you help them learn to be a leader however, you also need to remember that they've just spent 18 months at RMC so there's probably a lot of new, up to date information that they will be able to help you with also.



*** The ASM – Pl Comd relationship is vital for workshop success. Help them grow and don't be afraid to learn from them as well. Remember, this junior officer will likely be a senior officer for your peers or subordinates in a few years' time.**

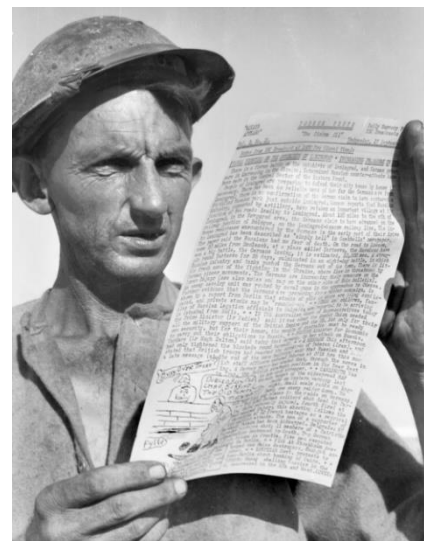


Introduce yourself to everyone outside your company, including other Company OCs and 2ICs, SUEMs, the S4 and XO, and especially the RSM and CO. However, do not be discouraged if you do not have direct access to the top, as often emphasized in career courses. It has become increasingly common for Coy OCs to prefer a Line of Communication approach, and during my time in the Battalion, I rarely directly interacted with the CO. The RQ and I weren't even invited to the weekly CUB, which initially struck me as unusual. However, over time, I realized it was not as uncommon as I thought. This does reinforce the point however that, although we are responsible for technical maintenance decision-making

within our own purview, we do not have jurisdiction over decisions at the company or unit level. We do not own the equipment, the workshop, or the personnel. We correlate and brief technical issues up and facilitate the command level appointees in doing their job. But always make efforts to be pro-active and get in front of potential issues. Don't be the person that only shows up after somethings gone wrong.

*** One of our primary roles is to manage, and brief technical risk to our command. It's their responsibility to be the decision maker. Even at lowest level, we don't own the risk. But being proactive in Comd engagement is one of the best risk management tools.**

During your time as an ASM, you will be expected to be the primary source of technical knowledge. In the past, it was common for members to serve in multiple postings at each rank level, allowing technicians to gain exposure to various combat corps, CSSBs, and other DCU/DSU elements. However, in today's peacetime Army, promotions can occur more rapidly, resulting in ASMs with limited exposure compared to their peers. Which leads me to my next point. I never realised how much I didn't know until I was expected to know it. A large amount of my time in the first six months as an ASM was learning technical information from areas outside of my original ECN. It is perfectly fine not to have immediate answers to every question. Take the time to seek accurate information and respond to your command accordingly. However, it is vital to acknowledge the need for personal growth. Stay updated on technical information and maintain awareness of general military requirements. Stay on top of various documents, including RODUMS, SOP updates, TABs, and more. Your internet bookmarks should be overflowing with links to all things technical. Figure out a way to ensure you see every RODUM that's released. Archive everything, including emails. Ensure you pay attention when the BDE ASM sends out updates. Talk with your peers about any issues they encounter and share your own.



*** It's ok to admit when you don't know something but it's not ok to neglect improvement in your own knowledge and skills. Maintain currency or you risk becoming irrelevant.**

One of the most important things you have access to is your network. The other ASMs around you, some of whom are probably in the same situation, will be your most utilised tool. Be in touch with all of them, regularly. Go to the mess and chat with them at every opportunity. Attend all production conferences and make sure you run your own. Be open to seeking your peer's opinions whenever needed. When in doubt, call the Bde ASM. Having that firm guidance from the senior ASM in the Bde often got me settled and pointed back on the right path, and their advice greatly contributed to elements of my own success. Never be too proud to ask for help.

*** Your TSN is your most valuable asset. Protect it and contribute to it and it will always look after you.**

Be prepared to wear many hats. Due to the manning issues we're encountering in the majority of trade facilities, you'll find that being an ASM isn't going to be your only job. You need to fully prepare yourself to be everything from the Admin SGT to the CSM to the PI Comd. You'll be expected to manage personal welfare issues, manage training requirements for trade and non-trade progression, process admin, mentor and guide junior officers, co-ordinate



events for the unit that will be well outside your SME area, run range practises, lead entire log elements in field training, and many other random activities that your people will just expect you to be good at. Remember you have an entire workshop at your disposal to ensure that the Comd intent is met to its fullest capability in all aspects of military but also remember that if you don't achieve at the end, you're the one in charge. It's alright to ask for help and your allowed to let things fail as long as you've done your best to make it work. But you need to be the one that takes the responsibility for all outcomes, achieved or not achieved.

