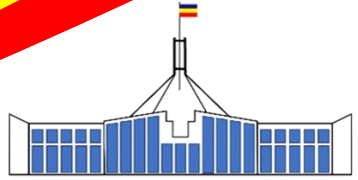


RAEME in ACTION

The Newsletter of the ACT RAEME Association



Edition: 19, June 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All, I trust this finds you and yours coping with the onset of winter. I was speaking with an ex-appy mate (albeit a chippy) from the Canberra region during the week who was in Cairns about to do an ironman event (he has done four of the last five, only missing last year due to a health scare), and he nearly convinced me that the weather up that way was better than ours?!

As we go about our daily business, it is a little too easy to forget the excitement, trepidation, challenge and change that new graduates, be they soldier or officer, experience upon their graduation from their respective institutions. I was reminded of this at the recent RAEME Lanyard Parade when looking at the faces and body language of our new officers. Not only are they embarking on a new career path, they will be doing so in conjunction with a group of smart, inquisitive and inevitably challenging craftsmen of all ranks. While it is always comforting to know you are working with capable folk, it is another thing all together to meet their individual and collective expectations of always knowing what is going on in your patch of dirt and why. Regardless of the era, I hope this never changes, as the joy of finding that while you are not the smartest, fastest or most efficient, you are in a position to work with/for those who tell you they are; priceless!

Stay warm and well, Cheers APA

GETTING OUR ACT TOGETHER

- Tues 25 Jun Informal drinks
1930-2030h Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club [Details](#)
- Fri 5 Jul Association Lunch
1230-1400h Ainslie Football Club [Details](#)
- Tues 30 Jul Informal drinks
1930-2030h Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club [Details](#)
- Fri 02 Aug Spanner Club/RMC Lanyard Presentation
1700-1800h Olim's Hotel [Details](#)

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

 Spanner Club
 Mixed Lunch
 Informal Drinks
 Significant Event

JUNE						
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

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	

CONGRATULATIONS TO WO1 CRAIG WEBB, OAM

The strong and committed service of former RAEME Corps RSM, WO1 Craig Webb was recently recognised in the King's Birthday Honours Lists with the award of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division.

For meritorious service across multiple RSM positions in the Australian Army.

Warrant Officer Class One Webb is a remarkable soldier who has provided meritorious service in a range of Regimental Sergeant Major positions. He has consistently demonstrated leadership, initiative and devotion, acting as an agent for change, an advocate for soldiers and enhancing organisational culture. Warrant Officer Webb's meritorious service has shaped a generation of soldiers by ensuring that significant organisational changes have been successful, resulting in enhancement of Army's capability.



WO1 Webb, the son of a soldier who was wounded in the Battle of Long Tan, joined the Army in 1990 as a 45th Class Apprentice Electrical Fitter (Tech Elec). He held a variety of trade and regimental positions across Australia before



being appointed as the RSM of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (ASEME) in 2013. Concurrent with this posting, WO1 Webb was also appointed at the Corps RSM of RAEME. He has subsequently served as the RSM of the 1st Combat Service Support Battalion (1 CSSB), OP MAZURKA, 1 Psych Unit and 4 Health Battalion. During his career, WO1 Webb has been deployed on various operations around Australia and the world, including East Timor, Afghanistan, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Congratulations, Webby, on the appropriate recognition for a stellar career in service to our Nation and Corps!

CONGRATULATIONS TOO TO SGT LEIGHTON WILSON, CSM

Another deserving recipient of recognition was Sergeant Leighton Wilson of 7th Signal Regiment. Leighton was awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal for meritorious conduct as acting Artificer Sergeant Major, as part of the 2024 King's Birthday honours.



For meritorious achievement as acting Artificer Sergeant Major of the 7th Signal Regiment.

Sergeant Wilson demonstrated meritorious achievement as the acting Artificer Sergeant Major, 7th Signal Regiment. His dedication and technical excellence significantly contributed to the maintenance of the Australian Army's Protected Mobility Vehicle – Electronic Warfare fleet, and improved the reliability of Headquarters on the Move vehicles. Sergeant Wilson's leadership and determination to bring together multiple Army and Non-Army Group stakeholders to remediate issues and improve engineering and logistics accountability for the fleet have improved the Australian Army's combat capability.

Although he felt he was only doing his job and wasn't expecting a nomination, Sergeant Wilson said it was "good to be recognised" and "quite a proud moment".



Well done, Leighton. This is very well-deserved recognition of outstanding service and it serves as a fine example to our junior soldiers of true commitment to our Corps.

Source: <https://www.gg.gov.au/kings-birthday-2024-honours-list>

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST OFFICERS

On Friday 14 Jun, we held a Spanner Club that coincided with RMC's Lanyard Presentation to the Army's newest six junior RAEME Officers and what a turn out we got with up to 50 serving and retired members present. This alone marked the importance of this event to welcome our newest officers and demonstrate to them the importance in which we all view this significant milestone.



The lanyard presentation is intended to be the formal welcoming of the officers into RAEME by Head of Corp, Brigadier Ben Slaughter. He and the Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan, greeted each of the officers and presented them with their RAEME Lanyards as well as a few other significant elements, including: Corps magazines and copies of *Straight from the Horses Mouth* (Edition 2) so they can recognise the breadth of work in our Corps and the humour that strengthens it. During his address, Brigadier Slaughter noted the importance of recognising that whilst we are grouped with other logistics corps, we are increasingly becoming more and more a technical corps. He encouraged our new leaders to master the basics of RAEME, be that repairing forward and recovery as this base knowledge sets the foundations as the Army moves through increasingly difficult times.

Andy Adams spoke to the role of the Associations and the need for the junior officers to engage with their regional Association on arrival in their new locations. More importantly, he spoke to them about the importance of the RAEME family. Andy pointed out our more senior members who were present, including Larry Foley, and how that Corps family relationship is enduring. Andy also spoke to the new officers about the importance of all Associations within that family and the point of consistency they provide in embracing us all on our bad days, our ordinary days

and our great days. We are more than part of the ADF; we are part of a Spanner Community that is rich across Australia and internationally. Andy encouraged our new officers to engage with their Associations to also use them as a sounding board as few challenges they will face are new. Most importantly, Andy reminded all present that our people are our critical enablers hence we need to invest in them so they can become extraordinary humans and extraordinarily able to support the increasing complexity that we are all living in. If all junior leaders are fantastically committed to their soldiers, their soldiers will be fantastically committed to them.



Having spoken to most of the new officers, I'm pleased to say that they are all quite bright and focused on making positive impacts during their respective careers. Our Corps remains in good hands. For those unable to be present, we get to do this again on 02 Aug. Whilst these events generally only happened twice per year, we have the next one so close due to RMC's transition from an 18-month training cycle to a 12-month model. Please come along to welcome the next batch of junior leaders. Details will be promulgated as they are locked in. Dress warmly!

THE RAEME CRAFTSMAN 2023 EDITION

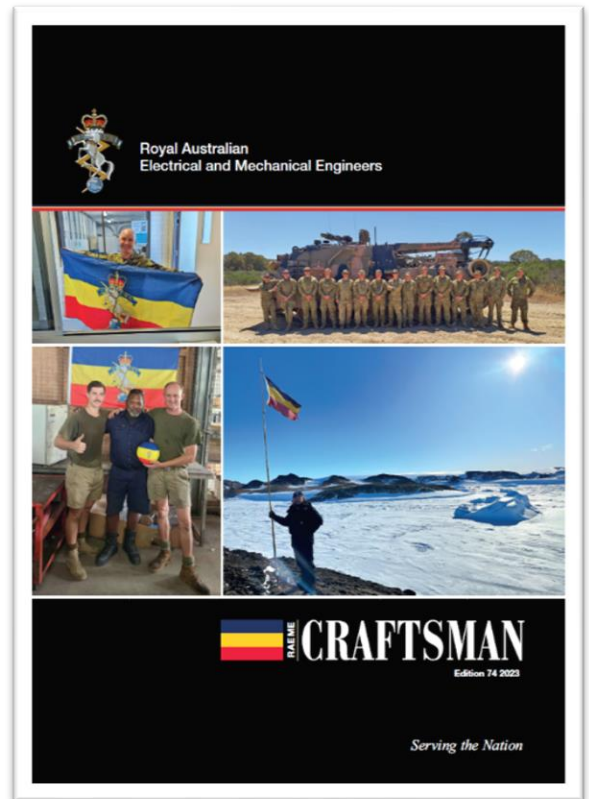
The 2023 edition of *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine was recently released. This edition has over 170 pages of RAEME goodness.

In this edition, you will find guidance from our Head of Corps, Brigadier Ben Slaughter as well as other HOC cell leaders. The Master Artificers each included reports of success or challenges within each trade. Of course, there are numerous other articles of interest and the obligatory unit jottings from around the current workshops.

Other notable inclusions include recognition of some of our most senior Corps members and remembrance of those who were taken from our ranks during 2023.

Few hard-copies will be printed of this edition but the magazine is online at: <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/raeme-craftman-mag>

Here is a sneak-preview of the ACT Association's submission that has been included in this edition.



RAEME – Caught in the ACT

As we embark on a reflective journey through the noteworthy events and accomplishments that have defined the ACT RAEME Association in 2023, our first and foremost expression of gratitude goes to the three exceptional former committee members who have steered the ship with unwavering dedication over the last 20-25 years – Larry Foley, Lyell Wedd and Laurie McDonald.



