

ACT RAEME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RAEME in ACTION

Dec 2023



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

Hello All, 81 years of skill and fighting is very-much worth celebrating, and like most areas, the Canberra crew came together on 1 Dec 23 to do just that. Having our newest Corps officers attend the birthday gathering made it just that bit more special, as their enthusiasm, anticipation and confidence is both refreshing and encouraging. Congratulations to all of our Corps Award recipients for 2023. I was most impressed by the work being done by the NSW Crafty of the Year, and if he is indicative of the standard of other recipients, we are in a good place. As you will read in the newsletter, COL Piers Cambridge was farewelled by the Head of Corps and his colleagues in Canberra at the end of November. Never short of a story, Piers reflected on the opportunities he was presented over his time as a commander and staffer; unsurprisingly, his focus was on people and the team. I can personally attest that he has left Army in a better place for his efforts. We wish he and his family well for the next part in their journey. Unfortunately, I was not able to get to the appy reunion in October, but by all accounts, it was another well-organised and robust affair. With Christmas looming quickly, stay well (Covid is no fun!) and stay safe. I look forward to catching up with you all in 2024.

Cheers APA

Getting our ACT together

Members, families or friends visiting the ACT region from other Associations are 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/>. Put these dates in your diaries today!

| Date | Time(s) | What | Where | Detail |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Tues 30 Jan | 1930-2030h | Informal drinks | Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club | Link |
| Fri 2 Feb | 1630-1800h | Welcome Spanner Club | Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure) | Link |
| Tues 27 Feb | 1930-2030h | Informal drinks | Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club | Link |
| Fri 1 Mar | 1230-1400h | Informal Mixed Lunch | TBA (Send suggestions) | Link |

| JANUARY | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | | |

| FEBRUARY | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
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| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

| MARCH | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
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| 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 Event

Our Corps' Formation

On 01 Oct 1942, the capability of the UK Defence Force was enhanced by the formation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers or REME as they are known to their friends. The formation of REME was not only established within the British Army's Order of Battle but it was also officially registered with the UK's Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Below is REME's official Birth Certificate. The original Birth Certificate is on display at the REME Museum in the village of Lyneham, Wiltshire UK. Further details may be found online at: <https://www.rememuseum.org.uk/Blog/collections-in-focus-birth-certificate>.

