

ACT RAEME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RAEME in ACTION

Jun 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](mailto:President@act.raeme.org.au)

Service Liaison: TBA (will be a

Secretary: Ian Cook [Secretary@act.raeme.org.au](mailto:Secretary@act.raeme.org.au)

serving member)

President's Message

Hello All,

Trust this finds you all well. I was reminded recently (again) how the Corps attracts, and is served and supported by, capable, committed and smart folk. Seven new officers were welcomed into the Corps by the HOC and Corps RSM at the recent RMC lanyard presentation, and whilst disturbing youthful (I can't recall ever looking that young!?), all were excited to be embarking on what will inevitably be a challenging, interesting and entertaining career. Chatting to the Corps RSM, he reinforced that the same is occurring at ASEME; smart, capable and enthusiastic technicians are being graduated into the Corps to support the in-service and soon to be introduced new capabilities (he also may have mentioned that a small number of the trainee body have not lost the ability to confound the command team!).

I also had the opportunity to attend the recent Land Environment Working Group conducted by Army Headquarters. I think it fair to say Army has significant challenges ahead of it and the Corps especially so (operating in the littoral environment has never been easy), however we have some smart Spanner minds across the Headquarters and supporting agencies contributing to the debate, with the intention of making the most of emerging technologies to support our folk in the field (I suspect this is not a new phenomenon for any of us!).

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 27 Jun	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	<a href="#">Link</a>
Fri 07 Jul	1630h	Mixed Lunch	Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure)	<a href="#">Link</a>
Tues 25 Jul	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	<a href="#">Link</a>

AUGUST						
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			

SEPTEMBER						
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	1

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					

Legend  Mixed Lunch  Informal Drinks  Spanner Club  Significant Events

### **RAEME Craftsman – 2022 Edition**

The 2022 RAEME Craftsman Magazine (Issue 73) was released in late May. It can be downloaded from the Association website at: <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/raeme-craftsman>

This edition includes a message from our new Head of Corps in which he outlines his four main lines of effort which include: enhancing opportunities for our Craftsmen; exploring options for the officer stream; building on our esprit de corps; and defining our future as a Corps.

There are multiple other stories about life in the Corps and some great unit jottings. There is also a very interesting article profiling the 17 x recovery mechanics who were promoted to WO1 whilst in trade. It also lists some (but not all) of those recovery mechanics who made it to WO1 in either regimental or Reserve streams. One who wasn't included was the late WO1 Clyde Cook of the NSW RAEME Association. Clyde (Dad) retired as RSM of 3 Base Wksp Bn in 1976. He was also one of the two co-founders of the care packs sent to deployed members that evolved into the much-loved Spanner Packs.



Very few copies of the magazine will be printed in hard copy. I have requested a few copies to distribute to Association members however the quantity I will receive is yet to be confirmed but is likely to be less than five. I will take whatever I get to the first Association function after receipt. First in, best dressed!

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### **RAEME Craftsman – 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](mailto:raeme.hoc@defence.gov.au)) no later than 01 Oct 2023. Submissions later than this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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### **RMC Lanyard Presentation**

On 09 Jun, our Head of Corps and Corps RSM welcomed RAEME's newest officers to the Corps. The 2023 Lanyard Presentation was held at the RMC-D Golf Club. Seven new officers were privileged to be presented their certificates from the Head of Corps. Each of them was also presented with a "Corps pack" and RAEME lanyards.

The event allowed for the latest graduates to interact with serving and ex-serving RAEME members, who were enthusiastic to share their stories and impart advice to the (soon-to-be) workshop commanders. The enthusiasm and attendance of the diverse RAEME community gave the graduates a strong sense of belonging and comfort in the Corps. All the graduates left the evening with a heightened eagerness to commence their first appointments at their respective units.



