RAEME in ACTion

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Edition: 24 November 2024

Whilst visiting Parliament House on 21 Oct, King Charles III proudly displayed the Corps flag that was presented in recognition of his late-father's service to RAEME

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

One of the areas our Corps consistently sets itself apart from others is through the care for individuals within the Corps, whether serving or retired. We refer to ourselves as a Corps family, and importantly, where we can, we act in such a manner. We may laugh at the mishaps of our brothers and sisters, but we are always the first to reach out a hand when they need it. This attribute has been shown by many throughout the life of our Corps. It is therefore with great sadness that we acknowledge the recent loss of a long time Corps member who embodied this spirit, Major (ret'd) Ray Norman, OAM.

Ray's 30 years of service in uniform saw him engaged in multiple key roles, including his service as a vehicle mechanic SGT in South Vietnam and his later appointment as our Corps RSM; a position he held very close to his heart. Ray was recognised for his service as the RSM of Logistics Command with the award of an OAM. I met Ray after he commissioned and was the beneficiary of his vast wisdom and guidance, and frequently, his expectation that we should all strive to uphold the high standards of conduct that he set.

Ray retired as a Major, however his service to the Corps continued through the RAEME Association of Queensland, including as the Chairman. He was pivotal in turning the RAEME Care Pack initiative that had been started in NSW into what became Operation Spanner Pack; something most deployed Spanners received with extreme gratitude, reinforcing our Corps' family status. Ray also played a key role in earlier attempts to bring all of our Associations together under one banner. Whilst that plan, as strong as it was, was unsuccessful, Ray continued to advocate and support the integration of our Corps.

A part of the Royal family he was not, but Ray was a king in his own way, and it is noteworthy that the photo that Cookie took of the King during his visit to Canberra captured him carrying the RAEME flag.

Ray's loss at 80 years old was too soon, and it will be felt across our Corps, but especially by his loving wife, Karen, and his family.

RIP, Ray.

Stay safe, APA

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Details under "What's Happening in Canberra" (Pg 8)

Spanner Club | Mixed Lunch | Informal Drinks | Significant Event

NOVEMBER						
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	

DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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					

JANUARY 2025						
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		

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024

On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War.

As a mark of respect to those who have died and suffered, Australians are encouraged to pause at 11 am to observe one minute's silence and remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

Red poppies are the best-known symbol of the day with the emblem sparked after the wild flower grew wildly during the war across the mud and blood-soaked battlefields of northern France.

The poppies are not entirely limited to remembering the more than 46,000 Australian lives lost on the Western Front with poppies also springing on the fields of Gallipoli where more than 8,000 Australians died

The Australian War Memorial will commemorate Remembrance Day 2024 with the National Ceremony on Monday, 11 November, commencing at 1040h on the main Parade Ground.

Services in other regions include:

- **Sydney's** service will commence at 10:30am at the Cenotaph in Martin Place
- **Melbourne** will hold a service at the Shrine of Remembrance from 10:30am
- **Brisbane's** service will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance beginning at 10:15am
- **Adelaide's** service will be held at the South Australian War Memorial commencing at 10:45am
- **Perth** will hold a service at the State War Memorial at Kings Park beginning at 10:30am
- **Darwin's** service will be at the Cenotaph on the Esplanade starting at 10:30am.

National Remembrance Day Ceremony Tickets

To book your tickets to attend the National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, please visit the official site at: https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day

For the Fallen – by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children
England mourns for her dead across the sea,
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again,
They sit no more at familiar tables of home,
They have no lot in our labour of the daytime,
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires and hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land, they are known
As the stars are known to the night.

As the stars shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

RAEME BIRTHDAY 2024 – CELEBRATION PLANS

ACT – Canberra:

When: Fri 29 Nov from 1630h

Where: Olim's Hotel

What: Drinks, cake, sharing stories of greatness

Details: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/68-raeme-birthday-spanner-club

NSW – Ingleburn

When: Fri 22 Nov from 1230h

Where: Memorial Gardens, Ingleburn RSL Club

What: BBQ for all past, present RAEME & friends

Cost: $15/pers

RSVP: NLT 08 Nov to Treasurer@nsw.raeme.org.au

NSW – Holsworthy

When: Fri 29 Nov from 1000h

Where: 5 CSSB Workshop

What: BBQ, awards, games, trade displays etc

RSVP: Required for base access 0477-477-482 or Luke.Hudson1@defence.gov.au,

SE-Qld – Enoggera

When: Fri 29 Nov from 1000h

Where: 7 CSSB, Gallipoli Barracks

What: BBQ, awards, games, trade displays etc

Details: https://qld.raeme.org.au

SE-Qld – Brisbane

When: 01 Dec from 1130h

Where: Port Office Hotel

What: Luncheon

Details: deputychairman@qld.raeme.org.au

SE-Qld – Oakey

When: Fri 29 Nov from 1000h

Where: RAMS, Swartz Barracks, Oakey

What: Mixed Dinner

Cost: $70

RSVP: NLT 08 Nov: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1291157

SE-Qld – Darling Downs

When: Sun 17 Nov 2024

Where: Toowoomba City Golf Club

What: Luncheon

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

N-Qld – Townsville

When: Fri 29 Nov from 0800h

Where: RAAF Base Townsville

What: BBQ, awards, games, trade displays etc

Details: north@qld.raeme.org.au

N-Qld – Cairns

When: 01 Dec from 1300h

Where: Cairns (venue TBC)

Details: north@qld.raeme.org.au

South Australia – Adelaide

When: Fri 29 Nov from 0930h

Where: Edinburgh Defence Precinct

RSVP: NLT 11 Nov to Don Harvy at: raeme.sa.association@gmail.com

South Australia – Adelaide

When: Sat 30 Nov from 1200h

Where: West Adelaide Football Club

What: Luncheon

RSVP: NLT 22 Nov to Don Harvy at: raeme.sa.association@gmail.com

Western Australia – Perth

When: Sun 1 Dec from 1200h

Where: TBA by WA Association when confirmed

What: Luncheon

RSVP: Just roll up

Victoria – Melbourne

When: Sat 30 Nov from 1200h

Where: Clayton RSL

What: Luncheon

RSVP: NLT 15 Nov to Alan Rogers at: alang.37@bigpond.com

Tasmania:

When: Sun 17 Nov

Where: Derwent Barracks, Hobart

Details: To be sent to RAT members shortly

Northern Territory:

When: 29 Nov from 0800h

Where: 1 Avn Regt, Robertson Barracks

Details: BBQ, cart races, spanner throw, tug-of-war Command relay, engineering challenge, care flight helicopter, raffles

ADF NEWS – VISIT OF KING CHARLES III

Source: Defence Media

Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited Australia between 18 and 23 October 2024.

It was The King's first Royal Visit as Sovereign, and the first visit by a reigning monarch since 2011.

