

ACT RAEME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RAEME in ACTION

JANUARY 2023



TO: Members of the ACT RAEME Association

FOR INFO: Members of all other RAEME Associations

President's Message

Happy New Year to All. It was great to see the turnout of the local and visiting Spanner community at the end of last year to reflect on and celebrate 80 years of service (and no, for the multiple kind souls that asked, it was not also my personal 80th birthday). It was also great to experience the energy that another graduation of Spanners brings to the Corps, be they soldiers or officers. I very much look forward to catching up with you all in 2023, noting that the association focus is on connecting the local Spanner community, regardless of origin and status. Stay well, Andrew Adams

Secretary's Message

Welcome to 2023!

In keeping with the streamlined approach of the ACT Association, this *RAEME in ACTION* will cover the key points of what is happening in the ACT and around the Corps. If you would like other information or messages included in future editions, please let me know.

Your Committee

President: Andy Adams

Secretary: Ian Cook

Service Liaison: TBA (will be a serving members)

Getting our ACT together

Your attendance at the following events will be warmly welcomed:

Date	Time(s)	What	Where
Tues 31 Jan	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
Fri 03 Feb	1600-1800h	First Spanner Club for 2023	The Kingston Hotel
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

Whilst RSVPs are welcome, none are required. Just show up and enjoy the company of our Corps members, their families and supporters. The finer details of all functions can be found online at: <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>. Visitors to the ACT are welcome to attend.

Request for function ideas. If any member, serving or retired, has an impending workplace activity that may be of interest to other members, for example, equipment demonstrations or open days, please let me know so I can advise all members.

Likewise, if anyone wishes to recommend a venue for future Spanner Clubs, please let us know. We have the advantage of having no enduring relationship with any one establishment so we are free to move around each time.

Caught in the ACT

The following is a summary of events held since the last Newsletter.

RAEME Birthday 2022

The 80th anniversary of our Corps' formation was held at the Kingston Hotel on 01 Dec 2022. It was well attended with around 50 members, both serving and retired present.

Andy Adams gave all a quick update on the latest happenings from around the Corps before sharing these words from His Late Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, as spoken on 20 May 1986 when he presented the Royal Banner to the Corps:



I think it was Napoleon who said that an Army marches on its stomach. If he had been alive today, I'm sure he would have added that it moves and fights with its equipment. And as the variety and complication of military equipment escalates, so does the problem of its maintenance and repair. We may live in the so-called throw-away society, but that certainly does not apply to military equipment. There's never enough of it in the first place and in a war situation, the opposition is doing its best to damage or destroy it, and furthermore, resupply in times of crisis is never reliable. The maintenance and repair of military equipment calls for very special qualities of management and technical abilities in addition to military skills, particularly in the stress of battle. Action is urgent and has to be imaginative and quick. If all other factors are equal, it is the side that can make best use of its equipment that will gain the upper hand. Ever since the Corps of the royal Australia Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed in 1942, the officers and craftsmen of the corps have provided this service in peace and in war with gallantry and conspicuous success.

It was well-accepted that those same words apply to the current Corps members.

RMC Lanyard Presentation

On 05 Dec, the newest officers into RAEME were presented their Corps Lanyards by outgoing Head of Corp, BRIG Allen and Corps RSM, WO1 Scott Collard. This event was attended by a significant number of serving and retired members of all ranks who all took the opportunity to engage with the junior officers to impart individual wisdom. On meeting several of the thirteen new officers individually, I am confident the Corps is in very good hands. All were bright, cheerful and very keen to move into their new roles to learn even more.

Whilst attendance numbers at this event were limited by RMC, the College was encouraged to open this to allow a greater number of serving and retired members of all ranks to attend noting that once posted to units, the junior officers will hone their skills with input from a wider range of people.



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

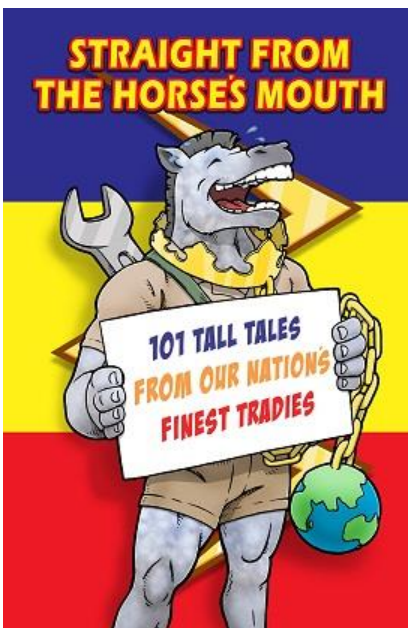
1101h Commence sharing stories of our mates or individual greatness

Other News

New Colonel in Chief. With the passing of HRH Prince Phillip, RAEME is now looking for a new Colonel in Chief. REME have announced their new Colonel in Chief will be Sophie, Countess of Wessex. RAEME however is considering whether to follow tradition and appoint the Countess as well or to select a prominent Australian for the role. A decision is expected early 2023.



Medals Lost and Found. Two medals belonging to QX42641 (Q122973) Craftsman Jack Crane Wilkins have been found. These include the War Medal 1939-45 and the Australian Service Medal 1939-45. CFN Wilkins was born on 15 Jun 1917 and served from 2 Sep 40 to 22 Feb 46. If you know of CFN Wilkins or have any contacts with his family, please contact Simon Morley at Hervey Bay RSL either on (07) 4197-7477 or subbranch@herveybayrsl.com.au.



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. You can find the latest issue of the Crafty Magazine at: <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/raeme-craftsman>. If you have any stories of interest for the next edition, please let me know so I can link you in with the editors. I hold limited quantities of the 2021 Craftsman Magazine so if anyone would like a copy, please let me know.

ACT Association Website. We are slowly updating the ACT Association website to try to make it a little more readable, especially when viewing it from a mobile device. The changes being trialled at this stage include removal of excessive background images and adjustment of the menu to allow easy access to all other State Associations. Upcoming events are also listed on the home page to save digging through menus to find them.

You can check the website out at: <http://act.raeme.org.au>.

We will continue to tweak this over coming months so if you have any ideas for inclusion, please feel free to forward them to me at: secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Other State/Territory Associations. The other State and Territory Associations are busy preparing their plans for 2023. Updates will be provided in future *RAEME in ACTION* when states release their newsletters.

Reunions

The following reunion is being planned:

“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
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