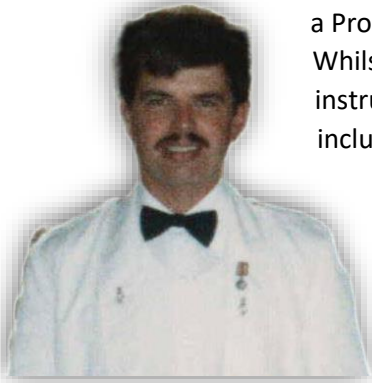
Larry had a long career in the Army with service in multiple units and roles from 1959 to 1994. It was clear from the start as a National Serviceman that Larry was headed on to big things as his first promotion to CPL came after only one week in the Army. He did however have to do a 3-day course before sewing the rank on but his potential was clear. On transferring to the Citizen's Military Force 3 months later, Larry was employed as an automotive fitter in Bulimba where he was identified as suitable for commissioning. In 1961, Larry graduated from the Officer Cadet School as a 2LT and was unleashed on the world as a junior RAEME Officer. He laments that even though he had command over a workshop platoon, he was in fact the lowest paid member of that platoon!

Operationally, Larry served as the 2IC of 102 Field Wksp in Vietnam. On return to Australia, Larry moved into different roles with armoured vehicles, including vehicle trials. This led him to being posted as SO1 Leopard which gave him the experience needed for the posting he recalls as his most memorable; CO of 4 Base Wksp Battalion, where he became the King of the mighty 4B-Bar.

In 1994, Larry retired as our Head of Corps. He was subsequently appointed as the Colonel Commandant of ACT and NSW and then he was appointed as the Representative Colonel Commandant, a role he filled with distinction until 2003.

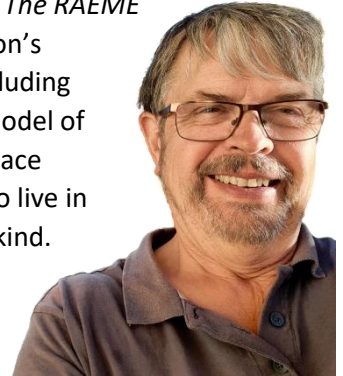
As one of the first Presidents of the ACT RAEME Association, Larry looks back with great fondness to the comradery within the Association and the broader Corps in general. His influence in building the Association cannot be overstated.





In the early association, Larry was supported by Lyell Wedd. Enlisting in 1969, Lyell started as a Production Clerk in ACT Workshop as well as many other units as his career progressed. Whilst serving as a WO1 in the Director General EME's (DGEME) office, Lyell was instrumental in the development of the earliest computer systems used in the Corps, including packages such as the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Data on Equipment Repair (EMEDATER), Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Microprocessor-based application (EMEMic) and Machine Assisted Workshop Documentation (MAWD). Lyell retired in 1990 although his service continued through Public Service placements in several strategic communications roles including back within DGEME for another few years.

In its earliest days, the AEME/RAEME Association was managed by a group of 8-10 serving members within DGEME's office. At that time, Lyell was on the editorial team for *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine. When DGEME relocated to Bandiana in the early 90s, the Association's management was passed to the few staff members who were remaining in Canberra, including Lyell. It quickly became apparent to the team that with reduced staffing, the operating model of the Association had to change. This saw the introduction of the system that remains in place today, that is, the membership is formed from all serving or retired RAEME members who live in the ACT region and as all activities are self-funded, there are no subscription fees of any kind. The model of monthly gatherings that Lyell introduced also remains in place today.



Whilst Lyell was instrumental in the establishment of the Association, he was ably assisted by WO1 Mario Gerhard and WO2 Trevor Bonney. As both Mario and Trevor retired from active roles within the Association shortly after, the committee was boosted by the recruitment of the then recently-retired WO1 Laurie McDonald.



Laurie filled many roles across the Army since enlisting in 1962. He saw operational service in Vietnam before working through the ranks in Base Workshops, Engineer Squadrons, Reserve units, Army HQ, training establishments, Transport Platoons, Watercraft Workshops, HQ EME Group and more. Whilst in these various roles, Laurie was known as "Mr Fix-it" due to his ability to resolve any problem his seniors had identified as needing specialist attention. This was especially the case for any matter that required detailed analysis of accounting or procedural elements. Like Lyell, Laurie also formed part of the editorial team for *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine. All-in-all, Laurie had remarkable exposure to a large part of the Army and RAEME's part within it over his 23 years of service. This experience-base was warmly welcomed by the Association.

Aside from notable achievements in Laurie's military career and subsequently in his numerous civilian roles, Laurie has provided invaluable support to the Association. He was a sounding board for the Committee who ensured all decisions were reviewed by him before they were promulgated. The Committee was well-aware that if Laurie didn't support a decision, there was probably something wrong with it, hence it wasn't promulgated until it was properly reviewed. Laurie was also the first to raise his hand for any job and was largely considered the stalwart that other members could rely on without question. To this day, Laurie is regularly invited to attend ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services at ACT Public Schools. He is forever freely giving his time to support others which is testament to the man he is.



Larry, Lyell and Laurie's invaluable contributions to and stewardship of the Association have paved the way for the flourishing successes we celebrate today and we thank them for that.

Over the last 12 months, the current committee has been led by Andy Adams with continuing support from Ian Cook. As established by the previous committee, Andy and Ian have prioritized the cultivation of camaraderie and unity among its members throughout the year. Monthly social events continue to strengthen the bonds that have made our association a close-knit and supportive community.

On the first Friday of every second month, the Association members gather for a mixed lunch. On alternate months, a Spanner Club is convened for all members. This is supported by informal drinks on the last Tuesday of every month. All events see a good mix of both serving and retired members. The Association is also fortunate to have Head of Corps as a local member, hence his attendance at occasional events is warmly welcomed as an opportunity for both serving and retired members to connect with current happenings in the Corps.



The first key event for 2023 was ANZAC Day. The Association proudly marched behind the Association Banner as part of the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial. Pre-COVID, the Association would typically be supported by an approximately 50-member strong contingent however restrictions imposed by COVID and the Australian War Memorial's reconstruction work had seen these numbers drop significantly. We are

however fortunate in that construction work at the War Memorial is expected to be complete before ANZAC Day 2024 so we look forward to seeing the Association form a large contingent.



Following this year's Veteran's March, the Association was supported by the kind staff at Olim's Hotel, being the closest hotel to the War Memorial, where we were allocated a room and were provided with snacks. This support provided an awesome venue for the membership to share some stories over a drink. It also gave us the opportunity to fly the tricolours in a very popular establishment amongst military members after the march, which helped to draw in several visiting RAEME members, both serving and retired.

On 18 August this year, being the 50th anniversary of the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam and also the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, a large memorial service was held at the National Vietnam Memorial on ANZAC Parade, close to the War Memorial. This was attended by several thousand veterans from the conflict and their supporters. All



gathered to thank the some-60,000 servicemen and women who served in Vietnam and to also remember the 523 who gave their lives there. During the poignant service, speakers recounted stories of service and dedication at all levels. The sense of achievement many veterans expressed was well-warranted as they improved the quality of life of countless Vietnamese people whilst also forming strong bonds with their mates, bonds which remain firm to this day. Some also spoke of the struggles many veterans found on return to a what was, in effect, a relatively immature nation; one that struggled to separate Australia's involvement in an unpopular war from those who served in it.

Thankfully, our Nation is a little more mature now in our approach to deployments and our provision of services to returning service personnel. This would not have been possible had it not been for the continued dedication of Vietnam veterans who fought for services such as Open Arms.

The association marked several other key dates on the military calendar with solemnity and pride, including Remembrance Day and the presentation of Corps lanyards to the junior officers graduating from RMC into RAEME.

The Association held an end-of-year dinner but being ahead of the pack, we held this in early November. It was a great opportunity for members to share a meal and to gain the wisdom of senior members, including our Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG Smeaton, and the visiting President of the NSW Association, Richard Boyce.

With some serving members of our Association working in key areas such as Army Headquarters, the Robotic and Autonomous Systems Implementation & Coordination Office, Makerspace, Landworthiness Branch, various minor and major equipment acquisition projects, career management and so many more critical units, we



were also well-placed to learn more from them about the development within RAEME and in broader Army in general. It was also great to hear about some of the exciting new equipment that is entering service soon.



Celebrating the birthday of our esteemed Corps was a joyous occasion. The camaraderie and shared pride were palpable, with an expanding number of members joining in the festivities, highlighting the enduring spirit of the RAEME family. We were joined by several of the 22 RMC graduates who by the time of publication will be commencing their careers as RAEME LTs; the youngest of whom, SCDT Rhys Brown, joined President Andy Adams to cut the Corps' birthday cake. RAEME Birthday afforded us the opportunity to learn more about what is coming and based on the high standards on display with our newest officers, our Corps is in good hands.

Communication in the ACT largely involves monthly newsletters, called *RAEME in ACTION*. These newsletters include a summary of upcoming Association gatherings for the next 3 months as well as an overview of all other upcoming Association gatherings around the country. We find this helpful for those members who regularly travel interstate (a very common occurrence for Canberra-based desk officers). We also include a summary of key activities at the War Memorial or other veteran-centric agencies in the area.

As we reflect on the past year, we again acknowledge the indispensable contributions of Larry, Lyell, and Laurie, who have played a pivotal role in shaping the successes we celebrate today. Their dedication has set a high standard, and we are committed to building upon their legacy as we march forward into the future. We also acknowledge the support of our members, both serving and retired, as they embrace the comradery within the Association and continue to support our events. The growing attendance of both serving and retired members at all Association events held this year was a testament to the unity and shared commitment between our Corps' members.



