

TO: Members of the ACT RAEME Association

FOR INFO: Members of all other RAEME Associations

Your Committee

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

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

President’s Message

Greetings All,

Having been foiled at the last moment in getting to our most recent Canberra gathering last Friday evening (selecting on time flights is apparently not my specialty), I will leave it to Ian to provide an update. I note in the Corps RSM’s messaging that a number of initiatives continue to be pursued by the collective HOC team; it is heartening to see the enthusiasm (and hopefully progress) by what is a very small, but clearly dedicated team.

I am fortunate enough in the coming days to be heading overseas for a few weeks; I look forward to seeing you on my return.

Stay safe and well, APA

Secretary’s Message

We have a big change to our planned calendar for the evening of 02 November in that we will now be holding an Association Dinner! Details on the following pages but please mark this in your calendar now.

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. A reminder for each activity will be emailed to all Members in the week prior to the event. Further details can be found at: <https://act.raeme.org.au/>

Date	Time(s)	What	Where	Detail
Tues 29 Aug	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 01 Sep	1230-1400h	Informal Mixed Lunch	Southern Cross Club, Woden	Link
Tues 26 Sep	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link

OCTOBER						
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					

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 (seriously)						
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

Getting our ACT together

How can a single conversation include a range of topics such as servicing Mk 3 International trucks, how we can effectively engage engineering officers, what we should consider for career management of all trades, how we can send more qualified tradies and officers to civilian secondments and so much more? Simple, get a great bunch of Spanners in one room at one time to share a drink and have our with Head of Corps, BRIG Slaughter, ask what people think of a given topic.

That was the recipe we followed for this month's Spanner Club in the *RAEME Room* at Olims and it was a huge success. A great time was had by all as we learnt more about how innovation is currently being embraced and balancing it with some of the simpler ideas from past generations, all of which have equal relevance today.

We strongly encourage more serving and retired members to join us when we next meet. Those who couldn't make it to this one really missed out on some great times with the brotherhood.



Association Dinner – November 2023

An end-of-year dinner is being planned for all Association members and families. Guests to the region are also welcome to attend.

In keeping with our tradition, this will be a largely informal event although Head of Corps has been invited so all going well, we will encourage him to share a few of his thoughts with the masses.

Prelim details are:

Date: Thursday 02 Nov 2023!

Venue: TBA. Please send any recommendations you may have.

Cost: Most likely member to pay at the venue although a small deposit may be requested closer to the date if required to lock in a venue

RSVP: Requested NLT 15 Sep to aid venue planning. Please email numbers likely to attend (and recommended venue if you have one) to Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Vietnam Veteran's Day 2023

A national commemorative service will take place in Canberra on Vietnam Veterans' Day – 18 August 2023, recognising the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. The service will take place at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, and will be broadcast nationally by the ABC.



For more information visit the commemorative services pages of the DVA website:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorations/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia/50th-anniversary-end-australias-involvement-vietnam-war/national-commemorative-service>.

A formal service will also be held at the Veterans Support Centre, 9 Burkitt Street, Page followed by a complimentary BBQ for attendees. If you are interested in attending the service and BBQ or just coming for the BBQ after attending the service in the city, please let the Office know with any dietary requirements by mid-August to organise seating and catering. They may be contacted on (02) 6255 1599.

Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day

On Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day, on 31 August, we pause to recognise and remember the Australians who served in the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation. Together, these two post-Second World War conflicts spanned from 1950-1966, overlapping in time in the early 1960s. We remember the 10,500 Australians who served, and the 39 who fell during the Malayan Emergency, and 23 during the Indonesian Confrontation.

A special Last Post Ceremony will be held at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the service of Sergeant Vincent Phillip Vella who was killed in action on 17 May 1965 while serving in Borneo. You can watch the ceremony live on 31 August, at 4.45pm, on the Memorial's YouTube channel.

For more information about the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation, please visit:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>

Big Things in Store!

The Australian War Memorial will open the doors to the Treloar Technology Centre in Mitchell on Saturday 02 September as the *Big Things in Store* open day returns for the first time in 2023. More than 2,800 visitors are expected to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the Memorial's extensive collection.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit this part of the AWM's collection, I recommend you don't miss this opportunity. Additional information and the ability to book tickets can be found at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/bigthingsinstore>.

AWM Reveals Vivian Bullwinkel Sculpture

The Australian War Memorial has unveiled a sculpture of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO, MBE, ARRC, ED, in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial, the first of an individual nurse or woman.

A collaborative project with the Australian College of Nursing, the sculpture recognises not only Bullwinkel, but all Australian nurses who have lost their lives, survived atrocities or made sacrifices while serving their country.