*** It's perfectly acceptable to delegate tasks to your subordinates but you can't delegate your responsibility.**

The role of ASM will demand time and cause stress. Avoid making the mistake I made by burning the candle at both ends in the first few months, striving to complete everything. Regardless of the effort you put in, there will always be new challenges tomorrow, and the world will not come crashing down if that email isn't finished tonight. If you're starting an hour early and not going home till six pm every night, somethings wrong. Don't shy away from having a serious conversation about time management with your OC. Work on setting some goals both personally and professionally. Confirm priorities regularly and understand what can be allowed to fail due to staffing and time constraints. Clarify the level of expected work and seek assistance in maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Don't forget what's most important, and that's your supporting element at home. They're going through the same issues as you but usually you've got it easier. You didn't have to find a new job, a new school, new friends etc. They've followed you so make sure it's worth it to them.



*** Postings will come and go. Your family are there forever. Make sure you focus on the genuinely important parts of your life when you're not wearing the uniform.**

Remember that you are the custodian of RAEME culture within your unit and it's genuinely the same old cliché; you only get out what you put in. Yes, that doesn't apply to some areas, as we know there are units and workshops out there that are amazing and, obviously, some that are at the other end of the scale. The efforts you put in will be directly reflected in the efforts of the people around you and if you do the work, your people will share that motivation and enthusiasm, often making the best of a bad situation. You will gain a lot from your time and usually you will enjoy the experience. That being said, it's alright to walk away from your time as an ASM with no intentions of taking on a role like that ever again. It can take a lot out of you and regardless of the good and bad, you're coming out the other side with a few more grey hairs. Remind yourself constantly that you have worked hard to get where you are and that not all of your peers are given this opportunity.

Take advantage of the good times where they arise and make sure you always look after yourself in the bad times. Remember that the time you spend in the seat is only a small part of a much larger career. Ultimately, experiences may vary but being able to tell people that you were an ASM is worth it.

A CENTENARIAN IN OUR RANKS

The following is an article written by Tom Kelly (RAQ Life Subscriber 653) celebrating his father's 100th Birthday recently. SGT Tom Kelly, service numbers N372359, NX193711 & 8/59454 who is also an Association Life Subscriber No.652 celebrated his 100th Birthday at the Tin Can Bay RSL on 29 April 2024.

Family and friends were there to help celebrate this amazing milestone and a life well lived. Yes, he did receive his card from King Charles, Anthony Albanese and many others.

During the luncheon TCB RSL President Don Holland presented Tom with a framed certificate for his 100th Birthday, recognising him as an inspirational RSL member. The whole establishment joined in singing Tom Happy Birthday. He received a standing ovation and applause from all the patrons when it was time to leave.

The Kelly family would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and to all the RSL staff who helped make this day so special.

A bit of a story, Tom enlisted in 1942 when he was 18, as he was finishing his initial training, he saw a flyer for mobile trade testing teams visiting the camp. He was interviewed and accepted into AEME. At the time he had a truck driver's license prior to joining the Army, which was rare. Like so many veterans who saw active service he very rarely talks about the hard things but will talk about the funny things.

He was with a AEME attachment to an Artillery unit in Parks, where the RSM would address the parade as "Gentlemen of Artillery and other ranks" which of course irritated everyone else. At that time, he and his crew with had been provided with a 2nd uniform as Protective Dress.

So, one day the group went up to the mess on mass for lunch and the Duty Officer was going to turn the group away due to the condition of their work clothes, the older digger who Dad had said had been in the Army from the start of war replied to the DO that the troop were in the dress of the day, so the DO let them in reluctantly.

While they were eating the DO came over and said as soon as you are finished to leave. To which replied to the older digger that they paid their Rations & Quarters and dessert was part of their rations. So, everyone got up and regardless had dessert before leaving as a group. He did say afterwards that the group was addressed and told not to do that again. But he did say that his crew thought it was a good thing to do, so Corps members sticking to other corps is nothing new.

He also spent some time at the Tank Workshop at Rutherglen NSW before going to the Army staging camp just outside of Charters Towers on the way to Papua New Guinea. While in PNG he managed to join the Number 43 Australian Army Water Transport and Operating Company (landing craft), eventually in charge of a barge with rank of acting SGT. He always felt he was better as a Recovery Mechanic than as a mechanic.

He was discharged in the field at the end of the war at the Lae Fortress Workshop PNG.

There is another story on Minister of Veterans Affairs Facebook page (as published on 03 May) which can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile/100057906467831/search/?q=thomas%20kelly>.

Kind Regards

Tom Kelly



KOKODA TRAIL TREK – PNG



Above: Adventure Kokoda trek group led by Major Scott Babington and 2IC Warrant Officer James 'Max' Walker attended a special Adventure Kokoda Dawn Service at the Isurava Memorial this morning. They are now settled at their final night's campsite - all are well. Early rise for pre-dawn trek towards the Kokoda plateau.

Adventure Kokoda conducts adventure treks across the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea with a focus on the wartime history of the Kokoda Campaign in 1942.

The Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea is a revered destination for trekkers seeking both adventure and a connection to Australia's World War II history. This challenging 96-kilometre trail weaves through the jungles, mountains and remote villages, offering a unique combination of physical endurance and historical reflection. For those looking to tackle this iconic path, Kokoda Treks provides an exceptional guided experience. The latest tour is led by 40th Intake Fitter & Turner Apprentices Scott Babington and Max Walker.

Scott joined the Australian Army as a 16-year-old apprentice in 1985. He was promoted through the ranks and has spent over 34 years serving in the Australian Regular Army. Scott has worked with the United Nations in Sudan as a Military Observer and as an Adviser in Afghanistan with the US 82nd Airborne and the 3rd Infantry Divisions. Scott has a deep understanding of Australia's wartime history and is passionate about passing on the stories of our service men and women.

James 'Max' Walker (first trek with Adventure Kokoda Aug 2018 – 2IC Apr 2024). Max Walker is a former career soldier who first joined the Australian Regular Army as a young apprentice. During his service, Max was posted to the United Nations in Cambodia and deployed to the Republic of Narau prior to the establishment of the Australian offshore immigration detention facility. Max was promoted through the ranks to Artificer Sergeant Major before transitioning to the Army Reserves in 2006. In this role he helped train and shape many of our junior leaders in outdoor recreational leadership as an Adventurous Training Lead Instructor in the disciplines of roping, caving, canyoning and top-rope climbing.

Max first trekked with Adventure Kokoda in 2018 with Major Scott Babington who recruited him into their trek leadership ranks. Together, Max and Scott offer a dynamic and comprehensive approach to the Kokoda Track. Their combined military backgrounds provide trekkers with the skills and confidence needed to conquer the rugged trail. Under their guidance, participants not only achieve personal milestones but also gain a deeper appreciation for the historical and cultural significance of the Kokoda Track. For anyone seeking an adventure, a tour with Kokoda Trek promises an unforgettable and transformative experience.

Follow Max on their latest trek on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AdventureKokoda>

The Australian Army has recently released a video on the Kokoda Campaign and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hAUdXf1pKY>

DVA NEWS: UNDERSTANDING YOUR TRAVEL FOR TREATMENT ENTITLEMENTS

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/understanding-your-travel-treatment-entitlements>

DVA provides support for all eligible clients who need to travel for DVA-approved health treatment within Australia. This is usually done through reimbursement of transport costs or payment of allowances. While you can attend approved treatment Australia-wide with a provider of your choice, the amounts DVA reimburse you for travel are calculated based on the location of the provider considered appropriate to deliver your care. A DVA staff member determines this by assessing your travel claim against your legislative entitlement and individual circumstances.

While DVA decisions are not made based solely on the distance you have travelled, please be aware that what you are reimbursed for travel may not cover the full costs incurred. DVA encourage you to visit providers in your local area whenever possible to minimise out-of-pocket costs. DVA understand there may be reasons why you need to travel greater distances for treatment. These could include:

- provider availability, including those who accept Veteran Cards in rural and remote areas
- type of treatment, including specialist referrals and reasonable continuity of care
- public transport accessibility.

Sometimes DVA may need further information or clarification to support the payment of a travel claim, such as a letter from your GP or specialist. If you're unsure whether you'll be able to receive full reimbursement for travelling to your provider, please contact DVA's Transport Claims team on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) before you travel to discuss your circumstances.

Once you've travelled, you can submit your claim for reimbursement of travelling expenses using DVA's online service, MyService or by completing the D800 form Claim for Travelling Expenses available for download on the DVA website.

The terms DVA use

DVA calculate travel reimbursements based on the distance to either the:

- Closest Practical Treatment Location (CPTL) or
- Place Where Appropriate Treatment is Available (PWATA).

These are two different terms because of the differences in legislation, however their intent is the same. Clients with eligibility under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) are entitled to reimbursement of travelling expenses when receiving treatment delivered at the CPTL. Clients with eligibility under the Military and Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) or the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) are entitled to reimbursement of travelling expenses when receiving treatment delivered at the PWATA.

Minimum distance

Under the MRCA or DRCA, DVA will reimburse you for travel costs if you are travelling by taxi or public transport. There is no minimum distance requirement. However, if you are travelling by private vehicle, the distance must be more than 50 kilometres (return) for DVA to reimburse you. Journeys under 50 kilometres (return) may still be considered on a case-by-case basis if there are exceptional circumstances that make using other forms of transport unreasonable. For example, if there is no public transport available or you have a condition that makes travelling on public transport difficult. There is no minimum distance requirement under the VEA.

Get in touch

To learn more about travel for treatment entitlements, including information about how to claim, please visit the Travel for Treatment page of the DVA website at <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/local-or-overseas-medical-care/travel-treatment> or you can phone DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

If you disagree with a decision about the calculation of your travel claim, please contact DVA's Transport Claims team at transport.claims@dva.gov.au to request a review.