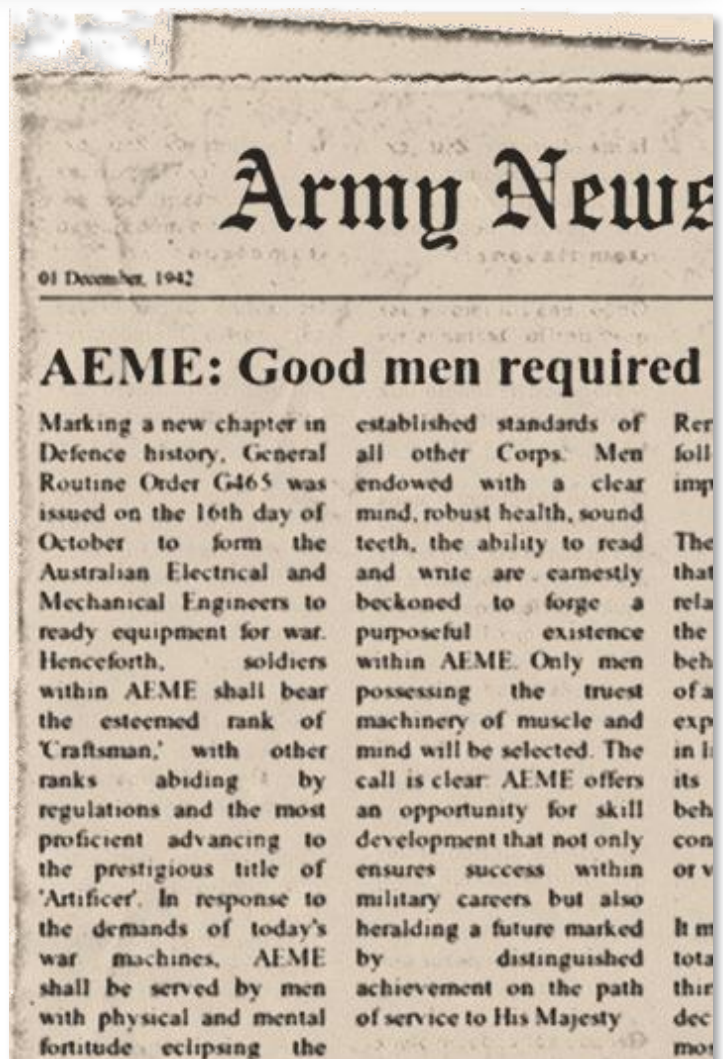
| CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1874. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Registration District <i>Whitehall.</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1942 Birth in the Sub-District of <i>Whitehall</i> in the County of <i>London.</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | When and Where Born. | Name, if any. | Sex. | Name and Surname of Father. | Name and Maiden Surname of Mother. | Rank or Profession of Father. | Signature, Description and Residence of Informant. | When Registered. | Signature of Registrar. | Baptismal Name, if noted after registration of birth. |
| 1. | <i>First October 1942. War Office. Whitehall. London.</i> | <i>Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.</i> | <i>Male.</i> | <i>Royal Artillery. Royal Engineers.</i> | <i>Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Royal Army Service Corps.</i> | <i>Gunner and Engineer.</i> | <i>The Lords of The Army Council. Whitehall. London.</i> | <i>In wartime. to Create Greater Efficiency.</i> | <i>P. J. Griss. Registrar.</i> | <i>REME.</i> |
| I, <i>P. J. Griss</i> Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Sub-District of <i>Whitehall</i> in the County of <i>London</i> do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. <i>7</i> in the Register Book of Births for the said Sub-District, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Witness my Hand this <i>1st</i> day of <i>October</i> 1942 <i>P. J. Griss.</i> | | | | | | | | | | |

In an effort to find something similar for RAEME or even to locate the original Order that directed our Corps' formation, we sought assistance from the historians within the Research Centre of the Australian War Memorial. They were able to find reference to the original General Routine Order but they weren't able to locate a copy of it. They did however suggest we enlist the help of the National Archives of Australia (NAA).

The researchers at the National Archives also had difficulty locating a copy of the original Order. They were however able to locate the first reference to the Corps in one of the earliest editions of the *Army Newspaper* from December 1942, as shown in the extract image to the right.

Notably, not only was the foundation of AEME announced in the *Army Newspaper*, but a recruiting call was placed for men who possess the highest standards.