The sculpture, created by Brisbane-based artist Dr Charles Robb, includes 22 inlaid stainless-steel discs reflecting the 22 women killed in the Bangka Island Massacre, of which Vivian Bullwinkel was the sole survivor. The discs are arranged at the base of the sculpture as a reflection of the stars that would have been visible in the night sky on 16 February 1942.

Australian War Memorial Director, Matt Anderson said: "We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to commemorate Vivian Bullwinkel."

"Vivian's name should be renowned in every Australian household, as should the story of her inspirational life as a courageous leader, a proud nurse and the first woman to serve on the Council of the Australian War Memorial."

The sculpture will be installed into the forecourt of Poppy's Café.

For more details, visit: <https://www.awm.gov.au/vivian-bullwinkel-commemorative-sculpture>



RAEME Port 2023

This year's RAEME Port will be delivered by Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER) Workshop, which is their first time in doing so.

The 2023 RAEME Port is an 8-year-old aged Tawny from the Ernest Hill Wines in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

SOER Workshop have aligned themselves with a charity organisation Kids West which provides vital life-saving equipment in support of paediatric and neonatal intensive care across Western Sydney. A percentage of profits from the port will go to the Kids West Charity.

To order the 2023 RAEME Port please visit:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CKGIY>

The Cut off for orders is 31 August 2023.

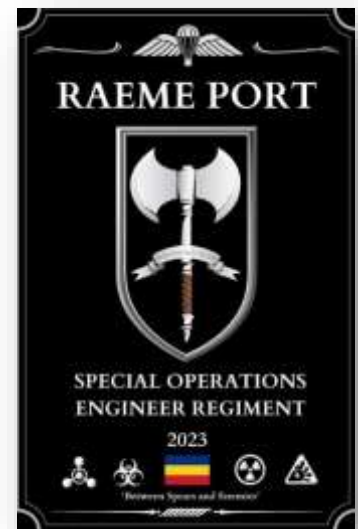
Bottles are \$40 each.

Orders will go to the nominated regional rep however you can have the 2023 RAEME Port delivered to a private address by doing the following:

Select 'Private Address' when ordering

Email a screenshot copy of your order to: soer.emeops@defence.gov.au.

Note: Deliveries to private addresses will incur an extra fee dependant on location.



Corps Status Update

As mentioned in last month's *RAEME in ACTION*, the Corps held its first Corps Committee meeting on 21 Jun 23. The Committee discussed the following (not all topics included):

Colonel in Chief. A letter requesting the endorsement of 'Her Royal Highness, The Countess of Wessex' has been drafted and is awaiting delivery to King Charles III. The expected waiting time for a response is a minimum of 6 -12 months for the request to be finalised.

Use of Corps Funds. As a topic dear to the Corps RSM's heart, this will be evaluated as we progress through the year; however, it is expected that more of the funds may be returned to the members, via the Regional representatives for use.

Corps Painting. The Corps RSM proposed updating the Corps painting. If we have any budding artists out in the wider community, the Corps RSM would like to hear from them to see what they could provide as a updated version of the 'AFV in the Light Green'.

Other topics of relevance include:

Vales. The Corps lost several members in recent months. The names of those who die in any given year will be included in future releases of the *RAEME Craftsman* magazines each year.

Master Artificers visit. ASEME hosted the Master Artificers over a 2-day period. During the visit they engaged with all wings to gain an insight into the changes within their respective trade training and the Sub 4 WO – RAEME. This was very-well received by all accounts, with the experiences they passed on to the Sub 4 course being deemed a huge success. A hot topic was the evolving battle damage assessment and repair (BDAR) competition, the Master Artificers now have the guidance and we (the Corps) should see a concept in the not-too-distant future.

The Master Artificers will continue to be invited twice a year as we move forward.

Corps Conference. Future Corps Conferences will align to the CA direction that they are to be conducted every two years. The HOC Cell has decided that during the "off-year", a 'Corps Conference – Mini' will be held but this will be by invite only. It will address how the Corps moves forward with one direction and how we best focus our resources to achieve a common goal. The 'Mini' will be held in Bandiana 2023.

RAEME promotion courses. The Corps RSM will continue to attend every RAEME promotion course in some capacity. The feedback and engagement from all soldiers (regardless of rank) has been of the highest standard. The RSM is pleased that soldiers have a forum in which they can present issues. As an example: an issue with a Spectre Sighting System was raised where the Tradesman on the workshop floor couldn't gain enough traction to rectify the issue. A simple issue with a great rectification provided by the young CFN which gained interest from not only the Master Artificers, but also CASG and BDE ASMs.