During their visit, Their Majesties visited the Australian War Memorial and Parliament House in Canberra on 21 October 2024; and observed a Royal Australian Navy Fleet Review and Australian Defence Force fly-over along Sydney Harbour on 22 October 2024.

The critical role of the Australian Defence Force during the visit Their Majesties demonstrates close relationship between the monarchs and Australia's military forces. His Majesty, The King has a long and proud relationship with Navy, Army and Air Force organisations, who holds a number of honorary ranks.

More photos from the King's visit may be found at:
https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/Home/Search?Query=%3Fq%3DS20243106&Type=HomepageAlbum&AlbumName=S20243106

END-OF-YEAR DINNER

Thank you to those members who attended the ACT Association End-of-Year Dinner on 01 Nov at Gryphon's Caffe Restaurant. It was an evening to remember with a great mix of serving and retired members enjoying each other's company whilst sharing delicious meals. We even had guests travel from interstate to share the occasion with us.

Head of Corps, BRIG Ben Slaughter was kind enough to share a few words regarding his observations of the Corps over the year and what he sees as some of the challenges for moving forward. This provided a great opportunity for BRIG Slaughter to share some of his takeaways from the recent Corps Conference, particularly how the Head of Land Capability was impressed by the depth of thought shown by presenters and audience members alike.

BRIG Slaughter's views on the position of our Corps were both interesting and informative. Most of all, it was pleasing to hear that we are in good hands whilst on the journey of continual improvement.

As for the venue, the meals were amazing and the ambience of the place was perfect for our gathering. The staff too were incredible, bending over backwards to accommodate our needs.

Thank you all for an awesome night!

NEWS FROM CANADA

Wanting to connect better with our brethren offshore, over recent months *RAEME in ACTion* has been sent to EME members in different nations, including the UK and Canada. It is for this reason we have been including details of EME happenings in these countries, as I have been able to source remotely. This month, we have received two separate emails from Canada. The first was their apologies for being unable to attend our dinner. That is understandable however the offer remains open to any EME member from any nation to attend our events should they be in the region. The more recent correspondence we received though gave a great rundown of recent events in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The past few months have been busy in Canada between conferences, some events and end of year approaching. Straight off the top, that alone shows how similar we are as whilst they say death and taxes are the only certainties in life, in the military, that clearly extends to meetings and PowerPoint, regardless of nation!

In Ottawa, the Corps recently had their first Golf Tournament and the Director General Land Equipment Program Management Mess Dinner – Oct 10 & Oct 24.

More to the East, the Atlantic region had their RCEME Annual Golf Tournament – Oct 3rd.

In Latvia, the RCEME Team completed the Canadian Army Run – Sep 14.

Showing a well-developed approach to inclusiveness, all of the above events were enjoyed by both active members and retirees. The RCEME HOC keeps in touch with all through Senior Regional Representative (usually a Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) and a Chief Warrant Officer (CWO)). From Ottawa, RCEME send information to their 6 different regions and they are in charge for the distribution/management. For retirees, the RCEME sends them letters inviting them to join their Light Aid Detachment (LAD). There are 11 of them spread across Canada and it helps RCEME gather active and retirees that are in isolated regions. Although it might be hard at some point to keep POC up to date, it helps RCEME keep the knowledge of our precious retirees and include them in our events.

What a wonderful initiative of our Canadian brethren to recognise that those who went before us built the foundations upon which we stand. Well Done, RCEME!!

RAEME CORPS CONFERENCE REPORT

The RAEME Corps Conference was held last week in Townsville with over 150 "Spanners" coming together to discuss the future of maintenance and engineering in the Army. A highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Major General Richard Vagg, Head Land Capability (HLC), who outlined the evolving capabilities of the Army, changes to its structure, and the future of warfare. Further presentations set the stage with insights into key areas such as littoral manoeuvre, the Land Domain Support System, long-range fires, and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), laying the groundwork for deeper discussions.

On the second day, participants used their collective knowledge and experience of the conference to define tactical maintenance and engineering within the Land Domain Support System. Robust discussions were had as the Corps works together to influence how the Army operates in the ever-changing land domain.

This collaboration presents an opportunity for RAEME to directly shape the future of Army operations and ensure its continued success on the battlefield.

The conference also provided an occasion to celebrate the remarkable career of a number of personnel. WO1 Russ Cliffe and MAJ Mick Gordon who were both farewelled at the Corps dinner.

WO1 Russ Cliffe has served more than 50 years of service and MAJ Mick Gordon who retired in July after a 28-year career as a RAEME soldier and officer. Both were recognised for their significant contributions to the Corps and the Army.

The HOC also presented MAJ Steve Howells with a Corps painting in recognition of this 50 years' service to the Corps.

A special thanks was extended to 3 CSSB and everyone involved in making the event a resounding success.

Above: (top L-R) WO1 Russ Cliffe and MAJ Mick Gordon presented with recognition of service scrolls from HOC BRIG Ben Slaughter. (lower) MAJ Steve Howells was presented with a Corps painting on achieving his 3rd Fed Star in acknowledgment of 50 years of dedicated service.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to all the award recipients. The RAQ was proud to support the Conference. We provided a financial contribution towards subsidising the dinner for all participants. Also a big thank you to NQ Rep Jason Ballard for supporting the Conference with RAEME merchandise sales.

Above: Some of the attendees at the Corps Dinner.
Report courtesy of the RAQ. Photos by John Prince, RASA

FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND

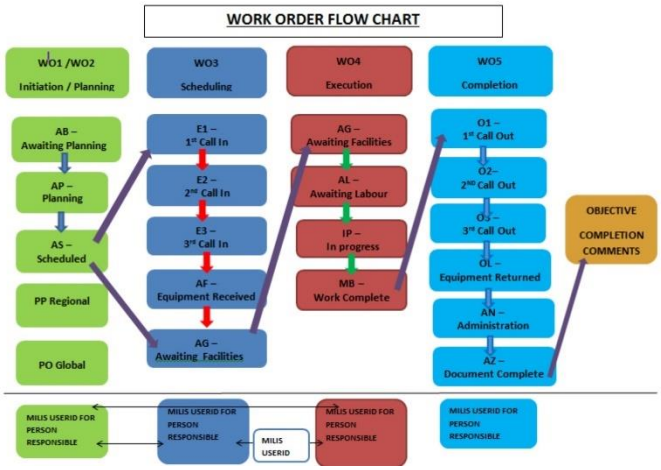
In a significant milestone for the Australian Defence Force (ADF), we will soon bid farewell to the Military Integrated Logistics Information System (MILIS), a stalwart of military logistics since its inception. MILIS has served the ADF diligently for over two decades, managing a vast array of logistical functions that were critical to the readiness and efficiency of our armed forces.

A Legacy of Service

MILIS was designed to provide seamless support in inventory management, procurement, and maintenance of military assets. Its capabilities ensure that our troops have the necessary supplies and equipment at their fingertips, facilitating missions both at home and abroad. For many, MILIS is more than just software; it is a reliable partner in the demanding world of Defence maintenance, streamlining processes and enhancing operational effectiveness.

