

TO: Members of the ACT RAEME Association

FOR INFO: Members of all other RAEME Associations

President's Message

I trust this finds you all travelling ok. This month was started on a sombre tone with the farewell of a senior Corps member (1st Intake Apprentice), Geoffrey Hawker. Whilst I didn't know Geoff well, it was clear to me that he was a highly regarded and influential individual, both whilst in service and in his personal life. It was suggested to me that Geoff was a man who always provided frank and fearless advice regardless of the audience, a trait that stood the test of time. What struck me at his funeral was the wide cross-section of ages that were represented, reflecting not only a long life, but one that touched a broad section of the communities in which he was involved. Pulling on rugby boots at 61 indicates he was young at heart and of body; something we all aspire to!

Secretary's Message

The passing of Geoff at the young age of 91 provided the opportunity to reflect upon the man he was and the attributes he espouse from which we should all aspire. The broad attendance at Geoff's funeral, both in person and online reflected the high regard in which Geoff was held but also that in which he held his mates. He was the example of togetherness that we wish to reflect amongst our Corps Association and broader community. I look forward to sharing memories of Geoff and other absent friends at one of our impending gatherings.

Your Committee

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

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

Service Liaison: TBA (will be a serving member)

Getting our ACT together

Your attendance at the following events will be warmly welcomed:

Date	Time(s)	What	Where
Tues 28 Feb	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
Fri 03 Mar	1230-1330h	Informal Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
Tues 28 Mar	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
Fri 07 Apr	1600-1800h	Spanner Club	The Kingston Hotel
Tues 25 Apr	0900-1200h	ANZAC Day March	Australian War Memorial

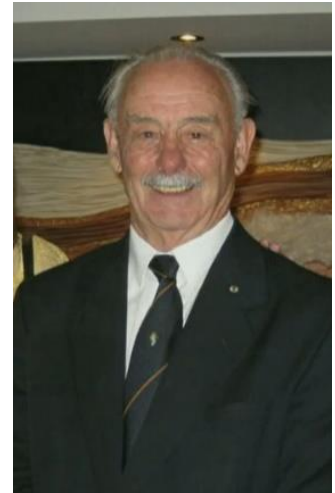
Request for Trade Tour Expressions of Interest. We intend to request Association tours of local companies that have a Defence or technical focus in coming months. These will be weekday, business hour tours. Before we send requests to companies like Electro Optic Systems, CEA etc, we need to gauge likely attendance. **If you would like to be part of such a tour, please complete the online survey at <https://bit.ly/RAEMETourEOI>.** We won't hold you to attend based on your response but if we have less than around 10 people interested, it may be difficult to get positive responses from local companies.

Vale

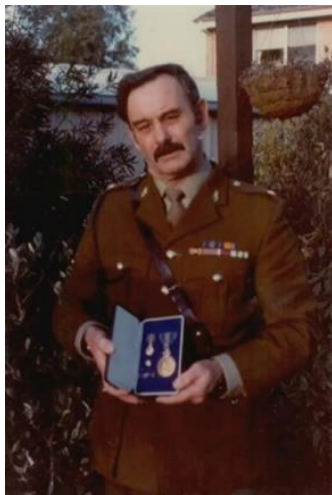
On 23 Jan 2023, we lost an early member of our Corps, and a 1st intake Army Apprentice Fitter and Turner, Major Geoffrey Hawker AM.

Born in 1933, Geoff was the younger brother of two WW2 veterans. He was one of the possibly the last three remaining First Intake Apprentices; the perpetual masters. Geoff passed one day after his 91st birthday after falling ill during a cruise, being one of his favourite activities.

More than being a Craftsman, Geoff was a soldier, an officer, a tradesman, a football lover, a coach, a chef, a builder, a handyman, a wine connoisseur, a businessman and so much more. He was also known as Super Geoff to many as he was just so good at everything that he turned his hand and mind to. Beyond this, he was also the husband to Margaret, father to John, Paul and Mark, father-in-law to Susan and Bec, grandfather to 8, great grandfather to 8, uncle to several nephews and nieces and a mate to so many more.



Geoff was highly regarded by all who knew him, as indicated by his very well-attended send-off. During the service, stories of Geoff's life flowed with sentiments expressing both joy and sorrow. All who knew him could have shared many more similar stories. Most telling of Geoff's character were the images that were displayed in the background. The underlying theme with all may have been summarised as "friends, family, country and smiles". It was clear that simply being in Geoff's presence was a delight to all and he took great delight in sharing his time with so many family members and friends both within Australia and during his global travels.



Geoff's military service was also a great source of pride to him. This started from his enlistment on 23 Jul 1948, and continued through his commissioning in 1963, his service in Vietnam with the 17th Construction Squadron and to his retirement from uniformed service in 1985. Throughout this impressive period of service, Geoff had a tendency to simply make life better for those around him. He spent the first 6 months of his apprenticeship turning dilapidated buildings at Balcombe into what would become the premier training facility for tradesmen at the time. In Vietnam, he constructed the "Hyatt Hawker", being a place where his men could rest with a cold drink. He cared for others throughout his life and worked hard to improve their lot.

On retirement, Geoff continued to serve in a civilian capacity at the then newly-formed Australian Defence Force Academy. On 31 Dec 1993, his service transferred to that of a husband when he married his true love, Margaret. From that point on, they become known as a single entity, "Marg and Geoff". One name could not be said without the other.

In 1984, Geoff's service to RAEME and the Army in general was recognised with his award of Member of the Order of Australia. Geoff earned this award for his dedication and service to the procurement of workshop equipment and facilities engineering. In Geoff's humble words, he was simply doing his job. More than that, it was the care with which Geoff did his job that saw him recognised with this award.