DVA NEWS – ANNUAL INCREASE TO TRAVEL ALLOWANCES

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/annual-increase-travel-allowances>

Correct as at: 17 June 2024

Travel allowances for transport, meals and accommodation under DVA’s Travel for Treatment Program will increase on 1 July 2024 in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The increase applies to travel by private vehicle as well as accommodation and meal allowances for all eligible veterans, war widows and widowers (entitled persons) travelling for treatment purposes or disability and income support claims under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986.

The intention of the program is to assist with travelling expenses for an entitled person and their medically required attendant, not necessarily to reimburse the entire cost incurred. While entitled persons can attend a provider of their choice, to receive the maximum benefit, travel should be to the Closest Practical Treatment Location.

The increases under the program apply to holders of:

- Veteran Gold Cards and Veteran White Cards (for specific conditions) eligible under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 who are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses when travelling to receive treatment for an accepted service-related condition, or for treatment of a specific condition covered under Non-liability Health Care.
- Veteran Gold Cards under the Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests and British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Treatment) Act 2006 and the Treatment Benefits (Special Access) Act 2019 who are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses when attending approved treatment.

For any queries about travel for treatment allowances, contact DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Further information is also available on the DVA’s website at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/local-or-overseas-medical-care/claim-travel-expenses-under-rts>.

Type of allowance	Measure	New allowance from 1 July 2024	Travel with a medically required attendant †
Private vehicle	Per kilometre	43.3 cents	x1
Public, community or air transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x2
Taxi transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x1
Commercial accommodation non-capital city – single*	Per night	\$179.00	x2
Commercial accommodation capital city – single*	Per night	\$212.60	x2
Entitled person and medically required attendant – commercial accommodation – shared*	Per night	\$291.10	x1
Subsidised accommodation – single*	Per night	\$111.80	x2
Private accommodation*	Per night	\$55.70	x2
Meal allowance – more than 50 km but less than 200 km from entitled person’s home to the treatment location	Per day	\$17.80	x2
Meal allowance – more than 200 km from entitled person’s home to the treatment location	Per day	\$36.20	x2

* A meal allowance is not paid on a day where an accommodation allowance is paid, as a meal component is already built into the accommodation allowance.

† This column refers to the number of times an allowance is paid when an entitled person travels with a medically required attendant. For instance, if an entitled person shares a room with an attendant, only the allowance for one room is paid for (x1). If they each have a single room, the allowance for both rooms is paid (x2).

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY – WHAT’S IN A NAME

Source: <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/understanding-military-structure/army/one-army>

Many of us are proud to say we have served in the Australian Army but looking back, that may only be technically correct for those who served from 1946 onwards. Here is a little about how the Army has evolved since Federation.



From 1901 to 1914, the national forces were known as the *Commonwealth Military Forces*. Full-time members were known as the *Permanent Forces* and part-time members formed the *Citizens Forces*. The first pattern of the Rising Sun badge was released in February 1902. MAJGEN Sir Edward Hutton had received a gift of a 'Trophy-of-Arms' composed of mounted cut and thrust swords and triangular Martini-Henry bayonets. Both

swords & bayonets were arranged in a semi-circle around the Crown. To General Hutton, the shield was symbolic of the cooperation between the naval & military forces of the Empire.



The second pattern for the Rising Sun badge came shortly after, in April 1902. This added a scroll with the words 'Commonwealth Horse' and changed 'Australia' to 'Australian'. This badge was a modified version for the Commonwealth Horse.



The third pattern for the hat badge was released in May 1904. This badge carried a scroll inscribed with the words 'Australian Commonwealth Military Forces' and was worn throughout both World Wars. A special version was struck for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. There were also badges of the Commonwealth Horse and the Australian Instructional Corps.

In 1914, the deployed forces, whilst still part of the Commonwealth Military Forces were known as the *Australian Imperial Force (AIF)*. In 1916, the Commonwealth Military Forces were renamed as the *Australian Military Forces (AMF)*. Full-time members were known as the *Permanent Military Forces (PMF)* and part-timers known as the *Citizen Military Forces (CMF)*. Although this structure was maintained until 1946, the AIF was disbanded in 1921. From 1930 to 1939, the CMF was retitled as the *Militia*. This name remained until 1942 before reverting back to being known as the *CMF*. In 1939, the AIF was reformed. It remained a force for deployed personnel until 1946.



Whilst the entire force was still known as the AMF, in 1946, the PMF was retitled as the *Interim Army*. This led to the big change in 1947 when the full-time forces were retitled as the *Australian Regular Army (ARA)*. At this time, the part-time force was retitled as the *Australian Citizen Military Force (ACMF)*. Even though the AMF was formed in 1916, the

fourth pattern of the Rising Sun badge was released in 1949. Corps and regimental badges were reintroduced into the Army and the inscription on the scroll was changed to 'Australian Military Forces'.

To note the coronation of Her Majesty, the late-Queen Elizabeth the Second, the fifth pattern of the Rising Sun badge was released in 1954. The St Edwards Crown replaced the Tudor Crown.