In conclusion, we extend our gratitude to the RAEME Craftsman Magazine for providing us with this platform to share our journey. The ACT RAEME Association remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the values of RAEME, fostering professional development, and serving our community with pride. RAEME in ACTION!

CORPS STATUS UPDATE

Source: Abridged from the Corps RSM's monthly reports dated 21 May and 13 Jun 2024

It has been a hectic month (mainly ASEME) which unfortunately has meant some Corps tasks have slipped by the way side.

SGT Rob Clarke and the Corps RSM are working as hard as they can to complete the back log of request sent to the Corps mail box; please be patient and give us as much lead time as possible.

Colonel-in-Chief

We have traction. It has taken a while, however the HOC has received correspondence from SO1 Army Ceremonial which outlines the affiliation with REME and the appointment of HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh as the Colonel-in-Chief of RAEME.

The request will now be staffed through CA to the Governor General prior to submission to the Royal Family.

Corps Conference 2024

The Corps Conference location for 2024 is Townsville within 3 Brigade. This will allow insight into the work occurring around the restructure of the ADF, including base assets (needs to double in size), how the Brigade Commander sees the Brigade being utilised and gives those that may never have had the chance to partake in the conference an opportunity to attend.

At the point of drafting this email the dates look like:

- 30 Sep / 01 Oct – Travel days
- 01 Oct – All ranks BBQ dinner
- 02 Oct – Day 1 of conference
- 03 Oct – Day 2 of conference (mid-afternoon finish – all ranks dining-in night)
- 04 Oct – Travel day

The Admin Inst has been released. If any serving member wishes to get a copy, please reach out to your Chain of Command. For retired members in the ACT region, please email Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

St Eligius Trophy

Saint Eligius has been the Patron Saint of our Corps since 1990 and characterises the soldier-tradesman.

Saint Eligius (Known as Saint Éloi in France) is well known on the European Continent and is the patron saint of horses and those who work with them. He is also the patron saint of goldsmiths, metalworkers, coin collectors, veterinarians and is popular with farriers and mechanics.

The St Eligius Trophy will be a skills competition between three teams of seven, held here at ASEME on 27 Nov 24. Teams will have all trades (146, 226, 229, 235, 418, 421) of CFN-CPL rank (with at least one CPL) led by a Lieutenant and this year teams will come from 1, 3 and 7 Brigades. The RAEME Regional Representatives will be asked to assemble the teams.

At this point in time, the competition design has been ongoing, with the Master Artificers meeting last month to get the finer details down on paper and ready for submission to HOC our intent is to use 2024 as the trial to gauge interest and build on the design for the future. We are working tirelessly to ensure there will be no cost impost on Brigades or units for travel etc (more to follow). MAJ Howells is working with a manufacturing company to design a new trophy to be awarded to winning team (more to follow).

It is looking like a challenging yet rewarding activity that will test the mind, body and resilience of all participants.

CORPS STATUS UPDATE Continued

SharePoint page

The Corps web site (<http://drnet/Army/RAEME/Pages/Home.aspx> (Available within the Defence network only) is being updated. WO1 Grant O'Leary will take the lead on upgrading and improving our page. Send him any ideas of what you would like to see included.

The page will include a tab where the RSM places the Corps email, the tab will contain a snap shot of the pertinent points in bullet form, if any information takes your interest, then you will be able to expand it to gain greater insight into the talking point.

Corps Shop

The shop is live at Welcome to HOC Corps Shop (raeme.org.au) (<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>). Please continue to provide feedback to build the stock on items you (the Corps) want to see for sale.

We are about to go live selling merchandise the we (the Corps Shop) won't hold stock, but you order direct from the supplier. Currently we have an agreement for T-shirts, Polo-shirts, Hoodies & Training Shorts which you can now order from <https://shop.hunterpp.com.au/raeme/>. Postage is more cost effective with bulk orders.

RAEME Corps Awards

Please begin to consider nominations for the awards. The RSM will release more information in a month or two (relating to the changes within the Corps Instruction).

Corps Subscription

The increased uptake has seen an increase in the time taken to prepare the scrolls / parchments & certificates to be presented to our deserving members.

The HOC Cell have changed how they produce the Corps Subscription frames / Parchments / etc. This will hopefully see an increase in efficiency in their ability to action requests, and have the items to members faster. At the same time, it has also reduced the cost of the items. The HOC Cell are investigating whether to reduce the subscription fee further.

The Corps RSM wished to gain members interest in what the Corps should present to members (subscribers & non-subscribers) when their time within the Corps or the ADF has come to an end. Currently the Corps Instruction states: members either receive a 'Recognition of Service' or an 'In Appreciation of Service' certificate. These are based on time of service and/or Corps subscription level.

To this end, Corps members are requested to advise the RSM what they would like to see as a farewell/parting gift from the Corps at the end of service. The RSM I can't promise anything yet, but he needs ideas.

Master Artificers

The long-awaited Master Artificer (MA) Badge will be live very shortly. The RSMs intent is to also provide the badge to all previous MAs as a sign of respect for the outstanding work they put in at the conception of the scheme

Clothing SPO has sent the design to industry partners to make some prototype samples. Once we review those and are happy, they will be able to be distributed to those eligible to wear them.



CORPS STATUS UPDATE Continued

Workforce and Training Group

LCPL Promotion

During the last Employment Category Management Board (ECMB) it was identified that there is a 70% deficiency of LCPLs across all ground RAEME ECNs. Although promotion to LCPL is not required for promotion to CPL, it offers an opportunity for our Technicians to be given recognition for their efforts, have identified career progression points and a pay rise of over \$1,100 p.a. To help reduce the number of vacant LCPL positions as well as provide career progression at the CFN rank, it is recommended that units consider their CFN for promotion to LCPL upon successful completion of Subject One for Corporal.

Further analysis has identified that there are approximately 50 vacant LCPL positions in units where there are CFN who are SUB 1 CPL qualified. With consultation through CMA to ensure there are no unintentional impacts on future postings, supervisors are recommended to raise an AC162 for consideration by ASMs/OCs for the unit CO.

The JNCO Growth Plan that was endorsed by Directorate of People and Culture – Army in June 2022 changes the requirement of a vacant APN for the member to promote into and allows a CO to promote a LCPL to 20% above establishment positions.

Historically the LCPL rank is underutilised within RAEME; however, with retention at the junior ranks becoming an increasing issue we need to look at more ways to recognise the work of our junior ranks within the workshop and encourage people onto their second posting beyond the initial minimum period of service.

ADF Careers web page

The ADF careers page has a new look. If you have any photos or videos that are better or more modern than the content you see there, please share an accessible objective link with us at wtg.raeme.ecm@dpe.protected.mil.au. We will share with DFR and try to improve the only method we have of attracting new people. We are also trying to resolve incorrect pay information on some of the trade pages.

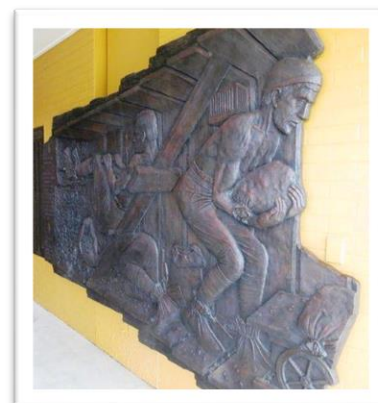
ECN 034 Technician Assistant and ECN 222 Marine Technician will soon be active on the ADF Careers web page to commence recruiting. ECN 235 Material Technician will also gain an unqualified entry pathway so we can train technicians with no prior qualification. The public facing trade names may be different to the category name as we are trying to maximise search results using standard trade terminology.

RAEME Representational Duty

Congratulations to MAJ Shaun Brown, AASPO, he will be representing the Corps at the Australian Tunnellers Memorial to be held in Northern France in Jul.

For those wanting some more information regarding the Tunnellers:
<https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww1/display/97776-tunnellers-memorial/>

For those interested, this is actually how the colloquial name 'The Digger' came about.



ASEME

ALTC competed in an AFL game against a team from the PMA. A hard-fought game against a previously undefeated team, congratulations to all those that took part (CO ADFSH got amongst it). A huge thank you to WO1 Chris Clifton and the ALTC PTIs for arranging the game. We are going to expand on the concept to include other sports and return it to a yearly activity.

RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK REPORT

Author: BRIG Ross Grant, ret'd, Coordinator of the RAEME National Network

Over recent months, in my capacity of the Coordinator of the RAEME National Network (COORD RNN), I have conducted some research on behalf of the RAEME Corps Committee (RCC), to identify issues being experienced by each State association – essentially, I was looking for common themes and issues across the regional associations which may guide the RCC to better inform the RCC and let them assist RNN operations.

For those that may not know the RCC is comprised of a Chair, the Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG Ed Smeaton; the Head of Corps (HOC), BRIG Ben Slaughter; the two Deputy Heads of Corps Ground and Air respectively, and CO/CI ASEME and RAMS; the Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan; and the five Regional Colonel Commandants (COL COMDTs), and me as the RN representative.

