



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

Service Liaison: TBA (will be a

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

serving member)

President's Message

Hello All,

I had the pleasure to dine with two groups this month, our local crew at the Olims (all were in fine form) and at a RAEME Assoc NSW Christmas in July function at the Ingleburn RSL. They too were in fine form and enjoying the company of fellow spanners and their families. It remains an enduring joy to interact with the Corps family, reflecting, opining and projecting views of what was, what is and what will be through the lenses of their individual and collective experiences. How is arose escapes me, however we did spend some time discussing the merits or otherwise of the AAS Crab night, and the many and various ways they/we had of demonstrating why our respective trades progress on to exhibit such skill and initiative in the future careers.

Secretary's Message

This month's lunch at Olims was well-attended, mainly by retired members. In September, we will move lunch to a venue on the Southside, most likely the Southern Cross Club, Woden. This will hopefully give those who live on the Southside a better opportunity to join us but of course, all members, families and visitors from other regions will be welcome to attend. Details to follow as they are locked in.

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 25 Jul	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 04 Aug	1630h	Spanner Club	Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure)	Link
Tues 29 Aug	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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			

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30	31					

Legend Mixed Lunch Informal Drinks Spanner Club Significant Events

Message from Head of Corps RAEME

Much is happening in Army – here is a summary for your information.

Army and Defence are going through a period of significant change. The Chief of Army recently announced the transition of 1, 3 and 7 Brigades to the 1st Australian Division to improve Army warfighting preparedness.

There are more changes coming in Army structures, capability and equipment including a greater focus on amphibious and littoral operations and long-range fires. I encourage everyone to view the Chief of Army's mid-year video message of 7 July 2023 where he outlines these changes and the further work being undertaken for Army's future. See the video here:

<https://youtu.be/qVU4bGmxQDA>



What does this mean for RAEME? I believe our Corps has an important role in Army's future particularly considering our technical and engineering expertise. RAEME can lead the way and guide our Army in Motion to be technically enabled; ready now with fit equipment and future ready to embrace emerging technologies to succeed in contested environments.

Now, more than ever, Army needs our skills, technical mastery, innovation, engineering mind-set, fast fixes and pragmatic can do attitude. RAEME is vital for Army and Defence's future success. Saying that, there is much to do.

While the Head of Corps team is very small, LTCOL Tim Soper DHOC-Land, LTCOL Rick Watling DHOC-Air, WO1 Jon Tynan Corps RSM and I are working with Master Artificers and other senior members of the Corps to get after four lines of effort (LOE):

RAEME LOE 1 – The Craftsman – This LOE will get after issues that enhance the opportunities and service offering for our Craftsmen; we need to compete to attract bright young people with a technical aptitude. The HOC lead for this LOE is Corps RSM.

RAEME LOE 2 – The RAEME Officer – This LOE will explore opportunities for both the engineer and non-engineer officers in RAEME; we need to continue to provide Army with engineering expertise that is underpinned by a thorough understanding of Army's Combat Service Support, Maintenance Engineering and Logistics. The HOC lead for this LOE is LTCOL Rick Watling.

RAEME LOE 3 – RAEME Esprit de corps – This LOE will explore opportunities to broaden our Corps engagement and interaction. The HOC lead for this LOE is LTCOL Tim Soper.

RAEME LOE 4 – The future of RAEME – Some excellent work has already been done to collect the thinking around RAEME's future. The intent of this LOE is to develop a consistent narrative that the Corps can use to influence and define its future role in Army.

It is your Corps and I seek your help to develop each of these LOE. The HOC team needs your input to ensure that these initiatives appropriately incorporate the broadest range of Corps perspectives.

This is an exciting time that is full of opportunity for our great Corps. We have an exceptional HOC team ably supported by MAJ Steve Howells. I am excited to be working with the HOC team and meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months.

Ben Slaughter

BRIG

HOC

Handing over the reins

Our RAEME National Network Coordinator, BRIG Ross Grant (ret'd) has recently advised that he will be stepping down from that position at the end of this year. The search is now on for a replacement who will retain the responsibility for providing a strong voice in the Corps Committee to enable the Associations' views and to convey the needs of retired members of the Corps.

The member who fills this position will also ensure sound lines of communication between the Head of Corps and all Associations. Ross describes the task as not being too demanding if taking a "minimalist" approach and concentrating on supporting the various association executives around Australia and maintaining the flow of information to and from them.

If you would consider nominating yourself or another retired Corps member for this position, please email me at Secretary@act.raeme.org.au so we can start the conversation.

Corps Committee Meeting

On 21 Jun, the Corps Committee met to discuss directional matters for the Corps.

The meeting was Chaired by BRIG (R) E. Smeaton as Rep COL COMDT and attended by Head of Corps, BRIG Slaughter, all Regional Colonel Commandant's, including our very own Andy Adams, Deputy Heads of Corps (Ground and Aero), LTCOLs Soper and Watling, the Corps RSM, WO1 Tynan, SO2 Corps, MAJ Howells and as a representative of the RAEME National Network (RNN), BRIG R Grant (ret'd).

Some of what BRIG Grant reported on included the following (summarised):

Status of the RNN. Having been running for some 12 years, the RNN consists of a loose arrangement of mostly regional and some unit associations spread across Australia and provides a national focus to celebratory activities.