## **Big Things in Store!**

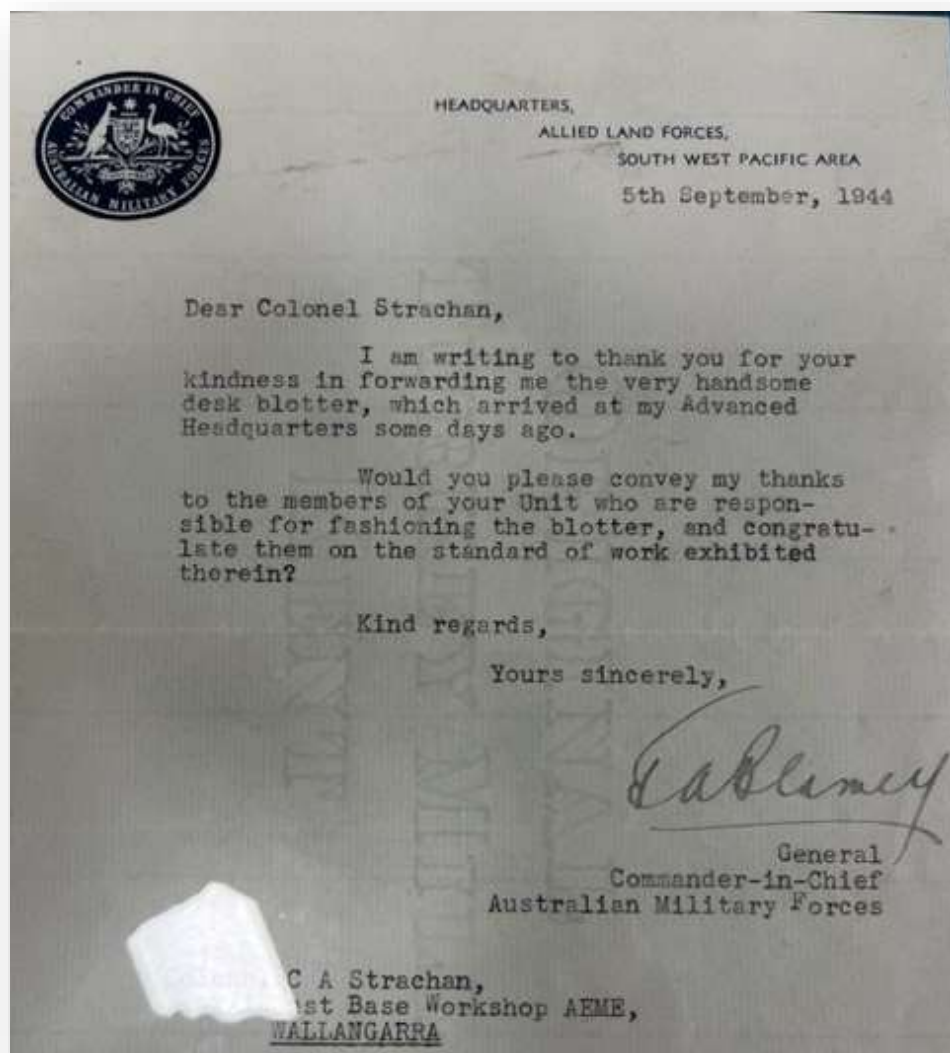
The Australian War Memorial will open the doors to the Treloar Technology Centre in Mitchell on Saturday 02 September as the *Big Things in Store* open day returns for the first time in 2023. More than 2,800 visitors are expected to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the Memorial's extensive collection.

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>

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## **Corps Update**

**Historical interest.** The Corps HQ recently received this letter written in 1944 by (then) General Thomas Blamey – Commander-in-Chief Australian Military Forces. The letter thanked Colonel Strachan for his kindness in presenting an ink blotter to General Blamey's headquarters, it expresses thanks to members (presumably a CFN/Tradie) from the 2/1st Base Workshop for 'fashioning' of an ink blotter and the standard of work exhibited.



This letter was found in a desk, along with the first ever draft of the Craftsman magazine. It has also sparked curiosity within the Corps HQ for other things of historical significance to the Corps so we can expect to see more in future Corps updates.

If anyone believes they something of value to the Corps, please let me know so I can pass details of it to the Corps RSM. He is investigating the possibility of setting up a rotation of displays within the Army Museum within the Albury Wodonga Military Area.

**Skills competition.** The DHOC (Air & Ground) and the Master Artificers are in the process of building a Regional and National-based skills competition. It will be based on a Battle Damage Assessment and Repair concept incorporating all trades. The intent is to recognise the amazing achievements of members within small teams as they are pitted against one another. More to follow as they progress through the details of getting the plan into action.

**Training update.** The CO of ASEME and Corps RSM recently had the privilege of holding open discussions with all rank levels as they attend courses within ASEME. They report that we have some amazing young men and women emerging in the Corps with phenomenal ideas and problem solving skills.

**Next Corps Conference.** The Head of Corps Cell has called for recommendations within the regions for possible locations at which the next Corps Conference could be held. These recommendations will be presented at the Head of Corps Cell meeting in July 2023.

**Colonel-in-Chief.** Unfortunately, the process of identifying our new Colonel-in-Chief has stalled, presumably as the UK MOD have been pre-occupied with other key events in the UK. Head of Corps Cell are continuing to push for an appointment to be agreed upon.