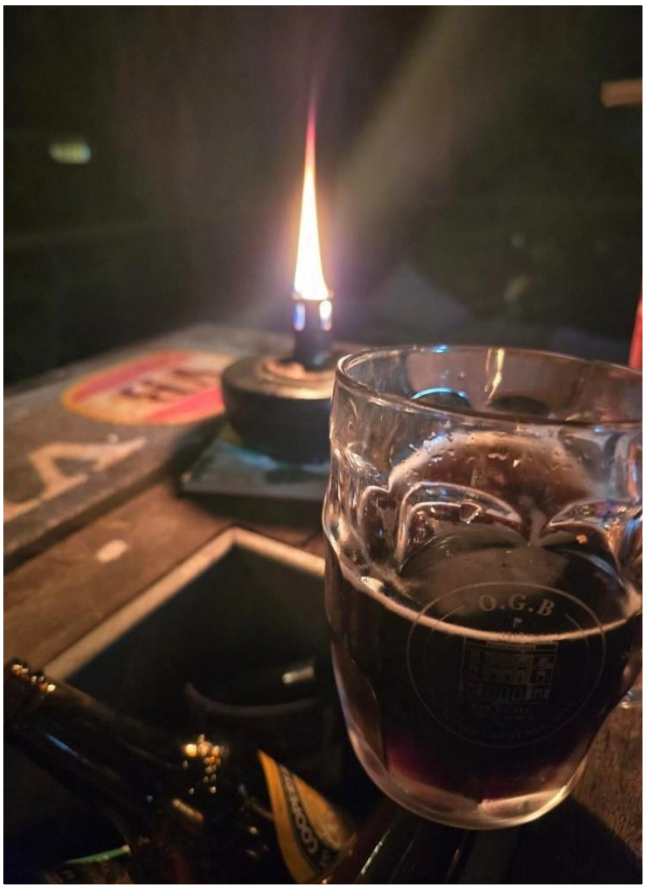
Yet, like all technology, MILIS has always had its supporters and detractors. Many Logistics Officers, Supply Chain Managers and ASMs embrace the system for its ability to enhance efficiency and provide a comprehensive view of logistics operations. However, it has not been without its challenges. Those who lacked strong computer skills often struggle to navigate its complexities, leading to frustration, a sense of alienation and premature grey hair.

Moreover, some personnel were deeply wedded to the legacy software MILIS replaced, the Standard Defence Supply System (SDSS) or the Mincom Information Management System (MIMS) Maintenance Module (which was further abbreviated to MMM). For these individuals, the transition to MILIS felt abrupt and disorienting, casting a shadow over its potential benefits. There is little doubt that for some, the arrival of the replacement software will bring similar apprehension and possibly tears. Others will cautiously welcome it.



Introducing SAP S/4HANA

In place of MILIS, the ADF will welcome SAP S/4HANA, a state-of-the-art enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution that is set to transform logistics management. With its advanced capabilities, SAP S/4HANA integrates real-time data processing with intuitive interfaces, enabling the ADF to respond swiftly to changing operational demands.



The name SAP S/4 HANA comes from its German provider, *Systemanalyse und Programmentwicklung* (SAP) which translates to "System Analysis and Software Development". HANA stands for (wait for it…) *Hochleistungs Analyse Anwendung* which translates to "High-performance ANalytic Application"

The new system boasts features such as enhanced analytics, automated workflows, and improved supply chain visibility. By leveraging the power of in-memory computing, SAP S/4HANA will allow for more informed decision-making and greater efficiency in resource allocation and maintenance management. This transition reflects the ADF's commitment to innovation, ensuring that our defence forces remain agile and prepared in an ever-evolving global landscape.

A Fond Farewell

As we reflect on the contributions of MILIS, we acknowledge the countless personnel who relied on its functionalities or others, such as Russ Cliffe, who supported operators everywhere to gain the most from the system.

In closing, while we will mourn the retirement of this trusted system, we also look forward with anticipation to the future, embracing the potential that SAP S/4HANA holds for our Defence operations. We honour the legacy of MILIS—a system that has played an indispensable role in supporting our troops. Thank you, MILIS, for your service. You will be missed, but your impact will be felt for years to come.

For those who are brave enough, an overview of SAP S/4 HANA is at: https://www.sap.com/products/erp/s4hana.html

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANBERRA

RAEME Birthday 2024

This year's RAEME Birthday Celebrations; an event is being planned for the afternoon of Friday 29 Nov from 1600h.

Last year's birthday celebrations saw one of the biggest turn-outs we have had for years. That may have been due to the amazing cake but it was probably more to do with the company shared.

Not surprisingly, none of us looked a day older than we did the year before.

I hope to see you all at Olim's for this year's celebrations!

Further details re this event can be found at: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/68-raeme-birthday-spanner-club

Other impending events

We will have our regular **Monthly Drinks** up at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club. This will kick off at 7.30pm on Tues 26 Nov. After that will be **RMC Lanyard Presentation and Spanner Club** at RMC Golf Club from 1730h on Weds 04 Dec followed by our last event for the year, being a **Mixed Lunch** at Ainslie Football Club from 1230h on Fri 06 Dec.

If you aren't a member of Gungahlin Lakes (which is the same as Ainslie Football Club), please email me at Secretary@act.raeme.org.au so I can sign you in.

Veteran's Challenge Boxing Tournament

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

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

All bouts were matched to ensure even weight, age and experience. Each bout was no more than 3 rounds, with each round lasting between 1.5 - 3 minutes depending on age & experience.

A pay-per-view livestream will also be available for purchase, with details to be released in future.

Local Events

Friend or Foe – The Rise of Artificial Intelligence Exhibition

What: 100 AI-generated artworks curated by Australian digital artist Luke Millanta.

Where: Questacon

When: Daily from 0900-1700h

Book: https://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=QUESTACO20

Canberra Times Fun Run

What: Runners can choose from four distances: 2, 5, 10 or 21.1km

Where: Rond Terrace, Parkes, Parkes Way

When: 03 Nov from 0545-1300h

Price: From $25-150

Book: https://raceroster.com/events/2024/87783/the-canberra-times-fun-run-2024

Melbourne Cup Lunch and Sweeps

Who: VSC Members and Families

Where: Veteran Support Centre, Page

When: Tues 05 Nov from 1200h

Price: $15

RSVP: ASAP to dalalh@vscact.org.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANBERRA continued

The Prime Ministers XI

What: The Prime Ministers XI is back for a two-day match against India at Manuka Oval.

