

TO: Members of the ACT RAEME Association

FOR INFO: Members of all other RAEME Associations

President’s Message

Anzac Day in Canberra proved to be another significant event for locals and visitors, despite the construction activities occurring at the Australian War Memorial. The Somalia reunion also added another dimension to the day, with many of the RAEME contingent gathering to reflect on their time supporting the battalion group and the recent awarding of the Meritorious Unit Citation. Albeit it was my first time marching in front of our colour patch, it was good to see the large numbers marching and spectating; reinforcing the continued importance the broader community places on military service and the commitment individuals make during their time in uniform. The post-march gathering confirmed that there remains great camaraderie within the Corps, regardless of age, role and service time. It also highlighted that we have a rich history, and that innovation is not a new concept e.g. I wasn’t aware that our General Workshops used to repair lead acid batteries by cutting the tops off, replacing the lead plates and soldering the lids back on! Have a good month, stay safe and stay warm.

Secretary’s Message

ANZAC Day was clearly the main effort of this month and the day was well-supported by members but now we are looking forward to future activities as listed below. We are investigating ways to keep members informed re these activities. Most readers would have received a calendar invitation from a RAEME.ACT email address however this option provided challenges with the number of guests that could be invited (approx. 100 max). Next month, we will look at an option that sends reminders a week before each event, directly from our website. Once we find a method that works, we will stick with that!

Your Committee

President: Andy Adams President@act.raeme.org.au Service Liaison: TBA (will be a
Secretary: Ian Cook Secretary@act.raeme.org.au serving member)

Getting our ACT together





Members, families, friends or visitors to the ACT region from other Associations will be welcome to join us at our upcoming events. Further details can be found at: <https://act.raeme.org.au/>

Date	Time(s)	What	Where
Fri 05 May	1230-1330h	Informal Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
Tues 30 May	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club

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

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			

Legend  Mixed Lunch  Informal Drinks  Spanner Club  Significant Events

ANZAC Day 2023

ANZAC Day is a day to remember the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of those who have served our Nation. This year, ACT RAEME Association members were once again proud to play their part at the Australian War Memorial in honouring the memory of those who went before us.

Prior to the National Veteran's March, the War Memorial commenced commemorations from 0430h with ADF representatives reading excerpts from letters and diaries of Australians who have experienced war first-hand. Many excerpts were moving but they also spoke of the care men showed for their mates.

At 0530h, the Dawn Service was included laying of wreaths on behalf of Australia and New Zealand symbolising the unity of ANZAC. The Dawn Service was also livestreamed around the Nation and broadcast live by the ABC.

From 0730h, the War Memorial recognised the service of Indigenous servicemen and women at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association Commemorative Ceremony. This was held at the "For Our Country" sculptural pavilion on the lawn near Limestone Avenue.



The National Veterans' March commenced at 9:30am led by the Governor General and 1 RAR Bn Group members who served in Somalia. This coincided with the Contingent's 30th anniversary and the Bn Group's recent recognition with a Meritorious Unit Citation. The Governor General was the CO of 1 RAR during Operation SOLACE in Somalia so this was a great opportunity for the contingent to reunite.

This year's RAEME Contingent was the largest we have seen for several years with both serving and retired Corps members on parade. Under the command of our Association President, COL Andy Adams (ret'd), the Contingent marched at the middle of the parade which gave us a great opportunity to observe both the start and the end. Those who marched whilst the RMC Band played were cheered on by community spectators which included one loud cheer of "Go Bluebells!" All on parade displayed very-clear pride in our Corps.