In 1969, the Rising Sun badge went through another alteration, with the introduction of the Federation Star above a heraldic wreath. The inscription was once again changed to read 'Australia'. This design was never fully issued. 1980 saw the Army and an entirety adopt its current name as the *Australian Army*. Full-time members remained as the ARA but reservists were known as either the *General Reserve (G-Res)* or *Army Reserve (A-Res)*. From 1991-1995, the Ready Reserve (R-Res) Scheme was in place.



Come 1996, the current force model was adapted, that is, the force as a whole was known as the *Australian Army*, full-time members were the *Australian Regular Army* and part-time members were known as the *Australian Army Reserve*. The current design for the Rising Sun was produced in 1991 with 'The Australian Army' on the scroll and the removal of the Federation Star and heraldic wreath.



Rising sun history source: <https://www.army.gov.au/about-us/history-and-research/traditions/rising-sun-badge>

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

Source: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/programs-workshops/upcoming>

Understanding anxiety

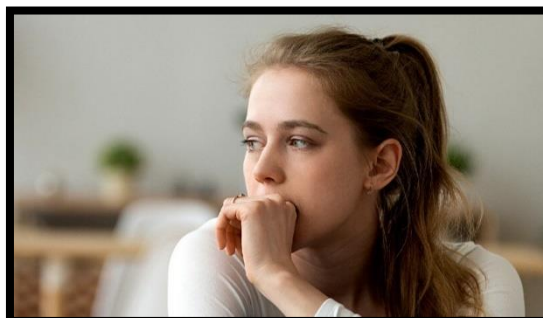
What: A program that teaches you strategies and skills for managing anxiety

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

Venue: Canberra

When: 25-26 July, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#understanding-anxiety>



Recovery from trauma

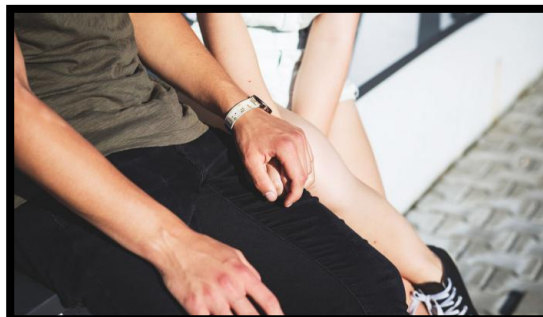
What: A program to help understand and manage the impact of trauma on you and your family

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

Venue: Online

When: 29 & 31 July, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#recovery-from-trauma>



Sleeping better

What: A program to help you manage disturbed sleep

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

Venue: Online

When: 6 & 8 August, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#stepping-out>



Doing anger differently

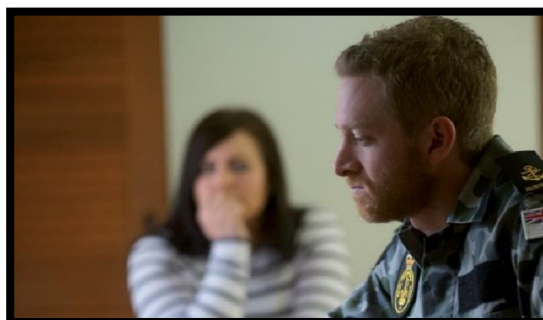
What: A program to help you understand anger and aggression

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

Venue: Online

When: 22-23 August, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#doing-anger-differently>



Beating the Blues

What: A program to help you understand and manage depression

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

Venue: Canberra

When: 29-30 Aug, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#beating-the-blues>



Sleeping better

What: A program to help you manage disturbed sleep

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

Venue: Online

When: 10 & 12 September, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#stepping-out>



Managing pain

What: A program to help you learn about effective pain management strategies

Who: ADF members and their partners about to or recently in transition to civilian life.

Venue: Online

When: 19-20 September, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#managing-pain>



Stepping out

What: A workshop that examines the civilian transition process in both practical and emotional terms

Who: ADF members and their partners about to or recently in transition to civilian life.

Venue: Canberra

When: 19-20 September, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#stepping-out>



To find more information about the programs offered by Open Arms to support veteran well-being, or to register for any of the above sessions, please visit: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

LOOKING BACK

The RAEME Craftsman magazine, edition 3 of October 1979 had several humorous submissions. Here are a few of them. Speaking of humour, now might be a good time to consider sending your funny stories for inclusion in the next *Straight from the Horse's Mouth*. Please email them to FunnyStories@raeme.com today.

THE BEST LAID PLANS...



Private Green was madly in love with Irene and she with him. Unfortunately, Irene's father just happened to be the Regiment's Provost Sergeant with a rather well-developed paternal outlook.

The young lovers made frequent and elaborate plans to be alone, but no matter where they went – behind the canteen – in the miniature rifle range, even under the dias on the main square – one of Dad's minions, complete with RP armband, would materialise and shine his unwelcome torch on the proceedings.

Metaphorically speaking, these proceedings never got off the ground, as the torch-bearer invariably insisted upon conducting Irene to her front door.