Where: Manuka Oval

When: 30 Nov 2024

Book: https://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=PMSXI24

View the original Australian Constitution

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: Sat 23 Nov only

Cost: Free

Details: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lifting-the-lid-view-the-original-australian-constitution-tickets-803615835597?aff=oddtdtcreat

Last Post Ceremony

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

Details: https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SE-QLD

Women in RAEME – ***Bring your daughter work day***

RAQ is excited to invite all serving members, veterans, and guests interested in the RAEME Corps to our upcoming FREE EVENT!

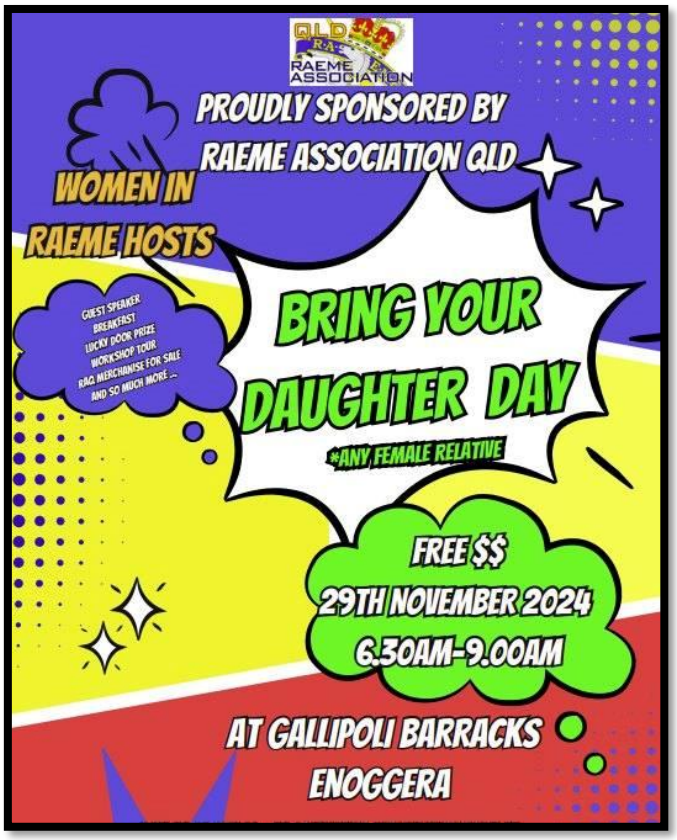
This is a perfect opportunity to network, learn, and experience firsthand what the Corps has to offer. We encourage you to invite the women in your life—whether it's your daughter, niece, granddaughter, cousin, or sister—to come along and explore the Corps as well!

Event Highlights:

- Exclusive visit to Gallipoli Barracks
- A guest speaker sharing insights about the Corps
- Interactive Q&A session
- RAEME merchandise available for purchase
- Exciting lucky door prizes for attendees

As the event will take place on an operational military base, registration is compulsory, and specific entry restrictions apply.

Please use this link for more information and registration: https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/622-women-in-raeme-hosts-bring-your-daughter-work-day



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN N-QLD

Spanner Club

On 12 Oct, the N-Qld team held an off-base Spanner Club. Here is hour the team reported it online.

A great afternoon gathering for RAQ N-Qld Chapter at the Townsville RSL on Sat 12 Oct.

Around 80 attended with Brains Tarrant winning the raffle RAEME badge.

Thanks to Jeff Maurice for the kind donation of some RAEME Coins that were also prizes in the raffle.

Good mates, good banter, good food and good times. Thanks to the RSL staff for a fantastic function.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NSW

RAEME CORPS 82nd BIRTHDAY BBQ
(All ranks)

The RAEME Association NSW Inc. invites you to join us, at above function, to celebrate our Corps' 82nd birthday.

WHEN:	Friday 22 November 2024
WHERE:	Memorial Gardens Ingleburn RSL Club, 70 Chester Street Ingleburn NSW The BBQ will be held outside the RSL Club and All guests will not be required to sign in
TIMINGS:	1200hrs for 1230hrs BBQ to commence at 1300hrs
COST:	$15 per person
DRESS:	Smart Casual
INVITEES:	All members of the Corps past and present, their partners, friends and friends of RAEME
RSVP:	Notice of attendance and payments are requested by **08 November 2024**

PAYMENT:

Cheque/Money Order
To: RAEME ASSOCIATION NSW Inc
Attn: The Treasurer
Address: 6 Magney Place BELLA VISTA 2153
Details: Please include the names of those attending

OR

Direct deposit:
Name: RAEME ASSOC NSW INC.
BSB: 062 196
A/C: 0091 6051
Reference: Use your Surname and Postcode
Notification: Please ensure you inform the Association Treasurer treasurer@nsw.raeme.org.au with details of your payment, and names of those attending as well as your contact number.

For more details about what is happening in NSW, visit their website at: https://nsw.raeme.org.au/

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SA

A New Banner and Harry the Horse Luncheon

The SA Association recently released their latest newsletter, in which they announced the arrival of their new Association Banner.

This new banner reflects the Association's current name. It was also on display at the Association's second "Harry the Horse" luncheon for the year which was held on Tuesday 3rd September at the West Adelaide Football Clubrooms.

It was another great activity with almost 40 ex RAEME members and their families attending.

For this Luncheon we welcomed a contingent of C Sqn 1 Armd Reg LAD and 106 Fd Wksp (68-69) members (and partners) from interstate who had individually decided to come visiting. and it resulted in friends seeing each other for the first time in 30+ years.

Other than that, the SA Association have their AGM scheduled for Sat 30 Nov. This will be held at the West Adelaide Football Club and commence from 10.30am. The next lunch will be on the first Tuesday in March (4th March 2025) at 12noon.

To view the who Newsletter or find out more about what's happenings in SA, visit: https://sa.raeme.org.au/.

The Newsletter can be found under "Publications".

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN VICTORIA

ALTC trainees set to tackle Massive Murray Paddle for Legacy

The Army Logistic Training Centre's Armament and Construction Wing trainees are gearing up to compete in this year's Massive Murray Paddle on 18 November, all in support of Legacy Australia. With twice-weekly training sessions since September, these dedicated individuals are ready to showcase their endurance and teamwork, ensuring they'll paddle through the competition without taking a plunge!

The trainees are not only excited to dip their toes into the race but are driven by a deeper cause. By participating in the Massive Murray Paddle, they are raising much-needed funds for Legacy Australia, a charity supporting the families of veterans. Stay tuned for their progress as they prepare to make waves for this worthy cause!

CA and RSM-A visit ALTC

ALTC was proud to welcome the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO DSC and Regimental Sergeant Major - Army, Warrant Officer Kim Felmingham on a recent visit.

With so much to see, there's no doubt the CA got his steps in today! From checking out the Team Army vehicles and visiting Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, the CA then visited the ADF School of Health to see the "ward" in action, then onto Army School of Logistic Operations and the Army School of Ordnance. ALTC showcased everyday life for trainees as well as some of our unique achievements!

RSM-A even offered her arm for cannulation – a tip of the hat to her days as a medical attendant!