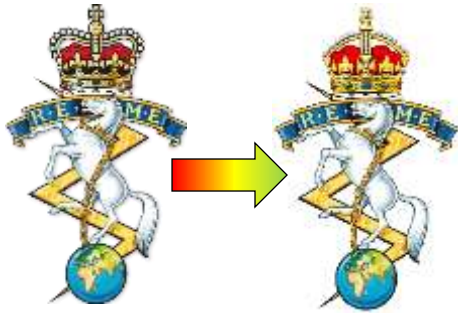


After the parade, we retired to the newly-renamed "RAEME Room" at the nearby Olims Hotel; the traditional post-march gathering place for many servicemen and women. Having our own room (which was right next to the bar) was fantastic as it gave all members the perfect place to relax and enjoy each other's company without the hustle and bustle of the assembled crowds. The RAEME Room also provided us a central location from which we could defend our sandwich trays; not one sandwich was pinched by a random passing digger this year! That said, the Club provided so much delicious food, we ended up sharing it with other groups anyway! The tri-colours we stuck to the front door also drew in several other current and former Corps members who we have now added to our fold.

All in all, the day provided an ideal opportunity to remember those who went before us but also reunite with and recognise the service of those still with us. Whilst all members present shared drinks and sandwiches in equal proportions with stories of our individual greatness, we also took the opportunity to remember those no longer in our presence. In particular, we collectively raised our glasses to the memory of our recently-departed member, Geoffrey Hawker. We are sure Geoffrey was marching with us today and smiling.

Lest we forget.

REME Hat Badge Change



Our UK-based Brethren have recently announced their intention to change their REME hat badges to remove the Late Queen's St Edwards Crown and replace it with the King's Tudor Crown.

The change will commence following the King's Coronation other than for those REME members who are on parade at the Coronation. All other members will gradually transition to the new insignia as stocks of the current design are depleted. This may not occur until 2025 or later.

Following the King's Coronation, work will commence on redesigning all the Army's other Emblems and Badges such as the Aircraft Engineering Officer and Aircraft Technician Badges that currently use the Queen's crown.

The King has approved the new REME Badge. The approved design is stored on the Defence Brand Portal with all other authorised Defence designs. The REME Badge incorporates the King's Tudor Crown, replacing the Late Queen Elizabeth II's St Edwards Crown; this is the only change. The REME Corporate Identity and Image Corps Instruction (B6) has been updated today to reflect this change

There is no indication at this stage that RAEME will follow suit as was the norm prior to Her Late Majesty's coronation.

Further details regarding this change and other related changes within REME can be reviewed at: https://remeconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/20230324-Changes-to-REME-Emblems-Instruction_ColREME.pdf



RAEME Humour Book

During PT one day when the CSM rubbed Davo's bald head and said "Your head is as smooth as my wife's bum!" Without missing a beat, Davo rubbed his own head and said "Hey, you're right!"

True or not, this story will appear in the Second Edition of RAEME's official humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies*, if we get enough stories to finish it.



Pre-orders will soon be called for Edition 2. With almost 600 copies of Edition 1 printed and sold, all copies of Edition 2 are expected to be snapped up quickly. We do however need a few more good stories before we can lock it in.

There is still time to get your funny stories considered for inclusion. Please send them quickly to FunnyStories@raeme.com.

Include as much detail as possible but to protect the innocent (or not-so-innocent), the editors will change all names and unit titles. We will also filter out any potentially operational sensitive information. All we want is the humour.

We understand that some people would rather tell their story than write it so if you email us your contact details, we will contact you so you can share the laughs with us over the phone. We will then write them down and include them if possible.

The golden rule with all submissions: It doesn't have to be true, just believable

Recovery Mechanics Memorial - Dotswood NQ

From our Queensland RAEME Bretheren

WO2 Ryan Leslie and Craftsman Brendon Payne were two superb soldiers tragically who died while serving their country on a military exercise in the Townsville Field Training Area on 30 August 2021.

Ryan and Brendon were very well-loved by both their families, friends and their military comrades.

Commemorations held at the accident site on the first anniversary of their passing demonstrated just how important it is that we have a place to remember them: to reflect on their lives, and who they were.