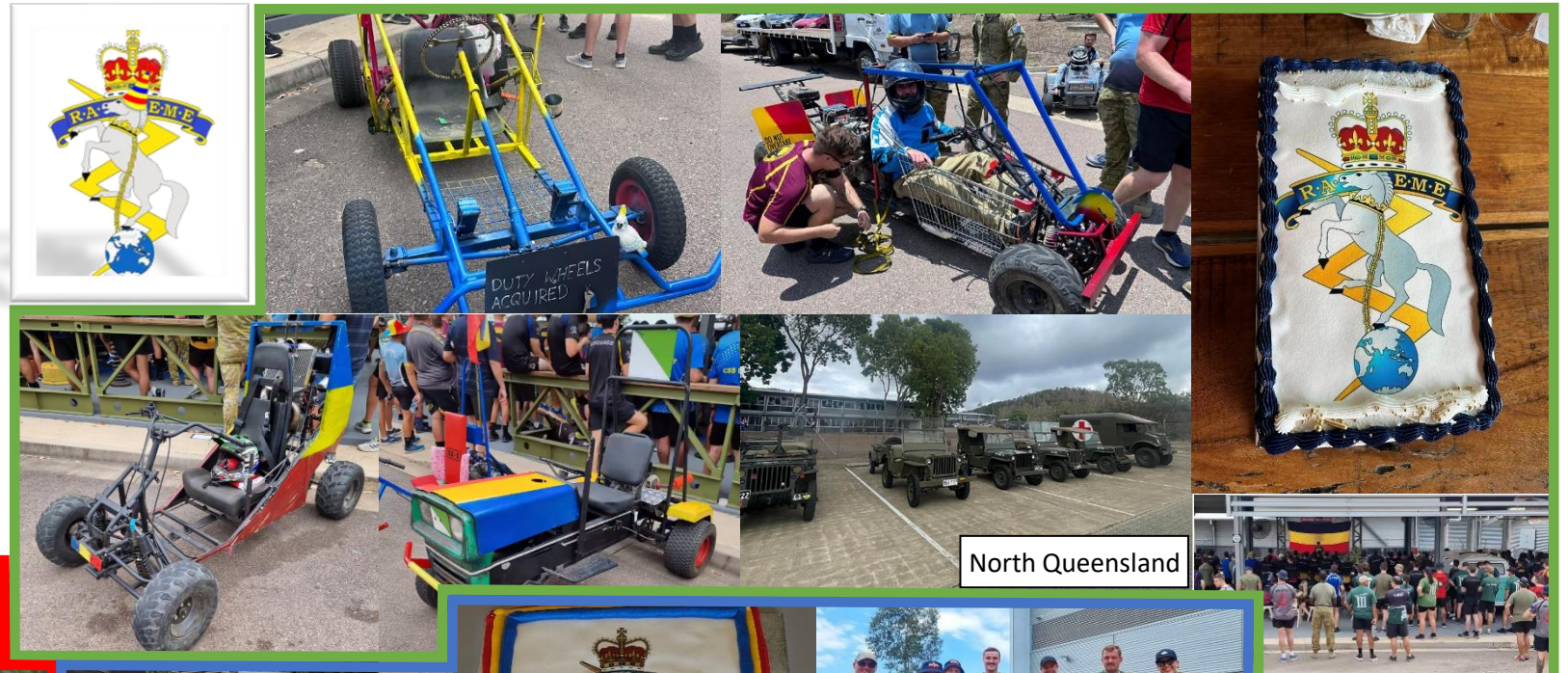
Thanks to the good judgement of our forefathers, the application of such high standards not only ensured our Corps was formed with the best and brightest of the time but by maintaining the same high standards today, we retain our rightful place of superiority above all other Corps in technical and intellectual brilliance!



NAA Control QX21459; Item 9271777

RAEME Birthday 2023

RAEME Birthday this year was celebrated in a variety of ways both within Australia and offshore. Some regions had cart races; some had trebuchet competitions; some had trade displays and some hosted visits from trade suppliers or racing teams. At least one region held a cocktail party. In the ACT, we had one of the largest turnouts we have seen since pre-COVID times with up to 50 members, both serving and retired, showing up to share a few laughs (and some cake) together. Whilst the photos on this page show just a little of how the day was spent globally, one thing was clear in every region; Spanners from around the country paused to share a drink and share some stories but more importantly, they shared some time to celebrate our Corps' 81st Birthday. Happy Birthday, RAEME!



The UK



Ingleburn



North Queensland



Perth



Darwin



South Queensland



Wodonga



Kapooka



Oakey



Washington



Antarctica



Canberra



Corps RSM's Update

What a huge year for not only the Corps, but the Army as well.

RAEME Corps Awards. The 2023 winners of Corps awards were:

- Junior Regimental Award Sub 2 SGT – CPL Jack Peters (ASEME)
- Regimental Award - Sub 2 WOCSS – SGT Ben Alderson (CTC)
- Peter Jennings Award – LOBC – LT C (2 RAR)
- BRIG Martins Award - Sub 4 SGT – CPL J (JEWOSU)
- Artificer of Year Award - Sub 4 WO – SGT Leino Ahlstedt (9 FSB)
- Soldiers Medallion for Exemplary Service – CFN J (2 RAR)
- CFN of the Year ARA – CFN J (2 RAR)
- CFN of the Year GRes – CFN Carl Leeworthy (4 CSSB)
- CFN of the Year GRes – CFN Kelsey Patterson (13 CSSB)
- CFN of the Year ARA SQ – CFN Jonathan Clem (7 CSSB)
- CFN of the Year ARA NQ – CFN Jayme Nicholson (3 RAR)
- CFN of the Year ARA NSW – CFN K (SOER)
- CFN of the Year ARA SA – LCPL Connor Bilby (1 AR)
- CFN of the Year GRes SA – CFN Charles O'Grady (9 CSSB)
- CFN of the Year ARA WA – CFN L (SASR)
- CFN of the Year GRes WA – CFN P (SASR)
- CFN of the Year ARA NT – CFN Nicholas Wellington (1 CSSB)

A huge congratulations to all the award winners, a bloody fantastic effect.