I have summarised some of the findings of the survey, to which each regional association contributed. They are as follows:

- Lack of ability to connect with ARA and or ARES units, and their CO/OC/ASMs, in local areas, mostly outside of Queensland – this stymies participation in local events and membership potential.
- Attempts to garner new members are not having the desired effect in some states and regions – membership is in decline in most areas or remaining static at best.
- Apathy at worst, or lack of energy at best, to sustain, or more critically, grow some organisations, including in the NT, where retired members are light on the ground.
- Existing members or new association members not seeking leadership roles in some associations which means that strategic planning or innovative plans may not thrive.
- Identifying key local members in some regions / associations, who can drive change, lead the team and boost enthusiasm for growth.
- An inability to use the full functionality of the RNN IT system, but critically for communicating timely and relevant information to members and potential members, who may visit a regional website.
- Some associations are not moving with the times and using social media platforms to best effect, or at all.
- Poor engagement across the RNN, or not valuing the RNN structure, and the ability to work with other associations – sales of merchandise, lever ideas, or use webmasters to best effect.
- Regional chapters not fully engaged with, or committed to, the aspirations of the main State-based organisation.
- Consider switching to, or using, simpler funding models for events – RA ACT, RANT, RAWA have simple “pay as you go” models, which suits their needs and do not hold funds – nor do some associations sell merchandising which is appropriate.
- Not engaging fully with, or valuing the contribution, which local COL COMDT can make in some jurisdictions.

These conclusions make for uncomfortable reading for many. I have shared the spreadsheet with the RCC, including with the REP COL COMDT and the five COLs COMDT, and as a first step, asked them to increase their level of support for the associations in their jurisdictions.

As you may be aware, the current crop of COL COMDT will step down in 2024, and it may be opportune to ask the new appointees to increase their level of involvement and seek their help to promote the growth of each association. Most importantly, I have asked them as a priority, to connect associations with as many local ARA and or ARES units as possible.

Having summarised the above information, and since the RCC meeting in October 2023, I have been advised of an emerging threat to our communications across the RNN. The administrator/host of our current RNN IT system (Prerequisite, owned by Richard Legge) has advised me that he may have to withdraw his services owing to business concerns and personal issues. As mentioned, this system is used by all our associations, to a greater or lesser degree, as well as the HOC Cell, and presents us with a problem of what to do in the immediate and long-term future. Be advised, I am discussing the situation with Richard, who has managed the system for many years at minimal cost, but I will rely on the national webmaster,

Alex Smithers, for his ongoing and timely support, technical advice and guidance as we consider options. As a start, I will be establishing a work party comprising representatives from each association and considering over the next 12 months the best way forward. Much more to follow.

At the most recent RAEME Corps Committee, which I attended remotely, I advised the Committee that I was desirous of stepping down and was seeking a replacement.

I am in the process of identifying and firming up replacement and will advise more on that later.

Arte et Marte

R.L.G. GRANT AM

BRIG (RETD)

COORD RNN

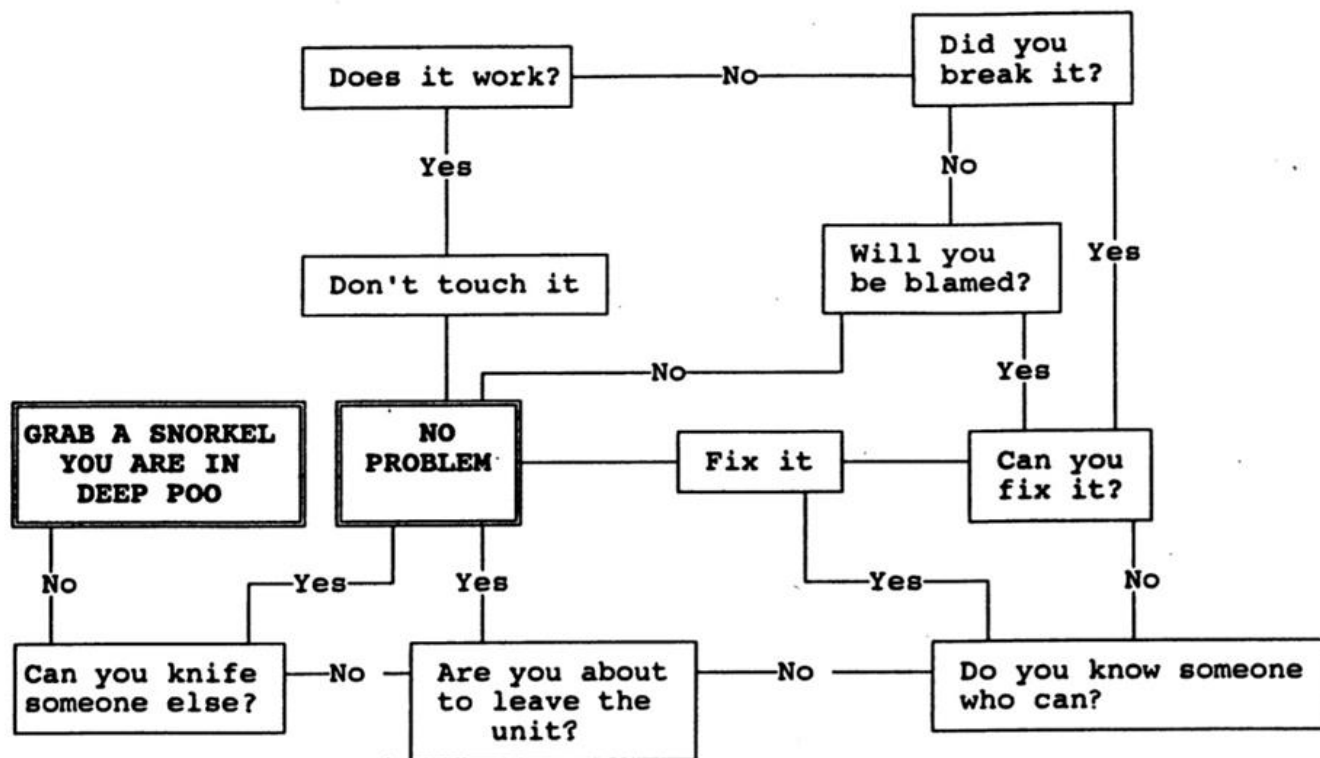
Editor's note: Please note that BRIG Grant's report was compiled in October 2023. It was published in the March 2024 edition of *Spanner News*.

As all Associations continue to address the challenges raised by BRIG Grant, we will hopefully work together to enhance efficiencies and streamline our procedures, possibly with a greater sharing of common activities. This won't be an easy process but every journey starts with the first step.

Since compilation, BRIG Grant has done a considerable amount of work to address some of the issues raised in this but that momentum needs to be picked up by our members. In the end, the ongoing strength of the ACT Association (and all others) is up to our members; it is up to you. The fact that you have read this far means you care. Regardless of where you are in the Country, show that you can by actively engaging with your Association and attend any events that may be running. Will you help out?



OPERATOR FAULT DIAGNOSIS CHART



ARMY LIFE BEFORE RAEME

On the 1st of Jun 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 extracted below for your reading pleasure. To see full details, visit: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3351135>



Saluting the brave dead.
General Sir Thomas Blarney (centre foreground), after laying a wreath on the Rock of Remembrance in Melbourne on Anzac Day. Lieutenant General Sir John Lavarack is on his right.

Increased Pay for Women
The basic pay of adult women workers, originally fixed at 60 per cent. of the male rate, has now risen to 62.5 per cent. Stating this, the Minister for Aircraft Production, Senator Cameron, explained that the increase was caused by cost-of-living adjustments. Women doing work formerly done by men were paid full male rates.

Beer Rationing Anomalies
On the adjournment of the NSW Legislative Council last week, Mr. Alan McNamara alleged that hotels with "brewery managers" were never 'short of beer, while licensees who had paid thousands of pounds for their hotels were short of beer by the middle of each month under rationing. He asked the Minister 'of Justice, Mr. Downing, if the Government would inquire whether the allegations were true. He also wanted to know what the Government was doing for munition workers and others in defence work to obtain liquor after the trading hours.

War Costs Soar
US War expenditure will be \$1 billion next October, \$6 billion next March, and \$7 billion per month one year from now. Chair of the appropriations committee, told the House of Reps this when a special emergency vote of \$9.5 billion to finance an industry-training program was raised and approved.

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Libya - A Fight For Supplies
Fighting in the Western Desert continues with increasing intensity, and is mainly centred around the area of miles south-east of Tobruk, which has been named Knutbridge by the British forces.

Mex. Declaration Of War Upheld
Mexican Congress has unanimously ratified the War Cabinet's decision that war be declared against the Axis powers.

JAPS ADVANCE IN EAST CHINA
Chinese forces have evacuated the city of Kiangsu, capital of Chingling, in the face of a terrific onslaught by 100,000 Japanese troops.

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Bluey and Curley - - - The Long And Short Of It - - -
By Alex Gurney in the Melbourne Sun News-Pictorial.



APPRENTICES REUNION MARKS 25 YEARS

The weather may have been a bit bleak, however the Bulimba Bowls Club played host to the much-anticipated SE Queensland Apprentice reunion. This annual event, a highlight in the calendar for many former apprentices, brought together over 100 attendees who gathered to celebrate their shared history.



30th Intake Appys at the Reunion 1 June 2024

After organising the South East Queensland (SEQ) Army Apprentices reunion for a quarter of a century, Brian Daley OAM is passing on the baton to the next generation.

The greens of the Bulimba Bowls Club for the day were dominated by the hoisted Appy Flag. This year's reunion saw large a gathering of the 30th Intake, along with many from the 44th and fellow members of Brian's 14th intake.

Throughout the event, attendees eagerly shared their memories and experiences, reflecting on the invaluable skills and lifelong friendships they developed during their time as apprentices. The reunion served as a reminder of the strong bonds formed through the program, with many stories of past exploits. It was evident that the apprentice program has left a lasting impact on everyone.