The day concluded with a town hall that packed the Bandiana Area Cinema, where the CA thanked us and broke down some key priorities and perspectives for all Army.

On behalf of ALTC, thank you CA and RSM-A for taking the time to see a slice of our Training Centre

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NT

Robertson Barracks Open Day

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Robertson Barracks Open Day in Darwin on 20 Oct!

The event drew in crowds eager to experience the excitement of Army life firsthand.

Attendees had the chance to explore military vehicles, watch capability demonstrations, and chat with soldiers about their roles in the ADF.

The family-friendly day also featured a variety of food stalls, children's activities, and community displays, making it a memorable occasion for all ages.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WA

A Busy October

The WA Association held their AGM last month. This coincided with a gathering and Veteran Health Week activities.

The Association members were also thrilled with the opportunity to catch up with their honorary padre, Kim Kuchel, who apart from being a Lutheran Padre in 13 Bde is also a qualified heavy diesel fitter. He has also supported the Association for a number of years.

Padre Kim spoke to the assembled body on the subject of connectivity and community and how as an Association each and every one of us is always ready to talk to a fellow spanner who is in need and they are all a part of the RAEME WA family – even if their service was many years in the past.

To learn more about what is happening in the West, check out their website at: https://wa.raeme.org.au.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TASMANIA

Hobart Workshop Platoon Reunion

The RATs have been busy planning a big reunion for Hobart Workshop Platoon. The Expressions of Interest phase has finished with the results overwhelmingly supporting the Reunion being held. Those persons indicating an intention to attend will be contacted with further information as plans are finalised.

The initial planning and dates for the reunion are:

- Friday 15 Nov 2024 – Welcome drinks 1730 for 1800 start, venue to be advised
- Saturday 16 Nov 2024 – Dinner at Queens Head Hotel, Menu with costs to be circulated closer to the event
- Sunday 17 Nov 2024 – 12.30 for 1.00pm – AGM, BBQ lunch Derwent Barracks and RAEME Birthday celebrations.

This looks like it is going to be a ripper of an event so any former member of the Hobart Workshop should make an effort to attend.

I encourage you to get along and enjoy the company on offer.

Details re this event and other activities the RATs have on may be found at: https://tas.raeme.org.au/

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REME UK

Welcome back

In early October, the REME brotherhood took time to right a previous wrong. It was 47 years in the making.

A gentleman named Steven Barnes recently attended REME RHQ for a presentation and a welcome back into the REME Family having been discharged in 1977 for being gay. Since then, laws have changed, and the services have caught up with individual rights, they are now putting right some of these injustices.

When Steven got to Lyneham, he was met by the Corps Secretary, Major (Retd) Geordie Rivers-Wright, and accompanied to REME RHQ to meet the Colonel REME, Colonel Jason Phillips ADC, and the rest of the REME team for coffee and refreshments.

Steven was then presented with a new beret and REME Cap Badge and a signed copy of the Prime Minister's speech to the House of Commons issuing an apology to all that had been affected. He had already received a letter from Colonel Phillips, as Head of REME, and another letter from the Head of the Army. Following the presentation Colonel Phillips gave a speech stating how the armed forces have changed before officially welcoming me back into the REME family.

Steven strongly recommended any other British veterans who were discharged due to their sexuality to contact REME or whichever Corps or Regiment they served with.

For him, it had taken 47 years to achieve this goal and it was a lovely day with touring the training facilities and workshops, the lunch in the Officers' Mess was very special and the REME Museum tour is something he will certainly do again.

The REME team extended a big thank you to all who took part in making this piece of history.

Steven was the first to have had this presentation in REME and possibly only the third in the UK Army, but hopefully not the last.

ARMY LIFE BEFORE RAEME

On the 1st of Nov 1942, being the year of our Corp's formation, the Army News released what was important at that time. Some of the more interesting stories are below. For more https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3351123

ARMY NEWS

Issued Free To All Services In The Northern Territory

Vol. 2—No. 283 DARWIN, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1942 'Phone: Larra. 35

JAPANESE WARSHIPS WITHDRAW FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Japanese warships, transports and supply ships have withdrawn from the vicinity of the Solomon Islands battle area.

In announcing this yesterday the U.S. Secretary for the Navy, Colonel Knox, said that not too much optimism should be placed on this withdrawal because it is not known when the Japanese fleet is likely to return.

Colonel Knox also revealed that American troops now occupy every foot of land they captured in their first big attack on Guadalcanal Island.

8th ARMY REPELS ATTACKS

THE REST OF THE NEWS

Down to Earth

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STOP PRESS

ON THE HOME FRONT

WORLD'S STRANGEST BATTLEFRONT

A vivid picture of fighting in New Guinea--described as the world's strangest battlefront is given by R. B. Leonard, Australian war correspondent, in a despatch from the front.

Along the hellish track from Ioribaiwa to Eora Creek, men from every unit volunteer for the toughest jobs, where everyone wages total war, he states.

Mobile bath unit personnel, salvage troops, and a concert party are swinging picks and wielding shovels to improve the back-breaking foot ways through the forests.

First stretch in the advance which began in late September was the misnamed "Golden Staircase" – a succession of slimy logs. They say there are 1800 steps. Most people lose count after the first thousand.

Our troops slithered down this stairway, marched from its base along green river-banks and then climbed steeply to assault and take Ioribaiwa.

Enemy Equipment

Scattered around is enemy equipment hastily abandoned by retreating troops.

There were rifles, steel helmets, grenades and all kinds of Jap infantry paraphernalia. The track runs for four miles through clinging mud and then through bumps and pot-holes to a narrow ridge. Forty minutes' descent follows. Our troops tramped through this country in drenching rain -which filled the pot-holes, deepened the mud, and showered from every tree.

Probing north of Myola in the Templeton's Crossing area, Allied advanced elements at last made contact. It was brief, but it was contact. Contact in strength was not established until our forces had pushed on to Templeton's Crossing in the vicinity of the mythical "Gap," which is really an opening between two mountain ridges and not a geographical place name.

Worst Country

Here our men fought and some of the worst country which can be encountered on the long track. It is a heavily timbered series of saddle-backs. The Jap machine-guns were placed in well-hidden positions to spit death at anyone assailing their mountain strongholds. The determined attackers beat the Japs at their own game – infiltration and penetration.

Despite their recent furious battling, the Japs are being forced back slowly. Frontline conditions are incredibly hard, but morale among the troops is splendid.

EX KANGA RETURN – From: FLGOFF Maeve Svinos, 39 OSB

Over the period 27 July to 09 August 2024, a contingent of thirty military leaders attended the third iteration of the annual Army-led Exercise Kanga Return 2024 (Ex KR24). Organised by the 39th Operational Support Battalion, the contingent undertook a facilitated nine-day trek that started at Kokoda and moved along the Kokoda Track to Owen's Corner, following the footsteps of Australia's historic actions in defence.