Eventually, young Green decided to apply his tactical training to the situation, turning his attentions to locations well away from the camp area. After a lengthy reconnaissance, he made arrangements to meet Irene some distance from the barracks. Some days later he put his plan into operation.

He first settled in the canteen then, after a time, leaving his untouched beer and acclaiming loudly, "I must wash my hands!" he entered the toilet. Locking the door behind him, and deciding at the last minute not to leave his boots in a strategic position, he climbed out of the window.

With haste, he made his way through the maze of stacked beer crates, across the padre's back garden, over the wall behind the gymnasium and headed for the rendezvous.

Irene was at the appointed place on time. Not a provost was in sight.

Off down the road went the couple at a brisk trot. Very soon they were huddled together in the angle of a dry-stone wall on a nearby farm.

However, despite their rather rapid journey, and Green's amorous advances, his pride was soon dented when Irene complained she was cold and a draught was playing havoc with certain portions of her anatomy.

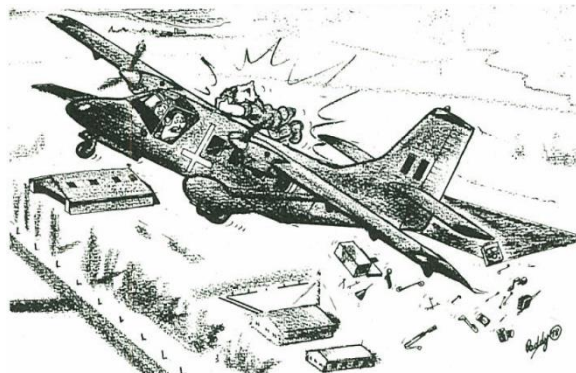
Determined not to be denied, after all his planning, our hero jumped up, placed a hand on the wall and spritely vaulted over – straight into a cold, evil-smelling and over-full sheep dip.

His ardour now considerably dampened, he squelched back over the wall whereupon his despair grew even more despairing at the sight of Irene huddled over her knees, face buried in her hands and shoulders shaking uncontrollably.

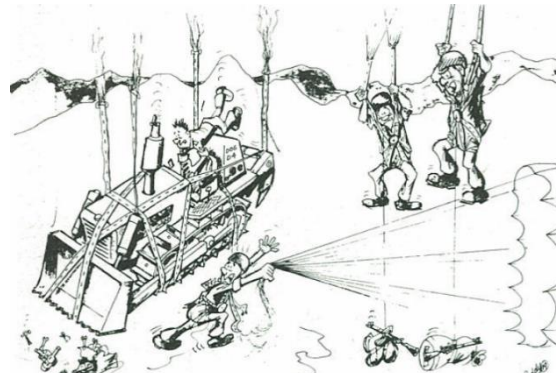
"Don't cry, Darling!" he pleaded from a safe distance. "There will always be another time".

"Who's crying?" spluttered his erstwhile sweetheart. "Just wait until the girls hear about this!!"

WO1 W. Whitehall



"Judging by the repeated technical references to your flying – I'd be pretty positive about him being a Craftsman, Sir!!"



Typical flamin' Engineer! Just had to be first in!



Settle down, ASM! It's due to self-destruct in precisely one point two seconds!

ADF NEWS – MARCHING FOR A CAUSE

Source: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-06-13/marching-cause>

Author: Major Evita Ryan

Walking the 96km Kokoda Track has always been on former-RAEME Laurie Wallace's bucket list. A few years ago, some of his veteran friends travelled together and walked the nationally-significant trail through the jungles of Papua New Guinea, but Mr Wallace couldn't go with them at the time.

Then in 2021, after transitioning out of full-time service in the ADF and joining the APS workforce, Mr Wallace was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, a heart condition that involves an irregular heart rhythm, sidelining any idea of walking the Kokoda Track.

When Mr Wallace heard about 'March On with Soldier On' in 2022, a virtual walking challenge to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by brave soldiers in Kokoda in World War 2, he decided to sign up to the challenge.

"I thought the challenge would allow me to replicate walking the distance of the Kokoda Track while raising funds for a good cause," Mr Wallace said. "I also used the 2022 challenge as a way to test my heart and make sure it was working properly. It took two years to rectify my atrial fibrillation."



Now after completing 'March On with Soldier On' for a third consecutive year, Mr Wallace is glad to have returned to his normal walking routine with his dogs Patch and Zelda.

"By the end of March I was really tired," Mr Wallace said. "Every year I put the call out to my family to see who wants to join our team in completing the challenge and this year we had 10 members ranging in age from 28 years to 92 years. I set out with even higher expectations this year and, as the team leader, I feel a need to lead from the front."

With everyone in the team responsible for setting their own goals, Mr Wallace set his initial goal at 400km, more than two round trips of the Kokoda Track, before extending it to 500km once he realised he was going to surpass that initial goal.

"I thought the challenge would allow me to replicate walking the distance of the Kokoda Track while raising funds for a good cause."

Walking up to 21km every day between March 1-31, Mr Wallace walked 521km in total and fundraised \$3,106 in support of Soldier On's life-saving mental health services for veterans and their families.