Farewell. The HOC and RSM had the opportunity to attend COL Piers Cambridge's farewell from Army and present him with a Corps Certificate. Piers is retiring after nearly 34 years of service to our Nation.

Piers' career spans tactical postings at units such as 1 Armd Regt and 10 FSB, including company command. He also has extensive experience in strategic logistics having served at Bandiana Logistic Group and culminating in his command of Joint Logistic Unit North Queensland. Piers is known to many of us for his efforts in re-writing our logistics doctrine in the early 2000's for which he was awarded a CSM. He is however more widely-known as one of our Corps' true gentlemen; one who has undoubtedly helped shape the future of our Corps and our Army.



We wish Piers all the best for his future and look forward to him remaining connected to the Corps.

A new centenarian. The Corps has the pleasure of announcing the 100th birthday of SSGT Lyall Butling WW2 Regimental No VX115946. Lyall is an original member (and the oldest) of the RAEME Association of Victoria. His membership number of the Association is "2". What a legend.

Craftsman Magazine. All articles are to be with the editor, Mr David Clarke no later than 10 Dec 23. These can be emailed to him at: David.Clarke15@defence.gov.au. Please send any articles you have that may be of interest to the wider Corps.

Corps Shop. The HOC Cell have been working hard with the network's IT expert, Alex, on the Corps Shop. It is planned to be fully interactive in early 2024. Watch this space for details as they become available.

Makerspace. ALTC and ASEME have been fortunate to now have a 'MakerSpace' available for use. This will allow members to undertake 3D printing tasks (whilst learning new skills).

Corps RSM's Update *continued*

Corps Birthday at ASEME. A great RAEME birthday celebration was held at Latchford Barracks. Units from Puckapunyal and Melbourne made the journey up the Hume Highway. Activities began with a 'Trebuchet/Catapult' pineapple toss; some people took the idea to the extreme and built a 'Ballista'. There was also some fantastic food supplied by our gracious vendors. Brad Jones Racing put on a great display and there were strength competitions. EESW took on the win on the 'Billy LARC' race. The day finished by celebrating the achievements of staff, soldiers and aviators with promotions and presentations of various Honours & Awards.

New ECNs. RAEME introduced two new Employment Category Numbers (ECN) – 222 Marine Technician and 034 Technician Assistant. The Manual for Army Employment (MAE) Employment Specifications have been raised, a training continuum actioned, positions created and a short list of people who may be best suited for the ECNs has been built.

DFRT outcomes. The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) outcomes have been released. These allow for CFN pay changes for some ECNs to align with civil counterparts with similar qualifications.

Defence Strategic Review. The Defence Strategic Review requires a change to everyone's philosophy on how maintenance is to be conducted. 2024 may be challenging, I am extremely confident we as a Corps are up to it.

Corps Conference. At the conclusion of the recent Corps Conference, the RSM raised options for the locations in which the next Conference (Heavy) could be held. It was decided to seek interest from each region to host the conference. This will allow those that have not had the opportunity to attend previously (due to funding or time away from home locations) to now be able to attend. Regional RAEME reps were asked to consider the availability of suitable conference facilities, accommodation and dining facilities in their respective areas. Requests to host the conference are to be sent to the Corps RSM NLT 10 Feb 24. HOC Cell will then decide and release a 'Warning Order' with details of the conference NLT 01 Mar 24. This will allow for planning to be completed well in advance of the conference being conducted.

ANZAC Day 2024

The event with the greatest military significance each year is undoubtedly ANZAC Day.