The contingent consisted of a diverse selection of Army corps, which enabled participants to consider the parallels between their experiences within the modern Australian Army and the experiences of the soldiers who fought throughout the 1942 Kokoda Campaign. Ex KR24 not only represented an opportunity for members of the ADF to gain an intimate understanding of the perils faced by Australian and Japanese soldiers throughout the Kokoda Campaign, but also to commemorate the courage, sacrifice and mateship of the Australian soldiers who bravely fought for their country.

RAEME members LTCOL Matt Barnes (CO 39 OSB), CPL Scott McCarthy (2 FSB) and CPL Daniel Sheil (1 Avn Regt) completed the trek with the contingent. CPL McCarthy and CPL Sheil explained their experience as a "100km walk/climb/scramble" between Kokoda Village & Owen's Corner and appreciated the conduct of the exercise. Ex KR24 'was an experience we never thought we would ever partake in until given the opportunity by 39 OSB' as it 'followed the advance of the Australian soldiers from Kokoda Village to Imita Ridge, until the Japanese forces commenced their retreat'.

When reflecting upon their experiences, CPL McCarthy and CPL Sheil stated that 'overall, the Kokoda Trek is an experience that every Australian soldier should strive for at least once in their lifetime in order to gain an understanding of Australia's historical involvement throughout associated conflicts during the Kokoda Campaign. It was a challenging experience (even with porters carrying our packs), which pushed us to our limits. We would recommend Exercise Kanga Return to anyone is given the opportunity to take it.'

LTCOL Barnes stated "The remarkable efforts of our forefathers during the Kokoda campaign cannot be overstated. The 39th Infantry Battalion were poorly equipped, with limited training against a numerical superior adversary employed a successful delayed defence in the most unforgiving conditions. As the supervising officer for this activity LTCOL Barnes also stated "I am incredibly proud of this cohort of junior leaders on Ex KR24.They made a conscious investment to learn about our history while demonstrating resilience and tenacity as they completed this activity". 39 OSB has commence planning the next iteration of Ex Kanga Return with a call for nominations expected to go out across Army in March 2025.

Having gained an intimate understanding of jungle warfare tactics, military strategy, key historic battles and the bravery of individual soldiers throughout the Kokoda Campaign, CPL McCarthy, CPL Sheil and LTCOL Barnes returned to their units with a renewed sense of pride and education of Australia's military history.

LTCOL Matthew Barnes – 39 OSB,
CPL Daniel Sheil – 1 AVN REGT, CPL Scott McCarthy – 2 FSB

ADF NEWS – INTUITIVE 3D PRINTERS IMPROVE COGNITIVE LEARNING

Author and Photo: WO2 Max Bree, ADF News

Creating a T-800 Terminator skull with glowing red eyes to hold your beret might not seem like the most 'military' use for the MakerSpace at Latchford Barracks, but the workshop's value isn't strictly in the objects created, according to site supervisor Andrew Haines.

"The bloke who made that skull had to teach himself 3D printing and how to do the basic circuitry to get the LED eyes in," Mr Haines said.

The site's 400-500 visitors a month must learn the fundamentals behind producing objects, making their newly acquired skill more important than their creations.

Personnel must learn how to set 3D printers and produce designs using CAD (computer-aided design) software before they can walk away with something they've made.

Mr Haines said the goal was to improve cognitive learning and knowledge of emerging technologies.

Despite the majority of work produced for personal use, medics have printed training aids and RAEME (Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) instructors have made miniature working gear sets to help trainees visualise gearboxes.

Regular MakerSpace user and Army School of Logistic Operations instructor Sergeant Steven Richardson used the space's 3D printers to create terrain for Latchford's wargaming simulation centre.

"There's a lot of design, problem-solving, creativity skills being developed," he said.

"In future, there's going to be more 3D printing of stuff as it becomes more commercially available.

"You can buy 3D-printed stuff off the shelves now. I can see it being in the wider Army more and more. So it's handy to pick up those skills."

While users prefer 3D printing because it's easy to learn, the space also includes more complex tools such as a CNC (computer numerical control) router and laser cutter for computer-controlled object shaping.

Popular activities include creating items to hold hats and laser engraving corps badges on metal drink bottles.

"You'll get a run on things. Someone will do something and then everyone else will say 'I want that'; then everyone's tripping over themselves to do something like printing on T-shirts," Mr Haines said.

SGT Steven Richardson with terrain that he 3D printed for Bolt Action war game at the Latchford Barracks war-gaming centre.

The space is also open for a few hours after work and Mr Haines said it had also served a de-facto mental health function, where personnel could relax and work on a project.

"There will be a lightbulb moment. You'll show them something they've been stumbling on and then bang, they're right into it," he said.

"Most of the equipment is quite intuitive. You can jump on and start creating stuff pretty quickly.

"If you get someone in and interested, then they walk out with something – they're pretty happy."

There will also be challenges undertaken, including who can print something the fastest with the most detail or who can convert a mousetrap into a car to go the furthest distance.

The Latchford MakerSpace is open to all military personnel from the surrounding area. It is one of the most popular sites and has a third of total users across the MakerSpace sites. For more information on MakerSpace, go to MakerSpace Program | Australian Army Research Centre (AARC).

Civilian Partnership Hones Army Engineers' Skills

Author: CPL Joshua Kaupa, **Photo**: CPL Jack Pearce, ADF News

The 3rd Brigade is honing trade and engineering skills in collaboration with civilian industries in Townsville. Through on-the-job training at AEP Engineering, Army trades people have been learning the latest engineering practices, skill sets and machinery. 3rd Brigade Artificer Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Dean Goninan, who oversees the brigade's vehicle workshops, said it was a positive initiative.

WO1 Dean Goninan (left), SGT Gary Kelly (middle left), CAPT Cooper Rzepka (middle right) and CEO of AEP Engineering Mick McMillan (right) in Townsville, Queensland.

"We're always trying to stay current and up to date with what civil industry does, so I think there's definitely room for expansion for these placements," WO1 Goninan said.

"Some of the equipment AEP has allows them to design a concept, 3D-print a prototype, and practise-fit that prototype before they put into any structure.

The processes they use in civil industry are very similar, but the machines and equipment AEP have, we don't have in the Army."

WO1 Goninan said the owner of AEP Engineering, Mick McMillan, was ex-Army, a member of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and was supportive of having soldiers upskill in his workshops.

He said Mr McMillan supported the initiative and pushed it forward by seconding some skilled soldiers to his engineering firm.

"That opened the door for crafties and corporals to conduct two-week placements," WO1 Goninan said. "It opens up their eyes to what is available in civilian street, and shows them our investment in their personal development and growth of their trade skills."

WO1 Goninan said the initiative helped to address the issue of troop retention in Townsville, where there were many civilian employment options for tradesmen. He said placements of trades people at AEP Engineering would continue as the 3rd Brigade expanded and looked to build trade and engineering skills to support its growth.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL NEWS

Main entrance Re-opens

In a significant milestone, the Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Entrance has reopened to the public for the first time since 2021.