The highlight of the day was Brian and his wife Barb were treated to a cake and much applause from all those who had gathered.

Brian says next year it will be up to others to carry on the tradition, which appears more popular than ever.

Thanks to the Club for running the BBQ and keeping everyone well 'watered'. We look forward future gatherings and the next reunion in 2025!



Article and photos courtesy of Simon Brooks and the RAEME Association Qld

DVA NEWS: HEART HEALTHY LIFESTYLE TIPS

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/vetaffairs/vetaffairs-vol-39-no3-december-2023/heart-healthy-lifestyle-tips>

Did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death for veterans aged 50 years and over? This means that if you are a veteran aged 50 years or over, you are at increased risk of heart disease.

Your heart is a vital organ (actually a muscle) with the very important job of pumping blood all around your body, carrying oxygen and nourishment that you need to be healthy. There is no one thing that causes heart disease but there are risk factors that contribute to your chances of developing heart disease or experiencing a heart episode.

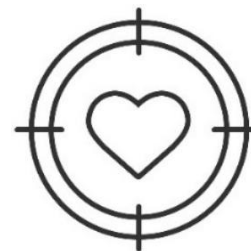
The good news is there are positive steps we can all take to help make our hearts healthier and stronger, regardless of our age or gender. Even if you have heart disease or have suffered a heart condition in the past, it's not too late to make positive lifestyle changes. Below are some ways you can reduce your risk and lead a heart healthy life:

- Reduce the amount of alcohol you drink. Consuming alcohol can have an immediate impact on the cardiovascular system, increasing your heart rate and blood pressure; it can also reduce the effectiveness of some medications. Long-term impacts of prolonged drinking can lead to a weakened heart and an irregular heartbeat, as well as weight gain.
- Eliminate any exposure to cigarette smoke, as a smoker or from second hand smoke. Smoking can cause your heart rate to increase, restrict blood flow in major arteries and cause an irregular heartbeat. Furthermore, chemicals in cigarette smoke have been found to cause the blood to thicken, which can lead to clots. Blockages from a clot can lead to a heart attack or sudden death, while restricted blood flow can cause a stroke.
- Be physically active on most if not all days of the week. Regular physical activity makes your heart stronger and can increase the amount of blood and oxygen your heart pumps around your body. Remember – any activity is better than none.
- Eat healthy unprocessed foods, consuming a balanced diet from all food groups. Consuming a healthy diet can help you to manage your weight, cholesterol and blood pressure, which reduces your risk of developing heart disease.
- Connect with others. Strengthening your social network can reduce your risk of heart disease and heart attack.
- Know and manage your risk. The risk of heart disease or suffering a heart episode increases with age. You can reduce this risk by getting regular check-ups with your GP to determine your level of risk. DVA provides eligible veterans with a one-off or annual health check. The [Veterans' Health Check](#) is a comprehensive health assessment conducted by your GP. It provides an opportunity to access early intervention care and appropriate referrals when you need it.

Heart disease is a long-term chronic health condition. DVA offers access to ongoing care for eligible Veteran Gold Card holders with heart disease through the [Coordinated Veterans' Care program](#).

DVA also provides eligible veterans access to the [Heart Health Program](#), which has been beating strong for the past 23 years. This is a free, year-long, national program that helps veterans to prevent heart disease or a heart episode by incorporating health education, exercise and balanced nutrition into their daily lives.

For more information, including eligibility for the programs mentioned in this article, visit the DVA website or call 1800 838 372 (1800 VETERAN).



Aim for the heart !

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL NEWS – NAPIER WALLER ART PRIZE

Source: <https://www.awm.gov.au/media/press-releases/kat-rae-wins-prestigious-2024-napier-waller-art-prize>

The Australian War Memorial has proudly announced that Kat Rae, who served in the Army for 20 years before becoming a full-time artist in 2019, has won the 2024 Napier Waller Art Prize with a thought-provoking installation.

Her winning artwork, *Deathmin*, is comprised of stacked paper, vinyl, plastic, leather and metal representing the “stack of post-death admin” the artist inherited after her veteran husband Andrew suicided in 2017. Ms Rae took inspiration from her late husband’s experience with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and her own experiences with the Inspector General ADF and the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide when creating the work.



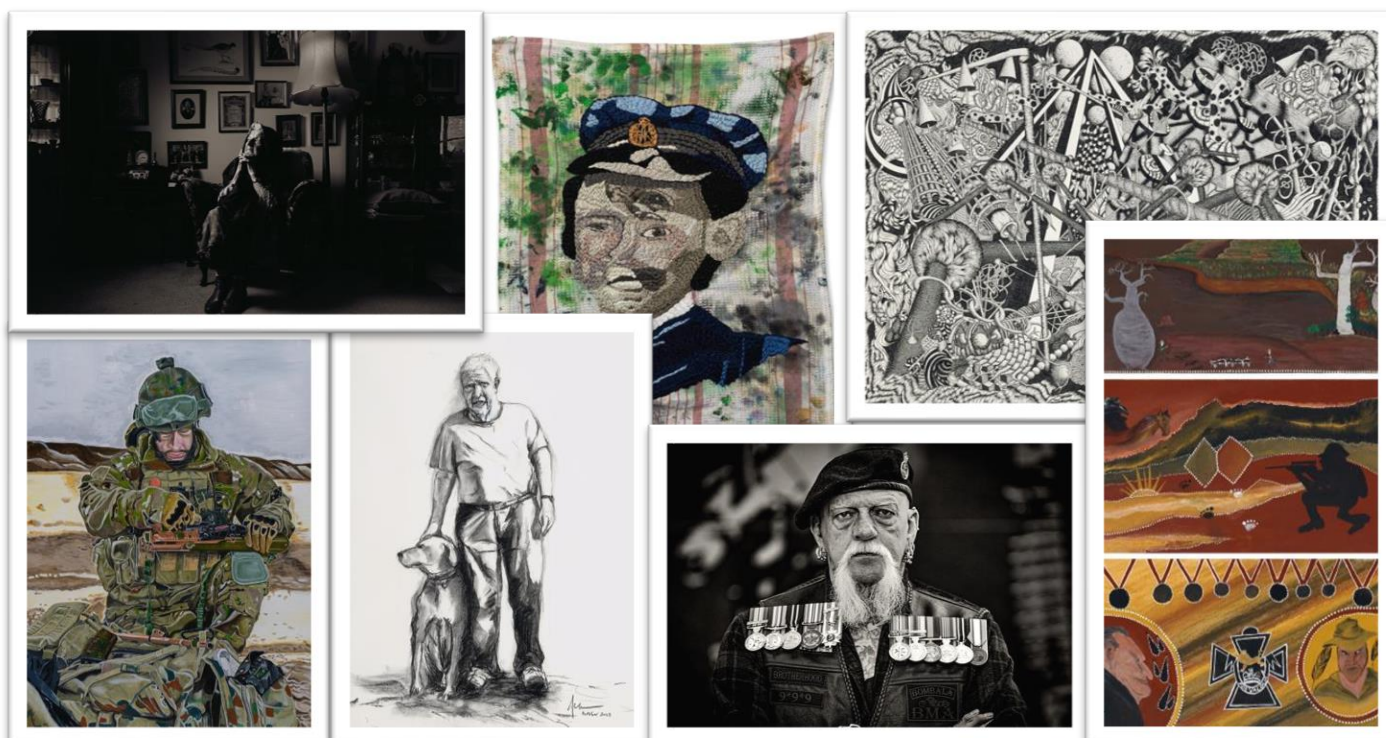
Kat Rae with her work, Deathmin

“*Deathmin* is a counter-monument to the strong, upright imagery often conveyed in the Australian War Memorial. At my height and Andrew’s weight, *Deathmin* embodies the burden placed on veterans and their families. It asks bureaucratic institutions to care for the people they say they will,” Ms Rae said in her artist statement.

The work was selected from a shortlist of 17 highly commended entries, now on display at Australian Parliament House. Ms Rae receives a \$15,000 cash prize and her artwork will be added to the Memorial’s National Collection.

All 29 short-listed works, some of which are shown below, are eligible for the *People’s Choice Award*, which has a cash prize of \$5,000. Voting for the People’s Choice will continue until the exhibition closes on 13 Oct 24.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/napier-waller-art-prize-hub/2024-napier-waller-art-prize/>



Note: This exhibition contains war related material, including references to suicide, confronting language and images which some people may find challenging and disturbing. The views and statements provided by the artists are theirs alone. **Viewer discretion is recommended.**



INVICTUS AUSTRALIA – CAN SPORT COMBAT ALARMING DEFENCE STATISTICS? NEW RESEARCH SHEDS LIGHT

Source: <https://invictusaustralia.org/can-sport-combat-alarming-defence-statistics/>

The weight of military service, training and deployment both for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force, can leave lasting marks and unique challenges. Physical injuries and the invisible wounds of war and service, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges, can significantly impact wellbeing and in some cases, lead to suicide.

Findings rolling out from The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide have provided an alarming wake up call for the Defence community stating there are on average three deaths by suicide by serving or ex-serving Defence members every fortnight across Australia¹, with male serving members of the ADF being 30% more likely to die for this reason when compared to the employed population. In an address to the National Press Club of Australia, Nick Kaldas, The Chair of the Commission, expressed the ripple effect these deaths have on communities, with an estimated 135 people affected in some way by any one suicide.