Pre-COVID, a large RAEME contingent (approx. 40-50+ members) would march behind the Association banner in the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial however during COVID and subsequently due to the construction work at the War Memorial, numbers have typically dropped to less than 20.



Thanks to the Australian War Memorial's Director giving his construction team a push in the right direction, **the War Memorial plans to open its Parade Ground for ANZAC Day.**

This provides us the first opportunity to reform as a large contingent to march behind our banner.

Maximum attendance for this year's ANZAC Day march is therefore highly encouraged, as is our regular gathering at Olims after the parade for drinks, chats and sharing of memories (true or otherwise).

Please plan your attendance for this significant event by placing it in your diary today!

75th Anniversary Reunion Commemorating Formation of the Army Apprentices School

The following was summarised from *The Apprentice About*, Vol 6, Issue 1, Nov 2023.

Over the weekend 20 – 22 October 2023, our Apprentices commemorated 75 years since the 1st Intake of 63 Army Apprentices commenced their training in August 1948 at Balcombe, Victoria, thus establishing the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme and the Army Apprentices School. Concurrent with this commemoration was recognition that, in December 1982/January 1983, trade training for Apprentices began at the newly-built Army Apprentices School at Latchford Barracks, Bonegilla, Victoria. The Albury Entertainment Centre was the venue for the first two days' events, with the last day's events being held at South Bandiana.



The first clue that Apprentices were in town was the wide range of Jon Rogers' "tac signs" displayed on cars (and in at least one hotel lift).



Meet & greet. The meet & greet was scheduled to start at 1600h but some eager beavers turned up at 1350h. After some negotiation, and departure of the venue cleaners, the doors were opened about an hour early and registration and the festivities began. It was reported that the bar ran out of beer, but it turns out that there was a problem with the gas for the beer taps. Canned beer or other drinks became popular. Also popular was Richard Pike's merchandise stand. With his helpers, many items of merchandise were sold. All too soon, 2000h arrived and we were ushered out of the venue.

AGM. At about 1030h on Saturday morning, nearly 100 brave souls ventured out and attended the AGM.

Dinner. About 450 attended a great dinner, with both options for the entree and main courses being well-received. Again, the bar provided challenges but most of those attending were able to quench their thirsts. A burning candle on the stage (below) reminded us of those who have passed away or were unable to attend for other reasons.



75th Anniversary Reunion Commemorating Formation of the Army Apprentices School *continued*

Wreath laying ceremony. On Sunday morning, at Gaza Ridge Barracks, South Bandiana, with the Army Apprentices Memorial in the background, after an introduction from the AAAA Welfare Officer, Barry Minster OAM, 20th Intake Radio Mechanic, the AAAA Chaplain, Rev Canon Alan Kelb OAM, 25th Intake Fitter &



Turner led a large group in prayer. Alan then provided an excellent, brief explanation of the design of the Memorial. This was followed by the Last Post and Rouse, the Ode by Bob Clarke, 22nd Intake Vehicle Mechanic, and the National Anthem. Wreaths were laid by Barry for the Association, and by other members.



Museum visit. The Army Museum at Bandiana was established in 1976 as the RAAOC General Museum. It was combined in 1997 with the RACT Museum, the AACC Historical Collection, and the RAEME Historical Collection and renamed the Australian Army Museum Bandiana. It was then expanded in 1998 to include the



RAAMC, the RAADC and the RAANC Historical Collections, and further expanded during 2012/13 with the RAAPC, making it the largest military museum collection in Australia. Reunion attendees took the opportunity to tour the extensive facilities, reminiscing about their time at Apprentices School and the many Army units and Corps to which they were sent on



graduating. Partners, families and friends were subjected to stories both true and nearly true!

BBQ. To round off the weekend, a generous BBQ lunch was provided by 3rd Wodonga Scout Group.



Wrap up. We had most intakes represented, from the 4th to the 48th. Sadly, representatives from single digit intakes are becoming less and less, with only the 4th, 7th, 8th and 9th attending this time. The 41st and 30th Intakes had the greatest numbers with 22 and 15 respectively.