All visitors will now enter the Memorial through this entrance.

To access the Galleries and Commemorative Area, visitors need a free timed ticket. A separate ticket is required for the Last Post Ceremony at 4 pm.

Visitors are advised to book their ticket online in advance to guarantee entry. Tickets are at: https://www.awm.gov.au/visit

The AWM story continues

A new flythrough video highlights the Memorial's plans to modernise and expand. Preview the new public spaces that will share stories of recent conflicts and the Australians who served in them.

View this at: https://youtu.be/Y-4GJiAYnX8?feature=shared

Australian War Memorial reveals Dili diorama on 25th anniversary

Ahead of the 25th anniversary of the International Force East Timor (Interfet) on 20 September, the Australian War Memorial is releasing the first glimpse of a diorama depicting Australian troops making an amphibious landing in Dili, East Timor (now Timor-Leste) as the peacekeeping operation began.

David Sutton, Senior Historian for the Memorial's new Peacekeeping: 1947 to today gallery, said the diorama reconstructs day two of Interfet operations, when the Royal Australian Navy landed hundreds of Australian Army troops.

"The Memorial has a great tradition of diorama building to show significant moments in Australian military history through those dioramas, and we wanted to continue that tradition with the new galleries," Dr Sutton said. *"This new diorama is the first to show a 21st century military operation."*

Interfet was the Australian-led peacekeeping mission between 1999 and 2000. It helped rebuild the security and stability needed to establish Timor-Leste as a free and independent nation.

The largest deployment of Australian troops since Vietnam, Interfet included Australian Defence Force personnel from all three services – the Navy, Army and Air Force – who began landing in East Timor on 20 September 1999.

To ensure accuracy and realism, the reconstruction is based on thousands of hours of research of archives, photographic records, and face-to-face interviews with veterans and East Timorese people who were there.

"Dioramas help to recreate these operations as part of INTERFET in a relatable and tangible way, alongside the National Collection objects and items that tell the story," Dr Sutton said.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL NEWS continued

The diorama will be displayed in the new Peacekeeping: 1947 to today gallery in the new Anzac Hall, which is now under development.

Australian War Memorial Director Matt Anderson said the Memorial's Development project will increase gallery space to allow the stories of modern operations to be told.

"Australia has deployed Peacekeepers in the field with the United Nations every single day since 1947, and it is important that the Memorial shares this long, proud and continuing history with our visitors.

"The Peacekeeping operations in East Timor from 1999 through to 2013 are some of the most important that Australia has been involved in.

"The Interfet diorama in the new Peacekeeping: 1947 to today gallery will help all Australians understand both the confronting nature of the operation, and to be justifiably proud of the achievements of all who served with INTERFET 25 years ago."

The diorama will be on display when the new galleries open in 2026

For more details about what is happening in the Australian War Memorial visit: https://www.awm.gov.au/

DVA NEWS – SUICIDE MONITORING REPORT RELEASED

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has published its latest report into deaths by suicide of current and former serving ADF members who have served at least one day in the ADF since 1 January 1985.

The Serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members who have served since 1985 suicide monitoring: 1997 to 2022 report found that there were 1763 certified deaths by suicide between January 1997 and December 2022.

DVA commissioned AIHW to undertake this research to improve our understanding of this complex issue and find ways to better support those in need.

Any veteran or Defence member's death by suicide is a tragedy which the whole community feels deeply.

The Australian Government is committed to addressing the ongoing impact of service and preventing future deaths by suicide. The reports from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide are critical to understanding and addressing the causes of deaths by suicide.

There are a range of services and supports available to those who need them. All current and former serving members of the ADF who have completed one day of full-time service (and some reservists) are eligible for fully funded mental health treatment through the Non-Liability Health Care program. Proof your condition is related to military service isn't required to access treatment.

If you're a veteran, the immediate family member of a veteran or know someone in the veteran community struggling with their mental health, please encourage them to reach out for support:

Defence personnel can contact their local health centre, the All Hours Support Line on 1800 628 036 or the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling Service provides free and confidential mental health support available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for veterans and their immediate families on 1800 011 046. To read the findings of the report, visit AIHW suicide report.

Access DVA support in a way that works for you

Veterans and families can access support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) when they need it, in a way that works for them – whether in person, online or by phone.

Visit a support location

There are 19 Veterans' Access Network (VAN) offices across the country that provide a first point of contact for veterans and families. VAN Officers can provide advice and access to services and support.

Veterans' and Families' Hubs deliver integrated support to veterans and families and improve access to local services, which may include wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection, and physical and mental health services.

The network is being expanded to provide additional support to complement the established hubs in Nowra, Wodonga, Darwin, Perth, Townsville, Tasmania and Caboolture.

DVA NEWS continued

Health and wellbeing

DVA's Community Support team help ex-service organisations across Australia who deliver a range of programs to support and improve the health of veterans and families in local areas.

Open Arms provides free and confidential mental health and wellbeing support to anyone who has at least one day of continuous fulltime service in the ADF and their immediate families.

Open Arms services are available in 30 metro and regional locations across Australia. You can also phone the 24/7 Open Arms support line – 1800 011 046.

Online

MyService is an online claims processing portal which allows current or former serving ADF members and their families to:

- request a call back to discuss support
- access free mental health treatment
- claim for a condition related to service
- view DVA health card
- view accepted conditions
- manage personal details, and
- find health services.

Current or former serving ADF member can register for *MyService* through *myGov*.

By phone

DVA is available by phone between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

On-base support

Veteran Support Officers are located on Defence bases to provide personalised support and education to current serving members ADF and their families about their potential eligibility to access DVA benefits and entitlements.

Rural and regional support

Support can be accessed from other outreach services, such as those delivered through the Standardised Service Offer (SSO) with Services Australia, which aims to provide consistent support to veterans and their families, particularly in regional and rural locations, that visit a Services Australia Service Centre.

Four Services Australia Mobile Service Centres also provide support in rural and regional areas, and travel to new locations each month.

We're here when you need us

For more information on support services available near you, visit www.dva.gov.au/get-support.

For more details about what is happening in DVA, please visit: https://www.dva.gov.au/

REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

RAEME Association of Tasmania Reunion

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

Where: Hobart **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

RAEME Association of Victoria – Bandiana Chapter – Annual Dinner

Who: All past and present serving RAEME members

Where: Wodonga RSL Sub Branch **Cost**: $55 per person

When: Sat 16 Nov from 1830h for 1900h

RSVP: To George Reid on (02) 6059-3153, 0432-281-138 or reidysnr@iinet.net.au

22 Intake Appy Reunion

Who: All 22nd Intake Apprentices

Where: Nuriootpa, South Australia

When: Over the period 01-08 Dec

Why: Celebrate the 55th anniversary of their graduation

LOOKING BACK

Jottings from the 2nd Military District in Edition 4 of *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine from May 1980 are presented here. They may be interesting for any number of reasons but especially the reference that the author, Private Kris James, was a "temporary Field Force female".