The plan is to build a permanent memorial rest-stop at the accident site, set off to the side of the Dotswood / Mingela Road in a safe location to allow people to stop and reflect. The memorial will consist of a bespoke designed wooden memorial facade, designed and built by RAEME personnel, carrying plaques for Ryan and Brendon. This will be placed into a concrete foundation. A hard-wearing, concrete seat will then be provided for people to sit on when they visit, and a weather-proof box will be included for people to leave notes and messages for the soldiers and their families.

The designs have been developed in very close conjunction with Ryan and Brendon's wives, and with their close family. Both the concept and the design come with their strong support.

In terms of cost, we are seeking quotes from Townsville-based construction companies for the work. We estimate the construction will cost in the region of \$40,000, given the remote location of the site. In terms of time, we are hoping to have the work done in the dry season of 2023, to have the memorial constructed and opened by the second anniversary of Ryan and Brendon's passing on 30 August 2023.

The next step now is fundraising. I am therefore reaching out far and wide to both a serving military, veteran and Veteran Association audience to seek efforts and contributions to raise the funds of \$40,000 for the memorial construction to take place. We are looking for individuals and units to organise fundraising events in the next four months (January to April 2023), or to provide donations from standing or Association funds. In conjunction with the RAEME Associations, we are also seeking donations from major veterans' organisations like the DVA and Legacy.

So, if you would like to help please let me know via email.

Tom McDermott

Former CO

2/14 LHR(QMI)

2020-2021

thomas.mcdermott@defence.gov.au

Donations may be made to:

Bank: Defence Bank

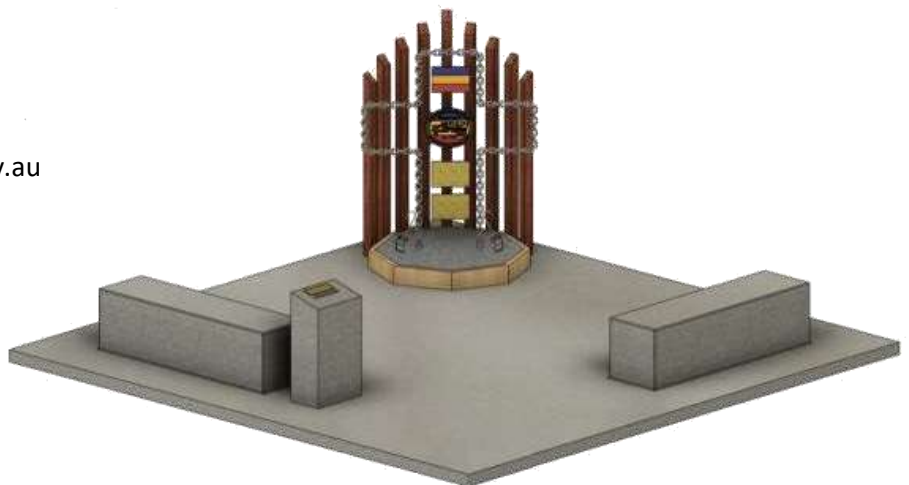
BSB: 833205

Account Number: 20682037

Account Name: RAEME Association Queensland.

Please ensure you add 'Memorial Donation' to any deposit description.

Memorial website: <http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/about-us/raq-recovery-mechanics-memorial>



Reunions. The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

Southeast Queensland Apprentice Reunion

Who: All Apprentices Members and families
Where: Bulimba, QLD
When: Sat 10 Jun 2023
POC: Details to follow

102 Field Workshop

Who: All past and present members of 102 Fd Wksp
Where: Gannawarra
When: 29-30 Sep 2023
POC: Noel Lake, (03) 5456-9246, koonda@active8.net.au

Apprentice School 75th Anniversary

Who: All apprentices
Where: Albury/Wodonga
When: 20-22 Oct 2023
Proposed program: Fri 20 Oct – 1400h - Registration and Meet and Greet
Sat – 21 Oct – AGM and Reunion Dinner
Sun 22 Oct – BBQ lunch, more details to follow.
POC: events@austarmyapprentice.org
More Info (in Oct): <https://austarmyapprentice.org/events-2/>