With the Commission identifying permanent service as a risk factor for suicide, we need to consider the physical and mental wellbeing of all veterans plus the vital role their families play, and their specific needs. Amidst this challenging landscape, multiple research papers suggest that the positive benefits of sport and social connection could translate to this group in a beneficial way, a concept that underpins Invictus Australia's grassroots and international programs, collaborative approach and focus on building supportive communities. With transition being identified as both a cause of this problem and an opportunity to improve the wellbeing of veterans, the positives of sport and social connection are beneficial to veterans at all stages of their Defence career.

Sport as a Transformative Force for Good

While sport and physical activity are known to be great for physical health, both social and mental health can see positive benefits too. Taking time out of one's life to participate, volunteer or even spectate a community sporting event, especially with others, can improve resilience, increase social connectedness and a sense of belonging and lead to greater levels of life satisfaction, according to the Australian Sports Commission². Working towards a common goal with teammates, celebrating victories, and supporting each other through challenges creates a social safety net that can be crucial for those facing mental health struggles.

In many ways, the positive effects of sport mirror what many veterans miss when they discharge from the Defence force. The camaraderie and mateship they experienced is often gone and is hard to replace. However, many veterans, like Daniel Cooper, can replace this camaraderie through sport. For Daniel, it was getting back to the gym that helped his physical and mental health.

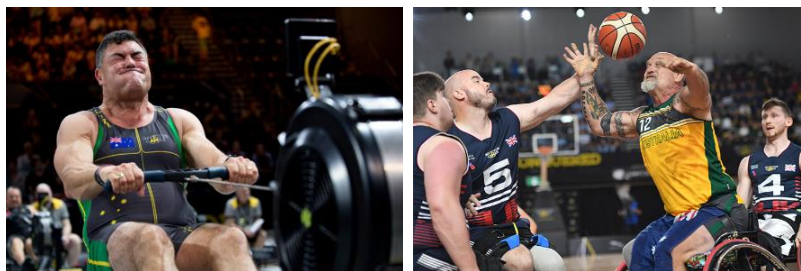
"The support, encouragement and motivation at the gym, it is reminiscent of the military environment. It allowed me to have confidence to try new things."

Daniel Cooper

Military Veteran & Invictus Australia Community Sport Attendee

New Research on Sport from the Invictus Games Foundation

While the positive effects of sport for the wider population are clear, recently published research³ which followed Invictus Games Sydney 2018 competitors provides insight into the long-term benefit of competitive sport for wounded, injured and ill veterans.



¹ <https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media>

² <https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/kb/emerging-trends-in-sport-participation/mental-health-and-wellbeing>

³ <https://www.invictusgamesfoundation.org/research/beyond-the-finish-line-2>

INVICTUS AUSTRALIA Continued

The study found that competitors in the Games experienced significantly greater positive impacts on their mental and social well-being compared to non-competitors. These effects were mirrored in those who trained with the team also, since they had access to sporting camps and selection trials that could still provide the social connectedness and positive mental effects of sport.

Interestingly, the research also highlighted the importance of sporting-based activities conducted “between Games.” These ongoing programs, focused on mental fitness skills and resilience training, were shown to be even more beneficial than sports development alone in maintaining positive well-being outcomes for veterans. This finding underscores the critical need for ongoing support for the Defence community, rather than just a focus on competition and a single event.

Often, ongoing support through sport becomes essential for veterans following their positive experiences on the International Stage. For Invictus Games Dusseldorf 2023 competitor Ainsley Hooker, regularly participating in sport has kept her connected with other competitors and the wider community. This has allowed Ainsley to maintain her physical, social and mental health, which was suffering when she transitioned out of the Army following a medical discharge:

“Being involved in wheelchair rugby has been amazing – the joy and happiness from meeting new people, competing and training has really brought me back from death. I feel alive again and have a new drive to push myself further.”

AINSLEY HOOKER

ARMY VETERAN & INVICTUS GAMES ALUMNA

Invictus Australia: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Sport

Invictus Australia tackles this challenge head-on through a two-pronged approach – international teams and local sporting events.

Internationally, IA provides opportunities for veterans to compete in international events such as the World Surf Life Saving Championships and partners with the Australian Defence force to deliver Team Australia for the Invictus and Warrior Games. These competitions offer a platform for veterans to showcase their resilience, build camaraderie, and experience a renewed sense of purpose. As well as working on their physical health, these events foster a sense of self-belief and accomplishment essential for their mental health.

However, places in these teams are limited and short term. To combat this, Invictus Australia’s Veteran Engagement Managers facilitate local sporting opportunities for all veterans and family members to connect, participate in physical activity and build social connections within their communities. These ongoing activities provide a vital support network and contribute significantly to their mental wellbeing, as well as encouraging the community to sign up for club sport. Alumni, those who were not selected for teams and the wider defence community are all encouraged to attend events in their area by connecting with Invictus Australia’s local Engagement Managers, to improve physical health, strengthen mental wellbeing and foster a sense of belonging.

A Roadmap to Positive Change

The research provides a clear message: sport, on both the international and community level, can provide a holistic approach to the wellbeing of veterans and their family members.

By tackling the issue on both the international and community levels, Invictus Australia is actively working to address the findings of the Royal Commission and create a future where all veterans have access to the support and resources they need to thrive. A well-rounded approach that addresses both the social and mental health needs of the Defence community can be achieved through sport, leading to a brighter future for those who have served.

As a Not-for-profit, Invictus Australia relies on the generous support of Government, Corporate Australia and the general public. If you would like to support our work, please get in touch at: <https://invictusaustralia.org/>

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL – HONOURING PRIVATE MILLER MACK

Source: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/honouring-private-miller-mack>

The first thing most people notice about this striking photograph of Ngarrindjeri Anzac Private Miller Mack is his eyes; the second is that he is an Aboriginal man. The photograph is often used as a symbol of Indigenous Australians' contribution to the First World War. In this year's National Reconciliation Week Last Post Ceremony, the Memorial shared the story of the man behind the photograph: a story of service, sacrifice, and the righting of wrongs nearly a century in the making.

Miller Mack was one of 21 Ngarrindjeri men from the Point McLeay Mission (now known as Raukkan) and the surrounding region to enlist for service in the Australian Imperial Force during the First World War. He joined up with his mates Francis Alban Varcoe and Clifford Tony Wilson in August 1916, despite military restrictions still officially barring Indigenous service. Of the three friends, only Clifford would go on to survive the war.



Private Francis Alban Varcoe was killed in action at Bullecourt on 5 May 1917

Miller Mack returned to Australia from the Western Front in September 1917, suffering from

tuberculosis of the lung. Around 2,000 Australian soldiers were sent home suffering from tuberculosis. Once the men reached Australia, they were admitted to specialised tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoriums established across the country to treat the men and protect the civilian population from the disease.

Miller Mack died from tuberculosis in September 1919 in an Adelaide hospital, 150 kilometres away from his home at Raukkan. Likely on the instruction of the South Australian Aborigines Department, he was buried in a small, unmarked pauper's grave in Adelaide's West Terrace Cemetery.

Over the next 98 years, Miller Mack's family and descendants fought for his remains to be given the recognition and respect they deserved.

When the formal

military section of West Terrace cemetery opened in 1920, Miller's remains were not moved into the space set aside for men of the 50th Australian Infantry Battalion

That same year, his uncle wrote to the local newspaper requesting public donations towards a headstone to honour Miller's military service. The Bedford Park Sanatorium – where he had spent much of his time between returning to Australia and his death – contributed money towards the planned headstone.



Bedford Park Sanatorium, where Miller Mack spent most of his final months.

A representative of the hospital wrote to the local newspaper:

“While he was in this institution, by his kindly and manly nature, he endeared himself to us all, and when he ‘went west’ we felt that we had lost a dinkum pal. Those of us who knew him in camp and abroad can testify to his sterling qualities as a soldier and a man.”

A grave marker was eventually provided by the Office of Australian War Graves, and Miller’s name and burial details were registered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1955.

But this wasn’t the end of Miller Mack’s story.

In 2015, Miller’s descendants began negotiating with Aboriginal Veterans South Australia, Reconciliation Australia, and the South Australian state government to reinter Miller’s remains in a way that properly recognised and respected his war service, sacrifice, and heritage. The decision was made to bring his body home to the banks of Lake Alexandrina, to the community now known as Raukkan. [As his family explained in 2017](#): “He wasn’t even buried with his battalion. If he’d been buried with his battalion, it’s a different matter [because then] he’s lying with his mates – the ones he fought with.” The decision was approved by the South Australian Attorney General’s Department, and supported by the Australian Army.



Graves were gradually unveiled throughout the 1920s and 1930s in the new military section of West Terrace Cemetery

HONOUR TO AN ABORIGINE.
Mr. Mat Kropenyerie wrote to The Register from Point McLeay on January 24:—“I have been reading in The Register letters on ‘Memorials to the Fallen,’ in which mention is made of the proposed columns and monuments in honour (justly due) of those who by the noble sacrifice of their lives, have immortalized their names upon the scroll of never-ceasing time. I thought what a grand opportunity this presented to me of making known to the true and loyal in this State, who are leaving no efforts unspared in seeking to render honour to whom honour is due, that there lies within the precincts of the West terrace burial ground one of those heroes—an aborigine, the only aborigine I should say, who had donned the King’s uniform, and was inviolated home suffering from the baneful effects of the poison gas. I make bold to ask—‘Is it a fit ending to a life placed upon the altar of sacrifice, to devotion of home and duty, that he should lie there without a mark of honour and appreciation; that passers-by should walk past the grave ignorant of the great and grand fact that one of the inmates lies buried there?’ The fact alone that he is the only aborigine soldier buried in the cemetery should be sufficient cause for a display of honour in some form or other. A

Miller’s uncle, Mat Kropenyerie, penned a heartfelt plea for donations to give Miller the recognition he deserved



In March 2017, Miller Mack was [reburied in Raukkan’s cemetery](#) in a ceremony combining full military honours and traditional cleansing and funerary rituals. After 98 years, this Anzac was given the burial he deserved. Today, Aboriginal Veterans South Australia is working to [identify unmarked or damaged graves](#) belonging to Indigenous veterans and restore them to ensure their service and sacrifice is appropriately recognised.