How foreign an idea would it seem to younger soldiers serving today that at one point, women weren't posted to Field Force units, that is, those units with a combat focus. That isn't to say that female soldiers didn't go field, as they did, but they were rarely in receipt of Field Force Allowance, being the predecessor to what we know as Field Allowance. Back then, Field Force members got paid an annual allowance, regardless of how long they spent in the field; 3-6 months per year was common then.

FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

by Pte Kris James
(A temporary Field Force Female)

The ruggedness of the all male field force unit is well-known. So, when I was told that I would be leaving the relative co-ed establishment of ACT Workshop Platoon, Duntroon, as a relief Clerk for one such field force establishment, I must admit to being just a little bit concerned about my likely reception on arrival at 1 Watercraft Workshop RAEME, Woolwich, last October. I needn't have been. The cordiality accorded to me by members of this "rugged" establishment when I first entered the Orderly Room was nothing short of amazing.

Sgt John McCully the Chief Clerk and Lt Steve Barratt both greeted me, offered me a seat and Sgt McCully introduced me to his assistant, Cfn Marty Morison.

As other members watched warily out of the corners of their eyes from where they sat, Marty made me feel completely at ease by welcoming me to the workshop.

After being interviewed by the Chief Clerk, I was informally introduced to the other members on the Mezzanine Floor who, I was informed, staffed the Production Control and Finance sections. Then I officially met the AO who explained the role of the unit and the actual work I would be involved in during my stay.

Following that, and a short delay, I was interviewed by WO2 Barry Late, REME, a British exchange member participating in exercise "Long Look" and, at the time, performing the duties of Workshop ASM. His counterpart, WO2 Dave Clark, was in the UK until December 1979.

The ASM was super cool and a person who enjoyed the respect of all the tradesmen and staff. He welcomed me to the team and advised me that I would be interviewed by the OC, Maj Cheeseman, in time.

"In time" turned out to be the next day.

I felt at ease with the OC straight away and knew then that I would enjoy my time at the Workshop as Acting Chief Clerk, while Sgt McCully was on leave for two months.

During my ten months at the ACT Workshop Platoon I had been employed as an R & I Clerk until the establishment had been changed and then received on-the-job training as a Clerk Admin. I had become used to looking after twenty members but now I had to get used to looking after more than twice that number – and every member vital to the operation of the unit.

I had until December to learn from the experience before another posting order would herald my move to a new source of experience.

During my second day, I was introduced to other members of the Workshop and officially initiated into it.

Water, naturally, was the main ingredient in the initiation ceremony. I was unceremoniously put under the fire hose for the traditional wet welcome by the boys. The cool water, mind you, was a welcome relief after returning from my first unit sports afternoon's activity – a five mile run.

Being put under the fire hose was a whole lot better than being tossed into the dock, believe me. Every occasion, it seems, is celebrated with a Dock Party in the old dock. The traumas associated with arrivals, departures, promotions, news of proud new fathers, weddings, divorces, separations and birthdays are all washed away in this unique ceremony.

The tradesmen themselves were the instigators of my wet welcome which succeeded, despite my struggles. Never again will I trust an innocent looking Craftsman who offers to show me around an area. Obviously, their first thoughts are not toward chatting up a girl, but to getting themselves saturated with water – inside and out.

The area occupied by 1 Watercraft Workshop has a long history and was once known as Mort's Bay which was famous for its dry dock. The Workshop shares the property with 35 Water Transport Squadron.

The ASM constantly offered help, understanding and advice. His gentle Pommie humour will be missed by all the members now that he has returned to England where he spent Christmas with his family before taking up a posting this year in Hong Kong.

The role of Chief Clerk can be tiring and, at times, non-stop. However, when you are the pay rep, R & F Clerk and clerical supervisor too, it demands a high level of experience, dedication and conscientious administration. A rare quality, but Sgt McCully obviously has it and uses it to good effect.

Although everyone in the unit was willing to teach and help me on unit matters which are, at times, puzzling, I owe a great deal of thanks to WO2 Mead, Sgt Redman and Sgt Puckett, my Clerk Admin course instructors from 2 Training Group at Randwick. They were all very helpful and always on hand to answer queries that cropped up from time to time.

At the time of writing, I'm hoping I will be able to stay at 1 Watercraft Workshop and become a full member of a terrific team. I enjoy the unit and its members and would advise any female member working in a RAEME unit that the utmost excitement to be gained from being a member of RAAOC working for RAEME is most definitely gained in a field force unit – in the Watercraft Workshop at Woolwich, in particular.

The most gratifying aspect was that all work, including design, drafting, framing, printing and dye setting, was carried out by workshop members. Only the silk screening required outside assistance.

"Housewives" Cpl Gary Deaton, Cfn "Chips" Carpenter, Cfn "Turtle" Ryan and Cfn Ray "Newlywed" Guiana spent many hours ironing over the prints to set the dye. A team effort from start to finish. The subject of team effort, brings sport to mind, and we've had successes there, too. Our finest athlete was interservice hurdler, Cpl Gavin Ottoway while Cpl Geoff Abbott proved his ability was in swimming. Cfn Peter Owen led the way in cricket with newcomer, Cpl Mike Zilm impressing us as a "keeper" in a recent social match.

Editor: Thanks for writing Kris. We always welcome compliments from sister Corps members. We'll accept criticism too, of course!

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

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

Relaxation and Stress Management

What: Learn strategies to alleviate a variety of conditions, including pain, stress and mild depression

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

Venue: Canberra (TBC)

When: 08 November 9:30am – 4 pm

More info: https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#relaxation-and-stress-management

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: 13 & 15 November 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

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

Sleeping better

What: A program to help you manage disturbed sleep

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

Venue: Online

When: 19 & 21 November, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

More info: https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#sleeping-better

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: Canberra (TBC)

When: 21-22 November, 9:30am – 4:30 pm

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

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

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*.

> *While doing my Subject 1 for SGT, we had to stay back one Saturday to practice giving drill lessons; something not too many of us were impressed with.*
>
> *By the time it was my turn to be in charge, the class had well-and-truly had enough and maintaining standards was becoming increasingly difficult. I'd had enough of the group's poor attitude and somewhat lethargic attitude towards the lesson. At the end I gave the order "All right, you idiots, FAAAALLL OUT!!"*
>
> *As the majority of the squad wandered away, one classmate remained steadfast at attention. I walked over to him and asked "Umm, why are you still standing here?" to which he smiled and replied "Sure are a lot of idiots on this course, huh?!"*
>
> *To be fair, I had to agree with him!*

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 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 at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au

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!

That's about it for this edition. If you would like to submit something for future editions, or it 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.