“Back to Bandi” reunion

Who: Former tradesmen who attended Adult Tradesman Courses in Bandiana
Where: Bandiana, Victoria
When: 20-22 Oct 2023
POC: Garry (Snow) Whykes at gwhykes@gmail.com

1 Armoured Regiment LAD

Who: All past and present members of 1 AR LAD
Where: Stalwell, Victoria
When: Oct-Nov (TBC)
POC: Robert Bail 0419-355-721, email r.bail@bigpond.com

106 Field Workshop Annual Lunch

Who: All past and present members of 106 Fd Wksp
Where: Steeples, Mornington Victoria
When: 20 Nov 2023
POC: Milton Pearson, 0488-050-261, csm1066869@gmail.com

RMC Workshops

Time for a little history of RAEME in Canberra. Here is how life in the RMC Workshop in 1966 was captured in the RMC Journal for the year.

RMC Workshop RAEME

The past year has seen an increase in the establishment of the workshop to one officer and 28 other ranks with the notable increment of a WO2 Artificer Telecommunications. The Corps has been at an embarrassment to provide a tradesman for the position to date, but it is soon hoped that he will arrive and RMC Workshop will have the ability to increase its service with repairs to all telecommunications equipment.

Many of the members marched out have gone to RAEME Field Force units and some of these are now on active service overseas. They include:

- Capt. Don Hemming
- WO2 Ian Brown
- Cpl. Bluey Millett
- Cfn. Peter Beasley

The workshop has been well represented on the RMC sports fields during the year with Cpl. Bluey Millett in athletics, Cpl. Danny Clark and Pte. Jock Arbuckle in soccer, Cpl. Warren Welsh in rugby, while the football team has been well looked after with Cpl. Buzz Bee as its secretary. Perhaps the most outstanding sportsman has been Cpl. Bob Bahnert with his sterling effort in the Inter Service golf championship. Bob was last to play off at the RAAF Richmond course with the score drawn at that stage and managed to clinch the championship for us.

The Duntroon Soldiers' Club has felt the impact of the workshop with the strong personality of Cpl. Danny Clark as its president for the past year. He has been successful in creating a tavern like atmosphere at the club and directed his committee well as was illustrated by the fine RMC Staff Ball they organized early in the year. Danny's good work has been continued by another RMC workshop member, Cpl. Bob Bahnert.

I wonder how long it took for the Corps to recover from its embarrassment to provide the tradesman for the Workshop?

Other State/Territory Associations. Here is a quick summary from other State, Territory or Other Associations since the last edition of *RAEME in ACTION*:

Victoria. The Victorian Association released their newsletter, *The Lightning Flash*, this month. In it is a great report on a Remembrance Service run at the Shrine of Remembrance. They also included a short interesting article on Recovery Mechanics in Vietnam. More details can be found at: <https://vic.raeme.org.au/>

Queensland. The latest issue of Spanner News was released last month. It includes details regarding Bulimba's redevelopment that may be of interest to anyone who served there. They also include several pieces from current unit workshops. You can check it out at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/spanner-news>

South Australia. The SA Association has recently released its latest newsletter which contains great details re their Corps Birthday celebrations which was held in two parts, being an on-base activity at 1 Armd Regt and a second dinner. Both looked to be very well-attended although the person who inadvertently parked in front of an M88 Recovery vehicle may wish to find a better parking spot next time. You can read more about what's happening in the SA Association at: <https://sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters?folder=2023>

Check out their newsletter for other interesting and humorous stories. It can be found at: <https://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/horsemouth>

All Associations have also recently commemorated their respective ANZAC Days so as soon as photos and reports come from in, we will be sure to share them with everyone.

That's about it for this month. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the impending events.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association