As the formation safety officer for Headquarters 6th Brigade and assistance governance officer as an Army Reservist for Headquarters 7th Brigade, Mr Wallace would start each day walking around Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane before work.

"Every day I'd get to the barracks by 6am and walk between an hour and an hour-and-a-half before work, then I'd walk our dogs at least 6km after I got home from work," Mr Wallace said. "On the weekends our dogs got to go on both my morning and afternoon walking sessions."

Even Mr Wallace's daughter, Charmaine, and her dog Loki joined his walking sessions on weekends, making the family fundraising challenge a habit, even in the pouring rain.

"While I normally walk our dogs every afternoon, I never normally walk in the rain," Mr Wallace said. "At least a third of this year's 'March On with Soldier On' challenge was completed by walking in the rain. The weather could be miserable, with pouring rain and flooded pathways, but Patch and Zelda would have their heads up and their tails wagging. They loved it and I'm really proud of what our team was able to achieve."

DVA NEWS – CHANGES TO THE WORK BONUS

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/changes-work-bonus>

Correct as at: 25 June 2024

Veterans and partners who receive the Service Pension, Income Support Supplement or Age Pension and are entitled to the Work Bonus will be able to earn more income from employment before it affects their pension entitlements.

Under the Work Bonus income test concession, the first \$300 of a person's fortnightly Work Bonus income is excluded from the income test. Where the fortnightly Work Bonus income is less than \$300 per fortnight, an eligible person will accrue the unused portion of the \$300 per fortnight income concession to a Work Bonus Bank, up to a maximum balance of \$11,800, to offset their income in the future.

Beginning 1 July 2024, former Work Bonus clients with a preserved Work Bonus Bank balance who are re-joining the scheme, may be eligible to receive a top-up to ensure their balance is equal to \$4,000 upon recommencement.

These changes will allow pensioners the opportunity to gain income without affecting their pension, which will improve the financial independence and wellbeing of veterans and their families.

More information about the Work Bonus is available in the video below or on the DVA website at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/financial-support/income-support/what-changes-your-payments/your-income-and-assets/work-bonus>.

Exercise 101 Fd Wksp Sydney Cocktail Reunion

Ingleburn RSL - The Bardia Room
Saturday 17th August 2024 - 5pm
Dress Code: Cocktail / Smart Casual
\$60 per person

RSVP as soon as possible please for catering purposes!
Karen Cairns - karencairns@bigpond.com - 0438 385 109 or
Michelle Lafferty (Bond) - dmjjj@bigpond.com - 040 400 4775 or
Rebecca Yoxall - rebecca.yoxall@defence.gov.au - 0414 483 302

ADF POLICY CHANGES FOR SERVING MEMBERS

The following Determination has been signed and is effective on 4 July 2024, with schedules also commencing on 12 September 2024 and 10 October 2024.

- Defence Determination, Conditions of service Amendment Determination 2024 (No. 7)
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00818/latest/text>

This Determination has the following purposes.

- Enable a member to share their excess recreation leave credits with their partner if they are part of a dual serving couple.
- Include recognised other persons who has an interdependent relationship with a member as eligible dependants for the purpose of the ADF family health program.
- Update the post index locations and data service provider locations that apply to posting locations of members, including members of the Reserves, who are performing duty overseas, when determining members' allowances and benefits.
- Update the eligibility criteria for the trainee's dependant allowance to increase the expected annual income limit for a member's dependant to the current minimum wage as provided by the Fair Work Act 2009.
- Make amendments that ensure members continue to pay their rental bond advances back in 26 fortnightly instalments.
- Amend the method used to calculate the maximum annual benefit payable for compulsory tuition fees for a member's dependant attending school overseas to ensure that the benefit is fit for purpose. It also amends the purpose statement of Chapter 15 Part 6 to clarify that education assistance assists with maintaining a standard of education overseas which is similar to that received in Australia.
- Clarify what is to be taken into account when determining the cost of a removal under Chapter 6 Part 5 Division 4.
- Amend the rates of allowances and related benefits that may be paid to a member in connection with travel undertaken for duty purposes. The rates are adjusted annually to ensure they remain contemporary based on annual advice from a contracted service provider. The rate changes this Determination introduces are based on the Subscription Notice No. 5 of 6 2023-2024 Allowance Subscription Service Travel Related Allowances – May 2024.
- Make technical amendments that promote the use of contemporary drafting styles, consistency and improve readability within the Principal Determination.

The link to the determination will take you to the Federal Register of Legislation where the determination is registered and published. If you require a PDF or Word version of the determination, you can select 'Download' above the title.

If you have a generic email address for the determinations, know of any changes to the distribution contacts in your area, or if you wish to be removed from the list, please send an email to pacman@defence.gov.au with the required change.

Editor's note: This advice is as provided by the ADF's Directorate of Drafting and Engagement, People Policy and Employment Conditions on 04 Jul 2024.

Serving members wishing to confirm these changes and the effects they may have on them should consult with their administrative staff or chain of command.