This month, 105 years after his death, and with the support of his community and Aboriginal Veterans South Australia, Miller Mack’s Last Post Ceremony was read by Chaplain Sonja Nugent (Royal Australian Navy) in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial: recognising his service and sacrifice as an Australian soldier fighting for the country he loved.



To view the Last Post Ceremony reading of Miller Mack’s service, on the Australian War Memorial’s YouTube channel, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/live/ZijDic64HJA?feature=shared>

ADF NEWS – EASING THE PAIN OF POSTING CYCLES

Source: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-06-03/easing-pain-posting-cycles>

Chaplain Josh Bouzanquet will never forget looking into the rear-view mirror and seeing his weeping daughter in the backseat. Beyond her, through the rear glass, was their daughter's neighbour and best friend running after their car, crying as their family drove away from Holsworthy during another Army posting cycle. It was devastating for her to be uprooted from everything she knew.

This came after being asked to move across the country with just four weeks' notice.

"She is in grade three now and on her third school," Chaplain Bouzanquet said.

"She spends the first six months of each posting grieving the loss of her friends while trying to make new ones."

Recognising that their situation is far from unique, as a chaplain, Major Bouzanquet is expected to care for other soldiers, but he knows that Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) is there to help.

Whether it's in Darwin, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth or Canberra, the former medic has been willing to serve the Army's people wherever they are. The reality is that his family is inevitably serving their nation as well.

After five interstate moves in eight years, Chaplain Bouzanquet and his wife Sybille rely on DMFS events to settle into new locations.

With all the short-notice postings, Sybille said base community centres were her first point of call.

"As soon as we get to new locations, we look at what events are happening to join other local Defence community groups," she said.

"We get support from other families with similar experiences. It wouldn't be possible without events and support programs provided by DMFS."

DMFS provides numerous programs and support to help with everything from finding a new childcare centre to arranging before- and after-school care and offering financial support for tutoring. In addition, they can assist families manage time apart through building resilience and fostering community connections.

Throughout the year, DMFS runs free events, such as zoo days and coffee catch-ups.

Recently, Chaplain Bouzanquet and his wife attended a National Families Week DMFS event in Canberra, where they were able to rekindle old friendships from previous postings.

The event brought families together to celebrate the defence community, including the awarding of Child of the ADF Medallions. The special medallion is awarded to children growing up in the ADF environment who have surmounted times of uncertainty and change.

Chaplain Bouzanquet said family were the backbone of Defence members and this significant recognition of their contribution made them feel included.

"It recognises it's not just those in uniform, but their loved ones who also feel the pressures of service life," he said.

"It's a small gesture but I think it's important they are recognised as a part of Defence life as well."



Army chaplain Major Joshua Bouzanquet, his wife Sybille and their two children, during the Child of ADF Medallion presentation at Royal Military College - Duntroon, Canberra.

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

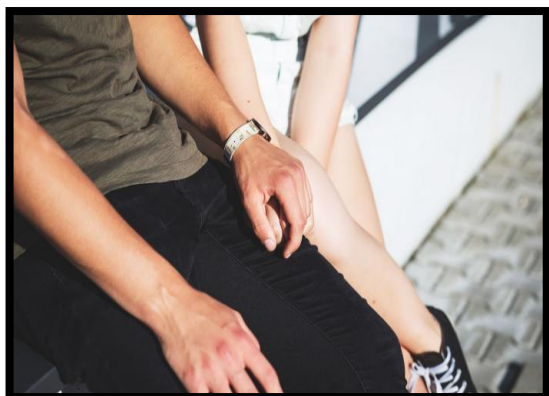


Stepping out

- 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.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 27-28 Jun, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Sleeping better

- What:** A program to help you manage disturbed sleep
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 05 & 07 Jun, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm



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.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 20-21 June, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Understanding anxiety

- What:** A program that teaches you strategies and skills for managing anxiety
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 25-26 July, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm



To find more information about these programs or several others, or to register for one of the above sessions, please visit: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

106 FD WKSP REUNION

The Annual 106 Fd Wksp luncheon was held at the Currumbin RSL on 13 May 24.

Our two guests at our lunch this year were: Jack Thurgood (SAS Hill Nui Dat 1970) and Doug Baird (father of Cam Baird VC MG)



106 Fd Wksp Reunion Attendees – 13 May 2024

Standing L to R: Colin Thorpe – Bruce Sansom – Jack Thurgood – Bob Lawson – Milton Pearson – Trevor Henderson – Ian Campbell – Noel Newton – Doug Baird

Seated L to R: Phillip Bond – Claude Palmer – John Strachan – Doug Goetz.

CFN Phil “Buddha” Bond (22kg lighter) was a prime mover in 106 forming a unit association with former QM and retired RAAOC Lt Col John Strachan, our President for 14 years until the Unit Association faded into the sunset in Brisbane in 2018.

To keep the unit memory alive, Milton Pearson hosts a lunch annually at Currumbin RSL and Steeples Club Mornington Vic where he lives.

Next lunch 2 Dec 24 in Mornington and for you Balcombe boys 1948 - 1982. The club is 7km from the Marine Gates.

Milton Pearson
CSM 106 Fd Wksp
1968/69

Article and photos courtesy of Milton Pearson and the RAEME Association Qld

LOOKING BACK

The *RAEME Craftsman* magazine, edition 3 of October 1979 included an interesting unit jotting from RAEME Training Centre. Have a read about Staff Sergeant Paul Jenkinson's impressive efforts to raise \$611.78 (which is almost \$3,500 in today's money according to the RBA's inflation calculator) for the Murray Valley Centre for Handicapped Children.

Interestingly, the Murray Valley Centre is still in existence today and still supporting people with disabilities.

Murray Valley Centre's vision is to enhance and empower people with disabilities to reach their maximum potential. Their mission is to strive to achieve this vision through the provision of high-quality professional services to people with disabilities. Murray Valley Centre's aim is to achieve its vision through the provision of high quality, professional services for people with disabilities.



RTC JOTTINGS

A SMASHING WAY TO RAISE FUNDS

International Year of the Child – broken tiles – Tae Kwando – a RAEME Ssgt. No, it isn't a set of clues for a crossword, but a unique way to raise funds for a worthwhile charity which realised a total of \$611.78 for the Murray Valley Centre for Handicapped Children.

The RAEME Ssgt was none other than Ssgt Paul Jenkinson, an instructor at RAEME Training Centre and the senior Tae Kwando instructor in the Wodonga area.

One day he decided that smashing tiles might be a novel way of raising funds for a children's charity. Not just smashing them but trying to smash as many as possible in a given time – say, 30 seconds. With that in mind, he approached business houses and members of the local community to sponsor him at the rate of one cent per broken tile.

With flashing feet and crashing hands, Ssgt Jenkinson smashed his way through a total of ninety eight tiles in the time he set.

His reward? A huge \$611.78 for the Handicapped Children of the Murray Valley Centre and five stitches in his feet.

Later, the authors of the "Guinness Book of Records" were approached to see if Ssgt Jenkinson's feat (not feet) rated a mention.

Would you believe that his feat of breaking ninety eight tiles in thirty seconds actually broke the previous world record, but, that particular section had been deleted from the book because there were too many variables in the type and composition of roof tiles throughout the world. Would you believe that!



Ssgt Paul Jenkinson's face and muscles reveal the strength needed to smash roof tiles at the rate of \$20 per second.

The Murray Valley Centre was brought into fruition through the determination of a group of parents and concerned local citizens who were determined to provide a facility for local children with intellectual disabilities. MVC was formally incorporated in 1985 and is governed by a Committee of Management consisting of up to ten community volunteers who meet monthly to discuss issues concerning the operation of the centre. A General Meeting is conducted on an annual basis to elect committee members and publicly promulgate the financial affairs of the incorporated body. I have no doubt that SSGT Jenkinson's efforts greatly contributed to the Centre's success. Well done, Staff!

ADF NEWS – TRANSITIONING HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

Source: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-05-29/transitioning-has-never-been-easier>

In 2007, Louise O'Neill transitioned from the Royal Australian Air Force. The support available today is "vastly different" to her experience. Now, Mrs O'Neill is a transition coach and helps people who were once in her shoes.

"It is rewarding to see ADF personnel seek assistance that is available, and the difference that it makes to their lives post-transition," Mrs O'Neill said. "Once they know I have also been through the transition process they are more accepting of the support that is available."



Transition coach Christine Black meets with soldier Private Chantelle Smuts

Mrs O'Neill is based in the RAAF Williamtown Transition Centre, which has been praised for the support it offers transitioning members. Assistance includes career coaching modules for resume writing, interviewing skills and financial advice. In some cases, training funding is available to support a person's employment goal after transition.