Geoff's casket was draped with the Australian National Flag, and adorned with his slouch hat and his medals. This represented his love of country, his love of the Army and his justifiable pride in his service with RAEME.

It might be fair to conclude this brief eulogy to Geoff with the words of one of his favourite artists, Luis Armstrong. Because of the life and love Geoff shared with so many, we must think to ourselves, what a wonderful world.

Rest in peace, Geoff.



ANZAC Day 2023

As for all years, ANZAC Day 2023 will remain a significant event in the calendar. The Australian War Memorial (AWM) is undergoing significant renovations but as per last year, the National Veteran's March will proceed, albeit in a slightly shortened format. This year's ANZAC Day will follow the traditional three-phase format:

Phase 1 - Dawn Service. Under own arrangements. Options include:

0430h ADF members commence reading excerpts from the letters and diaries of Australians who have experienced war first-hand

0530h AWM Dawn Service and live broadcast commences for individual driveway services.

The Broadcast can be heard or watched via ABC TV, ABC NEWS channel, ABC iview, Radio National, ABC Local Radio and on the ABC listen app from 5.30am (AEST)

Phase 2 - National Veteran's March

0900h RV at the AWM. Exact RV location TBA

0930h Veteran's March Commences

Phase 3 - Reflection post-march

~1100h Reassemble at Olims

1101h Commence sharing stories of our mates or individual greatness

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*:

New South Wales. The NSW Association is preparing for its Annual General Meeting. Details of that are:

Date: 25 February 2023

Time: 10:00am

Where: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street Sydney

Queensland. At the February Monthly meeting of the QIs Association members, the outgoing Chairman, Jeff Maurice was presented with a Chairmans' Award. His award reads:

For his outstanding service and contribution to the success of the RAEME Association Queensland, over a long and distinguished period as Chair of the RAQ. Jeff has contributed greatly to the growth of the Association with physical, moral and financial support to the Corps, the Association and its members.

Congratulations, Jeff and thank you for your outstanding dedication to the Association and Corps.

Victoria. The Victorian Association will be hosting a wreath laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of all those in the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Details are as follows:

Date: 05 March 2023

Time: 11:00 – 11:30 am

Where: Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne

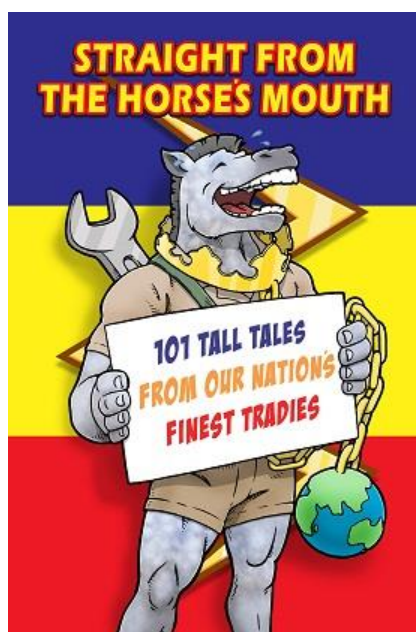
Livestream: <https://www.shrine.org.au/raeme-association>

Other State/Territory Associations continued.

Western Australia. The WA Association celebrated the recent RAEME Birthday with two distinct events; an informal dinner on Friday the 2nd December at the Bayswater Hotel and a Social golf afternoon at Claremont Golf Course on Sunday the 4th. A good time was had by all that attended. The WA Association Newsletters, *Horses Mouth*, can be viewed at:

<https://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/horsemouth>

Apprentices. The latest Army Apprentice Association newsletter was released this month. It can be viewed at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>. This edition provides a few interesting articles, including photos of Geoff Hawker as a 1st year apprentice. The November newsletter included reference to a potential redrafting of the Corps Instruction which in current form prohibits the scattering of ashes at the Craftsman Memorial in Bandiana. I know this restriction has caused some concern to members since it was introduced so it will be great to see lifted. Association Newsletters can be reviewed at:



RAEME Humour Book. The first edition of RAEME's official humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth: 101 Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradesmen*, was a huge success with almost 600 copies printed and sold. This raised almost \$6,000 which was donated to the Corps National Association for the betterment of serving and retired personnel. Edition 2 is now being finalised but more funny stories are required.

If you have any funny stories from your career, please send them 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. They will also filter out any potentially operational sensitive information. All they want is the humour. Besides, those who were there at the time, will know the exact details. Everyone else will just have a chuckle.

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

Craftsman Magazine. RAEME Head of Corps cell is calling for submissions for the next Craftsman Magazine. If you have any stories of interest for the next edition, please send whatever you have to Secretary@act.raeme.org.au. Alternatively, you can send personal or historic stories directly to the editors at raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au.

Reunions

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

RAEME Get Together

- What:** Annual camping/caravanning get-together of past and present RAEME members
- Who:** All RAEME Members and families
- Where:** Bjelke-Petersen Dam, Moffatdale, QLD
- When:** 23 – 27 Feb 2023
- POC:** Via Facebook Group "RAEME Get Together 23/2 – 27/2 2023 Bjelke-Petersen Dam"

Apprentice 39th Class Reunion

Who: 39th Class apprentices
Where: Albury/Wodonga
When: 22-26 Apr 2023
Proposed program: Sun 23 Apr – Meet and Greet
Mon 24 Apr – Tour Latchford Bks & N Bandiana
Tues 25 Apr – Dawn Service Latchford Bks & Anzac Day March
POC: Jeff Wouters 39th C&J jeff@nortonhomes.com.au
Andrew Clarke 39th F&T, andrew26567@hotmail.com

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: October 2023 (exact date TBC)
POC: Garry (Snowy) Whykes at gwhykes@gmail.com

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
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