Reserve employment in Victoria. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in providing SERCAT5 work within 4 BDE and VIC please contact the 4 Bde Recruiting and Retention Cell, WO1 Hemi Anning on 03 9290 2431 or hemi.anning@defence.gov.au.

Corps Shop. The Corps Shop has recently been opened at: <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>. 100% of all profits will go directly to supporting activities for RAEME Personnel through the Corps Committee. If anyone has ideas or thoughts on items that may be added for sale on this site, please email the HOC Cell at raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au.



ASEME. ASEME has been actively involved as part of the Joint Technical Trade Training (JTTC) contract negotiations over the last 12 months. The contract was settled 28 Jun 23 with Wodonga Institute of TAFE (WIOT) coming out in front. The contract will benefit more than 2000 ADF members a year with technical training under a five-year \$300 Million plan.

Workforce & Training Group (W&TG), Maintenance Cell. The Total Workforce Review (TWR) transition on PMKeyS went quite smoothly with a few remaining members being resolved. Seven updated and two new Employment Specifications have been signed by the Employment Category Sponsor and are awaiting final approval. Once approved, they will be published on RAEME's page on the Manual of Army Employment (MAE).

New equipment. W&TG are assisting CASG with the Systems Approach to Defence Learning (SADL) analysis and design of training for incoming new projects. There is some good detail on the FORCOMD Introduction into Service Future Capability Generation page if you want to see some project details, under the 'Introduction Into Service Branch - Communications Pack 01/2023' then see the '20230601 - Report - Force Modernisation Projects Bi-Annual Report 01-2023.pdf'.

RAEME Humour Book

Compilation of the Second Edition of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies* is now complete!

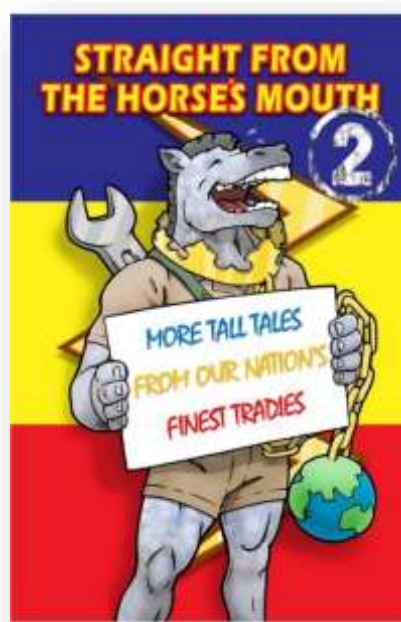
The books cost \$25 per copy. Postage within Australia is included in this price for pre-orders only.

Pre-orders can be placed at:

<https://FunnyRaemeStories.square.site/>

Pre-orders will close Sun 13 Aug. After this date, the cost is likely to rise as alternate stores are found to sell the book.

Stop press: Whilst compilation of Edition 2 is complete, the authors are still collecting stories for Edition 3 so if you have any funny stories to share, true or otherwise, please send them to FunnyStories@raeme.com. Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable!



RAEME Craftsman Magazines

2023 Edition

The 2023 RAEME Craftsman Magazine (Issue 74) is being compiled now for release in early 2024. There is however still time to get your submission in.

If you have anything that you believe the Corps would enjoy reading, please forward it to Head of Corps Cell (raeme.hoc@defence.gov.au) no later than 01 Oct 2023. Submissions later than this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Earlier Editions

Head of Corps Cell were kind enough to provide a few copies of earlier *RAEME Craftsman* magazines, specifically 2015 – 2022. I will take these to the next Association Gathering so if you would like a copy, please come along. We also received a bunch of pens and notepads so come along and fill your pockets!

Looking Back

In Edition 2 of The RAEME Craftsman Magazine, May 1979, someone took the time to discuss the challenges of computers in the workplace....yes, in 1979! Once again, the more things change, the more they stay the same!

COMPUTERS (A Personal Lament) by Anonymous (?)

It is well known to me, but a fact I find hard to convince others, it's true. Computers HATE ME!

My relationship with computers follows, exactly, Murphy's well-known law. If money is owed to me and is to be paid by computer programme, one, or all, of the following will occur:

1. The wrong information will be punched;
2. The money will be debited instead of credited;
3. The record will be wiped clean and everything will have to be manually researched and re-input;
4. The computer will have a nervous breakdown at the thought of paying anyone; or,
5. The money will be paid to my wife.

Needless to say, if I owe money, the computer prints five extra copies of the debit and includes my wife in the distribution.