To view the latest Pay and Conditions Manual online, please visit: <https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman>. To receive a monthly update directly on all ADF Par and Conditions, visit this page and click the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the page.

VETERAN SUPPORT CENTRE

The Veterans Support Centre (VSC) is a veteran-run organisation with a mission to help veteran's through-life. Pre-2009, VSC was known as the *Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation*.

Contact. VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and their web address is:

<https://www.vscact.org.au/> The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au.

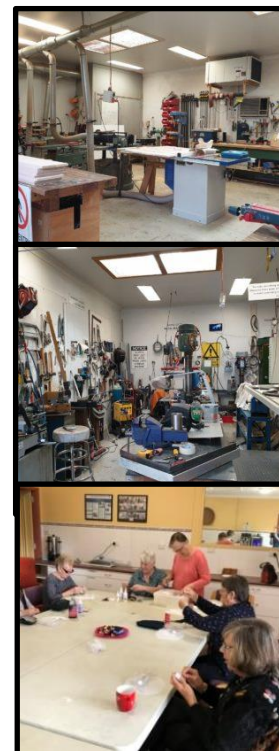


Services. Services provided by VSC include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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



Please contact the office for more details regarding any event.

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 2024 edition of *RAEME in ACTION* (<https://act.raeme.org.au/> Look under Publications).

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:** Old Parliament House was central to the royal tour while the late-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 Jun 2025
- Cost:** Free
- Details:** <https://bit.ly/HappyAndGlorious>



Last Post Ceremony

- Lead:** Australian War Memorial
- What:** Each evening, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.
- Where:** Australian War Memorial, Commemorative Courtyard
- When:** Commencing daily at 4.30 pm AEDT
- Registration:** <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>



View the original Australian Constitution

- Lead:** National Archives of Australia
- What:** Don't miss your chance to view the original Australian Constitution and the Royal Commission of Assent signed by Queen Victoria
- Where:** National Archives of Australia, Kings Avenue Parkes, ACT 2600
- When:** Sun 15 Sep and Sat 23 Nov only
- Cost:** Free
- Details:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lifting-the-lid-view-the-original-australian-constitution-tickets-803615835597?aff=oddtcreat>



REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

Annual OCS Portsea Alumni Lunch

Who: Alumni, Staff and other friends of Portsea are most welcome to attend

Where: Kittyhawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club

When: Tues 16 Jul 2024

POC: <https://www.ocsportsea.org/ocs-alumni-lunch-2024/>

101st Field Workshop Reunion

Who: All past and present members of 101 Fd Wksp

Where: Ingleburn RSL Club

When: Sat 17 Aug 2024

Cost: TBA once locked in

POC: Karen Cairns, karencairns@bigpond.com, 0438-385-109

Michelle Lafferty (nee Bond), dmiji@bigpond.com, 0404-004-775

Rebecca Yoxall, Rebecca.Yoxall@defence.gov.au, 0414-483-302

RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Who: All past and serving reserve members

Where: Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL

When: Sat 17 Aug 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.

Where: Ross Hotel, Ross

When: 17 Aug, 1200-1500h

RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Toowoomba Golf Club

When: Sun 18 Aug 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS continued

RAQ Gold Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC

When: Sat 24 Aug 2024

SE-Qld Spanner Club

Who: All past and serving members

When: Fri 13 Sep 2024

Details: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/> (Under "Notices" → "Events")

RAQ Sunshine Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Maroochydore RSL

When: Sat 21 Sep 2024

Cost: \$28 for RAEME Association Qld/serving members. \$48 for non-members.

Details: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/> (Under "Notices" → "Events")

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.

Where: Claremont RSL

When: 19 Oct, 1800-2100h

RAQ Darling Downs RAEME Birthday Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Toowoomba City Golf Club

When: Sun 17 Nov 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

RAEME Association of Tasmania Reunion

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

Where: Hobart **Cost:** Dinner cost TBA closer to the event

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

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

DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?

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

Whilst working with Army Aviation in the mid 90's, we landed late one night at an Air Base.

The aircrew left so we were doing the normal after-flight service. That was all going well until the RAAF Police turned up with their dog to order us off the aircraft.

The RAAF CPL told us to put our ID cards on the ground and step clear.

Our Black-hander SGT asked them if their dog was going to read the cards too as he definitely looked the most intelligent of them all.

From the look on the dog's face, he agreed!

RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

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

If you have any funny stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com. If you would rather tell your story than write it, email the editors your contact details so they can call you.

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.

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online (at <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>) but at time of writing, they haven't as yet uploaded their books for sale. When they do, we will let you know but in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Head of Corps 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 in particular published that is relevant to the Corps, please email me at: Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary, ACT RAEME Association



President: Andy Adams, President@act.raeme.org.au
Secretary: Ian Cook, Secretary@act.raeme.org.au
Website: <https://act.raeme.org.au>



Membership of the Association is free to all serving or former members with a connection to RAEME who also live or work within the ACT region.