In line with Corps Instruction (CI) 31, "The RAEME Association", generally aspires to the following goals:

- Promote the Corps' identity and reputation across Australia.
- Recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps.
- Provide a focal point for Corps activities nationally and regionally.
- Foster relationships between Head of Corps RAEME, RAEME Corps Committee, RAEME Serving Members and all RAEME Affiliated Associations and other RAEME groups.
- Encourage all RAEME Associations and RAEME Groups to join the RAEME Electronic Network.
- Undertake tasks that are mutually agreed by affiliates and members that will assist and support members.

The various associations do a good job meeting the needs of their constituencies but some experience difficulties becoming involved with local ARA or ARES units, despite some of them being keen to play an active part to promote and celebrate Corps activities and or provide a focus for Corps activities in their region. The importance of active membership in Corps Associations, particularly younger members, cannot be understated.

Levels of Activity. Each association has determined an appropriate level of activity to meet the specific needs of their regions and membership. Some associations are comparably active, working well within their capacity. All associations reported good attendance at their most recent ANZAC Day Marches and post-march activities. I am pleased with current levels of association activity and that it meets the needs of their membership.

- **Appointment of a new COL in Chief.** We still await the advice on a replacement COL in CHIEF RAEME with the passing of Prince Phillip but understand the pathway HOC is pursuing.

- **Communications.** Newsletters (e.g. *RAQ Spanner News*, *RAQ Friday Files*, *VIC Lightening Flash*, *WA Horse's Mouth*, *TAS RAT Newsletter*, *ACT RAEME in ACTION*, *RAEMESA* and *RANSW* newsletters) have an important place in the life of our associations, constantly reminding our membership of Corps development, but also spelling out forthcoming activities, important Corps initiatives and significant heritage events. These media “platforms” are also very important for keeping the members up to speed on the Corps daily activities in support of the ADF. The former electronic HOC Newsletters were a very useful way of keeping the associations informed and involved, and I applaud the Corps RSM’s Updates which are now being promulgated and are content rich.
- **Website Utility and Accessing Technical Support.** The RNN and Association websites, and the RAEME Facebook are also important tools, and as I mentioned above, we are blessed to have a great RAEME National Support Team (RNST) distributed across Australia, ably lead by Alex Smithers – but the IT system is under-utilised. Alex’s team includes Richard Legge, ex-RAEME, whose company (Prerequisite) hosts the network and website; but in addition there are webmasters in most states who can help develop the associations’ individual websites.
- **RAEME Craftsman Magazine.** With the thinning out of the HOC Cell, production of the “Craftsman” falls to SO2 Corps, MAJ Steve Howell and his editorial team Dave Clark. Steve and I (and recently the Corps RSM) have encouraged the associations to provide articles for the “Craftsman”. It is important for the associations to provide articles and elaborate on what they are doing in their regions – it can also improve membership.
- **Funding Support.** Most associations are financially viable or have simple funding models to suit their local needs. Most use a simple “pay as you go” model for each function; or one that is supported by association subsidies, or a combination of both. Therefore, most associations can operate confidently without huge admin overheads while minimising their workload.
- **Spanner Packs.** In an earlier report, I said that Operation Spanner Pack, the provision of comfort packs to our Corps members on operational service, has effectively ceased. However, the RNN is still receiving advice on small contingents, or individuals, on operations or on training and defence aid tasks overseas. Therefore Op Spanner Pack will continue under the management of MAJ Ray Norman (ret’d), from his home. Our members really appreciate receiving these small packs and we often receive generous letters of appreciation from many who have been beneficiaries. Over 20 years under the leadership of many people, and different associations and their hardworking members, 4782 packs (approx 9.5 Ton) have been despatched to our troops in many locations around the world – Iraq, Afghanistan, Middle East, Solomon’s, Timor and PNG.
- **Heritage Initiatives.** Over time, there have been many initiatives to celebrate our Corps heritage, including in 2022, the 80th Anniversary of the Corps. Most recently we have seen the production of two books of RAEME humour – our humour is clearly an important part of our Corps culture, heritage and resilience and needs to be preserved. Two members of the Corps, Ian Cook and Peter Shefford “Sheff”, published edition 1 in 2022, and they have recently produced Edition 2 which will be published later this year. Their first edition sold well and provided the RNN with funds to assist with the cost of upgrading our IT system and conducting urgent maintenance.

Membership. All Associations are reliant on their membership bases to maintain continuing relevance. We are always open to ideas on how we can do this better from all members of the Corps including the Corps Committee, but membership initiatives will be routinely followed by the National Association.

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 04 Aug Spanner Club 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!

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. The amount of equipment on display here is impressive. It is also much more accessible. Entry is typically by gold coin donation but further details will be provided by the AWM closer to the date. Information can be found at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/bigthingsinstore>

RAEME Humour Book

Pre-orders for the Second Edition of RAEME's official humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies* are now open!

The books cost \$25 per copy with postage in Australia included for pre-orders.

Subject to publishing and postal delays, the books will be in the mail in time for Christmas.

Pre-orders can be placed at:

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

Limited numbers of Edition 1 are available. Package Deals are also available for those who wish to purchase Book 1 and Book 2 together.

Stop press: The author's have now closed acceptance of stories for this edition but as all Spanners know, rules are made to be broken massaged. If you submit a really funny story ASAP (FunnyStories@raeme.com), it may replace one of the other stories that have been included. If not, it will be put in the file for Edition 3! This is your chance to become a published author. How good will that look on your CV! Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable. HURRY UP!!



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

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, iparfitt@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

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
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

Reunions continued

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

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*:

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. More details will follow closer to the event.

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.

What tool am I?

Last month's tool challenge was:

I clean paint off bolts and throw them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. I also remove fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh sh*t'

That tool was: A Wire Wheel.

This month's tool identification challenge is:

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.

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

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association