As far as work goes, if I need a report to prove a point, either it won't be available or the computer will deliberately leave off half the information, just to make it appear I'm wrong. On the other hand, if I make a hasty judgement or statement, unasked, the computer will produce a beautifully accurate report, also to make me look a fool.

Not content with perpetuating such things during the year it accompanied me on leave, too.

Whilst visiting a country town in New South Wales I received the "good oil" on a horse. I rushed to the TAB (computerized) office, to place a bet, but the machine saw me coming.

With the speed of light it asked its compatriot at my place of work (they do talk to each other, you know) about me and, on discovering that I was top of the black list, immediately shut down the whole of the NSW TAB network.

I am in sympathy with, but not really surprised at, the plight of the chap who kept receiving a computerized overdue account for \$0.00. As the computer was getting nastier by the month he went to the firm who told him the only way to placate the monster was to write a cheque for that amount.

Wonder of wonders! It worked!!

He didn't get a nasty note from the firm's computer again.

He did, however, get one from his bank's machine informing him that he couldn't write a cheque for \$0.00 and ordering him to cancel it.

For the uninitiated a few definitions follow. These may help you understand the nature of the brute.

- COMPUTER** — A device which allows man to make mistakes at 186,000 miles per second.
- FRED** — Nickname for a computer. Stands for "Flaming Ridiculous Electronic Device".
- HARDWARE** — The quality needed by non-indoctrinated persons when dealing with computers or indoctrinated persons.
- SOFTWARE** — That which sits on the shoulders of indoctrinated persons.
- PERIPHERALS** — Tentacles by which computers grab unsuspecting lone operators while they brainwash them.
- DPO** — Diabolical Plots Office where indoctrinated persons and computers confer to hatch plots to plague others.



Reunions. The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

Victorian Association Lunch with Harry

- Who:** All serving and former members of RAEME and their families
- Where:** Village Green Hotel, Cnr Springvale Rd & Ferntree Gully Rd, Mulgrave VIC
- When:** 20 Jul 2023, 1130-1300h, and then on the third Thursday of every month
- Cost:** Seniors \$22-00, Other \$35-00
- POC:** Alan Rogers, alang.37@bigpond.com

Reunions continued

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/>

Victorian Association *Spanner Club*

Who: All serving and former members of RAEME

Where: Mail Exchange Hotel, Cnr Spender & Bourke Streets, Melbourne

When: 11 Aug 2023, and then on the second Friday of every month

POC: Rod Gillett, rod.gillett8@gmail.com

RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Who: All serving and ex members of RAEME (Army Reserve/CMF or Regular Army) or associated Corps who served with RAEME Res/ CMF units, their families and other people who were associated with RAEME and who wish to renew past friendships. Ex cadre staff members most welcome

Where: Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch

When: 20 Aug 2023, 1100-1600h

POC: John Parfitt, lparfitt@bigpond.net.au

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

“Back to Bandi” reunion

Who: Former tradesmen who attended Adult Tradesman Courses in Bandiana

Where: Bandiana, Victoria

When: 20-22 Oct 2023

Details: Cost \$120 per head which will include a dinner and guided tour of ASEME (old RTC + Bonegilla). **Registrations close 31 Jul 2023.**

POC: Garry (Snow) Whykes at gwhykes@gmail.com

Other News

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 recently released their latest newsletter, *The Lightning Flash*. In this, they have provided a very interesting summary of the evolution of the Rising Sun badge. They also provide details of various impending functions, including some out into late 2024. If you are looking for any RAEME Merchandise, the newsletter also includes a list of various items, from hats to mugs to stickers and so much more. This newsletter hasn't been uploaded to the Victorian website (<https://vic.raeme.org.au/>) just yet but check there regularly for it to appear.

Queensland. The RAEME Association of Queensland as part of its annual social events program is conducting a lunch at the Gold Coast at the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club on the afternoon of Saturday 26th August 2023.

The Association also recently released their latest *Spanner News*. In this, you will find a great summary of those Corps members recognised in the recent Kings Birthday honours list as well details of all upcoming functions in the Sunshine State. There are plenty being planned too so if you are in the region, try to get along to one of them.

This is well worth a read. To download a copy, visit: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/spanner-news>. In this edition,



What tool am I?

Last month's tool challenge was:

I am one of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. I transform human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

That tool was: A Hacksaw. Well done to Danny Unwin for being the first member to email the correct answer to me on this challenge.

This month's tool identification challenge is:

I am used almost entirely for setting on fire various flammable objects in your shop. I am also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

The answer will be published in the next *RAEME in ACTION*!

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association