Photos. Photos of the Reunion will be posted to the Association Website and can be seen at:

<https://austarmyapprentice.org/photos/>



RAEME Humour Book

The Second Edition of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies* has now been published and sent to all purchasers!

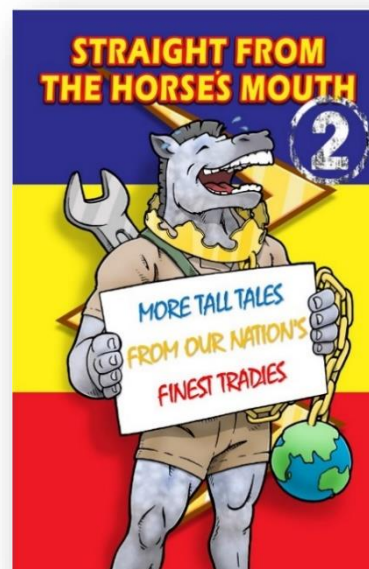
If you didn't get your order in before they shut off, you may still be in luck. Ian has a handful of spare copies of both Edition 1 and Edition 2 that he will take to future Association events but once they are gone (at \$20 and \$25 each respectively), they are gone!

Alternatively, the Head of Corps Cell shop has several hundred books for sale. All funds from any sales will be made available to support serving and retired Corps members. When the Cell shop is up and running online, all members will be notified as such. In the interim, requests for books can be sent to the Corps RSM at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.

The Editors are now collecting stories for Edition 3. Whilst several funny stories have already been received for Edition 3 (thank you to all who sent them), more are required.

If you have any funny stories to share, true or otherwise, please send them to the editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com.

Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable!



DVA News

From 20 Sep 2023, DVA increased pensions (as reported in *VetAffairs* Vol 39 No 3) as follows:

| Service Pension (total amount) | Old rate (fortnightly) | New rate (fortnightly) | Increase (fortnightly) |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Single person | \$1,064.00 | \$1,096.70 | \$32.70 |
| Couples (each) | \$802.00 | \$826.70 | \$24.70 |
| Single person – Transitional | \$887.60 | \$906.80 | \$19.20 |
| Couples (each) – Transitional | \$716.10 | \$731.60 | \$15.50 |
| War Widows (total amount) | | | |
| War widow(er)'s pension | \$1,082.50 | \$1,116.30 | \$33.89 |
| Income support supplement | \$321.10 | \$331.40 | \$10.30 |
| Disability Compensation Payment (total amount) | | | |
| T&PI (Special rate) | \$1,676.20 | \$1,729.20 | \$53.00 |
| Intermediate rate | \$1,111.30 | \$1,146.40 | \$35.10 |
| EDA | \$904.60 | \$600.30 | \$28.60 |
| 100% | \$581.90 | \$600.30 | \$18.40 |
| 10% | \$65.12 | \$66.96 | \$1.84 |
| MRCA* | | | |
| Wholly dependent partner payment | \$1,082.50 | \$1,116.39 | \$33.80 |
| Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP) | \$1,676.20 | \$1,729.20 | \$53.00 |

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable. An explanation of these changes is available in the online version of *VetAffairs* which may be downloaded from the DVA website at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/vetaffairs/vetaffairs-vol-39-no3-december-2023>

* Note that the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2024 (MRCA) payments are the fortnightly payment amounts, not the weekly amounts

Veterans and Family Expo

On 25 Nov, the RSL ACT Branch held the inaugural Veterans and Families Expo; a free event for the ACT Defence community to explore and gain understanding of local information, support, services and programs available to them in Canberra and its surrounds.



This event saw a wide range of stallholders gather at the Australian Catholic University, Watson to share information that may support various members. Stallholders included (at least): Defence Bank, ACT RSL, RSL Veterans' Employment Program, Office for Seniors and Veterans, Australian War Widows, Disaster Relief, Bosom Buddies, Kookaburra Kids, ACT TPI Association, CBRE, Australian Military Wives Choir (they were really really good!), Australian Military Bank, The Personnel Group, The Australian War Memorial and more.