Mrs O'Neill's colleague and Royal Australian Navy veteran, Christine Black, has similar enriched feelings. She transferred from the Navy in 2002. Part of her rewarding work is seeing personnel take advantage of the Defence Force Transition Program (DFTP). "The Defence Force Transition Program is free for personnel to access and it's available for up to two years post-transition," Ms Black said. "The job search preparation workshop and most of the career transition coaching modules are available at any stage in their career as well. You don't have to be transitioning to access those."

The level of support available to transitioning people has improved significantly in recent years. Along with the training course funding there is personality profiling that helps to identify potential career paths. "It is rewarding to see ADF personnel seek assistance that is available, and the difference that it makes to their lives post transition."

Peter Webeck is also a transition coach based at RAAF Williamtown. "By the end [of transition], they've found their strength and their feet, moving off confidently and it's great to be a part of that journey," Mr Webeck said. "You've guided them and reassured them that everything will be okay. It's great to see them finally acknowledge and be comfortable with the fact that, yes, everything actually is OK."

About 6000 personnel transition every year. It's compulsory to meet with a transition coach when separating and family members are encouraged to be a part of the journey. It's recommended personnel attend a transition seminar every four years even if they're not nearing the end of their ADF career.

Seminars have information specifically tailored for those medically separating, transferring to the reserves, retiring and for their families. These seminars can be accessed in person or virtually. "By the end [of transition], they've found their strength and their feet, moving off confidently and it's great to be a part of that journey."

There are 14 transition centres around Australia, including at RAAF Bases Amberley, Richmond and Williamtown. There are 12 outreach locations including at RAAF Bases Pearce, Sale, Tindal and Wagga Wagga. Nationwide, 24 transition seminars will be held from May until the end of the year.

More information is available at <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/military-life-cycle/transition>

Editors note: For more detailed guidance on the steps involved in transitioning, please feel free to check out my ADF Transition Checklist. I created this step-by-step guide when I started to feel lost with my own transition. Using this allowed me to regain a sense of control over my own protracted separation and ensure that I was able to accomplish all requirements in a logical and controlled manner. For anyone who wishes to use this, please do so but also lean heavily on your transition coaches as it is only with a guided approach will you transition smoothly. Download this at: <https://bit.ly/ADFTransitionChecklists>. Also, ensure you double-check currency of all points in this as things change.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

Happenings across the RAEME National Network include:

- **New South Wales.** The NSW Association is busy preparing for their *Christmas in July* function. This will be a luncheon from 1130h on Sunday 21 Jul 2024. The luncheon will be held at Ingleburn RSL Club, 70 Chester Road Ingleburn. The Association has reserved the Private Function Room on the first floor for this event. The venue has lift access if required. Please note though that all guests will need photo ID to be signed into the club. Cost for the lunch will be \$50 per person which will include a 3-course meal and a complimentary beer, wine or soft drink on arrival. Tea and coffee will also be served. The Association does however ask that all guests pass on any special dietary requirements they may have. RSVPs (with payment) are called for by Friday 12 Jul 2024. Please find full details re this event at: <https://nsw.raeme.org.au/index.php/manage-articles/2-uncategorised/109-raeme-christmas-in-july-luncheon-2>

- **Queensland.** The Qld Association has been kicking more goals with successful functions being run around the State. This includes in recent weeks a gathering of members in the Darling Downs region and another in North Qld.

Interestingly, the Qld team also posted an artist's image of what the main vehicle sheds at the old 1 Base Workshop Bn, Bulimba will look like when development is complete. It is vastly different to the facility that many of us will remember from days gone by. You can read more about the Qld Association at: <https://www.qld.raeme.org.au/>.



- **Tasmania.** The Tassie Team are locking in details for the big reunion planned for 15-17 Nov. Details are below in the “Reunions and Gatherings” section of this newsletter but having heard about how big this is going to be, I sort of wish I had been posted to Tassie at some point. Best of luck with your planning! Check out what the RATs are up to at <https://tas.raeme.org.au/>
- **Apprentice Association.** The Apprentice Association released their latest Newsletter in May. It is a remarkably comprehensive edition that has member stories, historical articles, competitions and more.

If you have an hour or two to spare and are looking for a good read, visit the Association website and take a look at the newsletter. You won't be sorry you did. You can find this at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/> Maybe you even know where this photo was taken....



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:

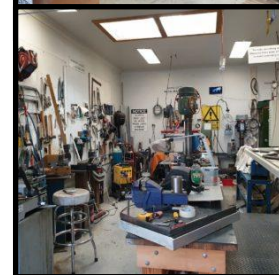
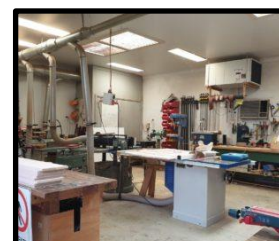
- Mondays Gardening group from 1000-1200h
- Tuesdays Walking groups. Contact the organiser, Terry Lawler on 0401 109 550 or terrylawler71@bigpond.com to confirm starting locations each week.

Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h

BBQ lunch (\$5) from 1200h: Note: On Tues 02 Jul, the VSC will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary of opening its office in Page. For catering purposes, please RSVP by 26 Jun 2024 to the above email address..
- Wednesdays Coffee Connections for veterans and families from 1000- (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)



12000h



Please contact the office for more details regarding any event.

Membership. Membership is open to Veterans of any conflict, serving and retired service personnel. Membership is not compulsory to attend functions or to attain support for DVA claims or welfare matters but it does support VSC work. It also gives access to early notification of a wide range of social activities held by the VSC. The VSC offers a place to get together with a mob of like-minded Veterans.

Cost: \$50.00 Single - \$55.00 Family. VSC warmly welcomes veterans or all ages but like many valuable organisations, they would appreciate the opportunity to support younger veterans. The VSC membership form may be downloaded from the VSC website or as attached at the end of the January edition of *RAEME in ACTION* (<https://act.raeme.org.au/> Look under Publications).

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:

Latchford Barracks Spanner Club

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Latchford
When: Wednesday 26 Jun from 1300-1600h
Details: The event will be running concurrent to the School's Inter-Wing Obstacle Course competition, so visitors can get behind their respective Wings and then browse the displays, trade stands and enjoy the Sports Bar. For more details, visit: <https://vic.raeme.org.au/>

Annual OCS Portsea Alumni Lunch

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

101st Field Workshop Reunion

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

RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Who: All past and serving reserve members
Where: Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL
When: Sat 17 Aug 2024
POC: functions@gld.raeme.org.au

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.
Where: Ross Hotel, Ross
When: 17 Aug, 1200-1500h

REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS continued

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

RAQ Gold Coast Function

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

RAQ Sunshine Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Maroochydore RSL
When: Sat 21 Sep 2024
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
When: 15 Nov – 1730h for 1800h – Welcome Drinks – Venue TBA
16 Nov – Dinner at Queens Head Hotel
17 Nov – 1230h for 1300h – BBQ lunch at Derwent Barracks
Cost: Dinner cost TBA closer to the event
RSVP: https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php?option=com_rsform&view=rsform&formId=16

DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?

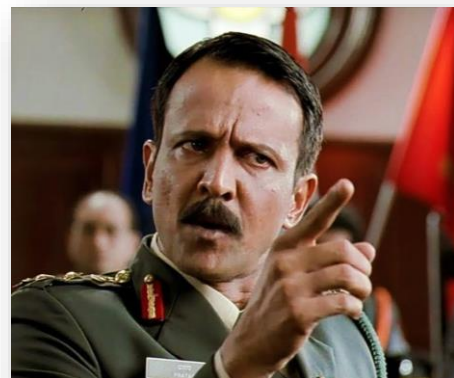
The following is a summarised version of a story published in Edition 1 of *Straight from the Horse's Mouth: 101 Tall Tales from our Nation's Finest Tradies*.

In the 70's, I was RSM of a Base Wksp Bn. In this role, one of my duties was to march diggers in to see the CO for Charge hearings.

At the end of one charge, the guilty bastard was awarded 1 weeks CB (Confined to Barracks for the younger readers).

As I was marching him out of the CO's office, the CO stopped the digger and said "You can have 2 weeks CB instead for calling me a 'bastard'; to which the digger passionately exclaimed "But Sir, I didn't!".

The CO simply said: "You're about to, Craftsman. GET OUT!"



RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

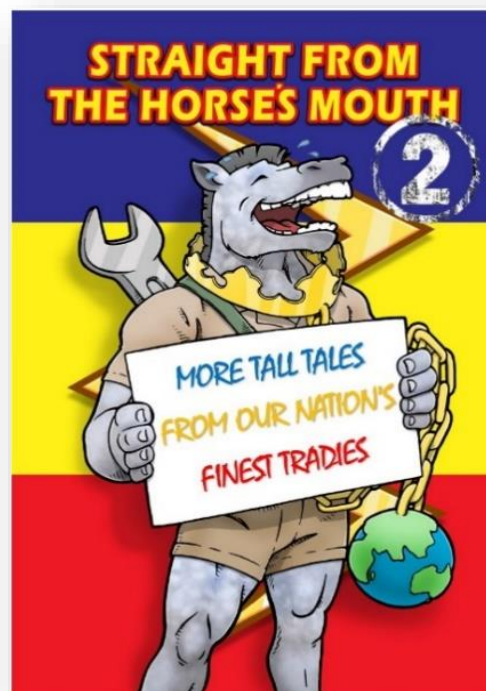
Due to the huge success of the First and Second editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* a third edition is being drafted now. The editors need more stories!!

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.

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>



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