Firstly, this was a great event to attend. From this, I gathered a wide range of information that I will continue to work through. In future *RAEME in ACTION* editions, I will provide a summary of the benefits and support avenues open to both serving and former Defence members. Interestingly, this varies considerably state-by-state, territory-by-territory.

Locally, you can look forward to future notes about: The Australian War Memorial, Equine Coaching, Legacy, Support for Seniors, the ACT Government's Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families and more.

If anyone would like me to cover any particular topic, please let me know via email so I can either prioritise that package of info or source it for you (Secretary@act.raeme.gov.au).

<https://www.actrsl.org.au/veterans-and-family-expo>

Looking Back

In last month's *RAEME in ACTION*, we featured the cover of *The RAEME Craftsman*, Number 2 from 1979 which included a picture of a risk-accepting tradesmen working on a generator next to a drum of fuel whilst smoking.

That article drew quite some interest including from our own Lyell Wedd who as a Crafty in that unit at the time believes the rogue soldier in the picture may actually be him!

Thank you, Lyell, for being one of the reasons all serving members get to enjoy the mandatory safety presentations every year!



It was also indicated to me that these particular generators were notoriously hard to start, hence the need for a trained "mechanician" to be on hand to either get them going or keep them going. Having personally experienced the joy of hand cranking the VW 15KVA in the field (which is a better upper-body workout that any PTI could give you), I totally get this. Likewise, having the drum of fuel nearby allowed the generator to run for extended hours without the need to refuel.

2024 Napier Waller Art Prize Open Now

The Napier Waller Art Prize is open to all current and former service personnel in the Australian Defence Force. The prize encourages artistic excellence, promotes the transformative power of creativity, and raises awareness of the experiences and talent of service personnel.

Serving personnel and veterans are invited to enter an original artwork and artist statement. Each year, entries are judged by a panel of art experts and professionals, and a winning artwork selected on merit. Entries using diverse artistic media and original concepts are encouraged.

The winning work is accessioned into the Australian War Memorial collection, with the winning artist receiving a \$15,000 cash prize. Finalists' works are displayed on the Australian War Memorial's website for the general public to vote for the People's Choice award, the winner of which will receive \$5,000.



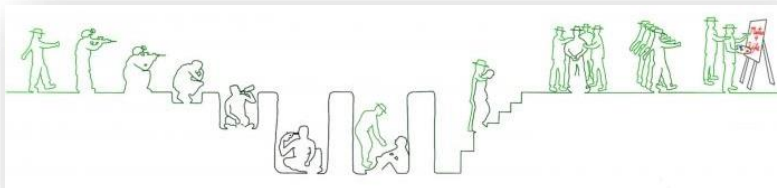
2022 Winning Entry:
The promotion
by Anneke Jamieson



2020 People's Choice Winning Entry:
Afghan diggers' ghosts at the AWM 2020
by Gary Ramage

not limited to) painting, photography, printmaking, drawing, sculpture, digital, decorative, and installation. There is no theme for the award, and entries do not have to address military or service topics. Entries using diverse artistic media and original concepts are encouraged.

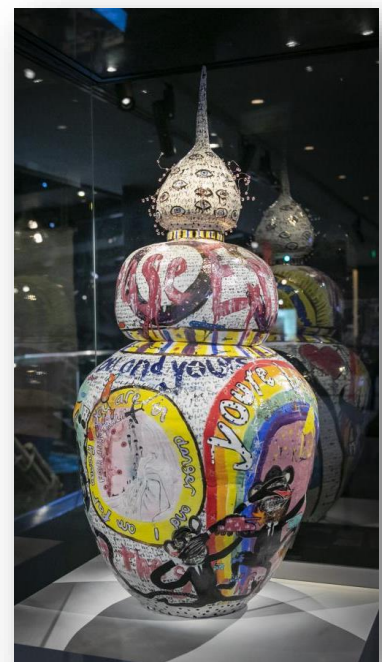
Details of how to enter are on the Australian War Memorial site at:
<https://www.awm.gov.au/napier-waller-art-prize-hub/how-to-enter>



2018 (Inaugural) People's Choice Winning Entry:
Mates, for life
by Ian Cook

Applications for the 2024 Napier Waller Art Prize opened on Friday, 8 September 2023, with veterans from across the country invited to apply. The closing date has been extended. Submissions now close midnight Sunday 28 January 202

The War Memorial invites entries in all visual art mediums, including (but



2019 Winning Entry:
You are in danger and I am far away.
by Natalie Duncan



What's On in Canberra

The following public events are scheduled for the ACT region:

Happy and Glorious

- Lead:** The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD)
- What:** An exhibition dedicated to The Queen's Visit in 1954.
- Old Parliament House was central to the royal tour while the Queen was in Australia and the exhibition is presented in the very room the Queen used while she was at Old Parliament House. You can explore this room in the President of the Senate's suite and see how it was while she was visiting.
- Where:** Old Parliament House
- When:** Daily until 03 May 2024
- Details:** <https://bit.ly/HappyAndGlorious>
- Cost:** Free
-

Last Post Ceremony

- Lead:** Australian War Memorial
- What:** Each evening, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony.
- Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.
- Where:** Australian War Memorial, Commemorative Courtyard
- When:** Commencing daily at approximately 4.45 pm AEDT,
- Registration:** <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>
-

Veteran Support Centre

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

- Mondays – Gardening group from 0930-1130h
- Tuesdays – Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h + BBQ lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Wednesdays – Cooking for One course from 1030-1300h\
- Thursdays – Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h + pie lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Fridays - Guitar group (all skill levels) from 0930h and Ladies Craft Group from 1300h (3rd Friday) of the month

Call for advocates. Are you interested in becoming an Advocate to support Veterans as they negotiate the DVA claim process? If so, the Veteran Support Centre (VSC) would love to talk to you.

There will be an introductory training session so that the process can be described. It would be anticipated that where the opportunity arises then you will begin to conduct your own interviews.

Please contact Ward Gainey (ward.gainey@bigpond.com or ward.gainey@vsact.org.au) and let him know if you wish to begin the Advocate training.

What tool am I?

December

Last month's tool challenge was:

Originally employed as a weapon of war, I am now used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit. I also allow you to learn how to curse in new languages when I hit your thumb.

That tool was: A Hammer


As this is the end of the year, we will conclude the "What Tool Am I?" series with this last question. The answer is below.

I am commonly used as a one size fits all tool. I usually round off nut heads before you use pliers. I will randomly adjust size whilst you are using me, resulting in busted knuckles, curse words, and multiple threats to any inanimate objects within the immediate vicinity. I am known as "Another hammer".

Closing words for 2023

When we introduced the 'Looking Back' segment, we started with a message from the then Corps Director General, Major General Powell, ret'd. In that segment, we noted how General Powell's words from the 1970s remain equally relevant today. It is therefore fitting that we close this year's *RAEME in ACTION* with more sage words from General Powell. In late-1979, General Powell penned his final thoughts for the year. Interestingly, he predicted that Craftsman would be known as 'Technicians' but more importantly, he noted that our members remained our Corps' most valuable asset. There is no doubt that this fact remains equally true today. Please stay safe on the roads over Christmas.

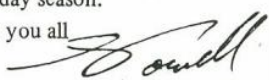
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I would like to take the opportunity in this issue of The RAEME Craftsman to thank all members of the Corps for their very loyal and dedicated support in 1979. It has been a busy year and I am very much aware that there are not sufficient tradesmen in certain areas to cope with the workload. In situations like this we rely on your initiative and ingenuity to provide our customers with the service they must have. However, despite our heavy workload, I must stress that it is essential that all RAEME craftsmen be self-reliant and competent soldiers as well as good engineers and technicians.

At this Christmas season, I wish all members and their families the very best of good wishes. Have plenty of good cheer and fellowship, but please, let someone else do the driving. I have been disturbed by some recent fatal accidents involving members of our Corps. We cannot afford to fritter away our most valuable asset – YOU – in road accidents, so please drive carefully during the holiday season.

My best wishes to you all


(A.D. Powell)
Director General

I wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and I hope you welcome the New Year in good health. I look forward to seeing more of everyone as our Association continues to grow in 2024!

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association



The tool: Adjustable spanner