**Weapon qualifications.** ASEME recently conducted a Live Fire Range Week, which included a taxing week of Pistol training / qualification, Range Practice serials and F89 serials (up to Firing from other positions). A total of 370 personal participated in the activity, of that 280 undertook the Pistol training with all but 3 getting through. An amazing result. The effort of the staff to bring this idea to fruition was commendable. It was hard, it was arduous; but, the result is an upskilled soldier who is now more employable and deployable.

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### **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 will 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:** There is still time to get your funny stories considered for inclusion but time is running out! Submissions for Edition 2 will close on 31 Jun 2023. Send whatever stories you have to [FunnyStories@raeme.com](mailto:FunnyStories@raeme.com). If you would rather have one of the team call you to hear your story, send us your contact details. New stories will be accepted at any time however acceptance for Edition 2 consideration will close on 31 July.

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.





## Looking Back

Last month, for our first "Looking Back", we shared the welcome message from DGEME, then BRIG Powell, to the Corps in *The RAEME Craftsman* Magazine Edition 1, December 1978. I am pleased to say that MAJGEN Powell (ret'd), who was our Corps first General, has now seen that edition so he too could reflect on his words from so many years ago and their applicability to our Corps today.

This month, we have included an article about RMC workshop. There was a time when the RMC Workshop was considered to be potentially the oldest Workshop in the Army. Here is how it was reported on in *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine Edition 1.

# HISTORY OF WORKSHOPS AT RMC DUNTROON

Before the Federation of Australian States into the Commonwealth in 1901, each state maintained its own military forces. After 1901, when the Defence Forces came under the control of the Commonwealth Government, the Commander of the Australian Military Forces, Major General E. Hutton recommended the establishment of a military college. Previously most officers had come from the British Army. Major General Hutton suggested that it should be established along the lines of the "organisation and instruction at the Royal Military College Kingston, Canada, West Point in the USA and the greater Public Schools of England".

Nothing occurred until 1909 when Lord Kitchener who was advising the Australian Government on the defence of Australia, further recommended the establishment of a military college. Almost immediately, the Government directed Colonel W. T. Bridges to visit military colleges in England, USA and Canada. Subsequently, after presenting his recommendations to the Australian Government, the Royal Military College of Australia was officially opened in the Federal Territory on 27 June 1911. Colonel Bridges was appointed the first Commandant.

Initial staffing for the Royal Military College did not include facility for the establishment of workshops. Total staff for the new college was 45 and a total of 41 Staff Cadets were accepted in the first year. Included on staff were three mechanics whose main functions were maintenance of fixed plant such as a lighting plant prior to the introduction of a Canberra mains supply in 1916 and water pumping equipment.

Reference to workshops in the first RMC report of 1910-1911 includes mention of work areas for a Tailor, Bootmaker, Carpenter and Printer, spread about the college in various single rooms.

At this time, the stables and the coach house were constructed, which were to be the final home for the workshops in later years.

Equipment requiring maintenance were various instructional aids including a sub target machine, saddlery and horse drawn equipment.

By 1916, the first motor transport equipment was received by the college in the form of a 3 ton Thornycroft motor lorry which was used for the transportation of goods from Queanbeyan and the carriage of cadets for instructional purposes. Today motor transport at RMC numbers 39 vehicles and a variety of tractors and static mechanical equipment.

In August 1922, it was decided to centralise the workshop and mechanical tradesmen in the one area under the one commander. Previously each tradesman had his own small shop and equipment. The question of location was a difficult problem as in the original plans for the college, a workshop had been included but the necessary money was never voted. However the reduction of the number of horses on the riding establishment and the consequent disuse of the smaller stable building solved the problem. This was then converted into a workshop and subsequently also absorbed the plant from the Physics Laboratory repair shop. Additional plant for the new workshop was purchased and finally obviated the need to send work out for repair.

As RAEME as a Corps did not exist at the time, the general control of the workshop was the responsibility of the Quartermaster. The senior tradesman in the workshop was a Sergeant Electrician.



*The now disused welding shop which dates from before the establishment of the college. Part of the original Robert Campbell property which was established in the 1930s. It contains a forge and was originally used as a Farriers shop.*

In February 1931, the Royal Military College was shifted from Duntroon to Victoria Barracks in Sydney as part of Government economy measures. The strength of the Corps of Staff Cadets had fallen to a low of 31. Support in the form of an internal workshop was now non-existent during this period.

When the college was re-established at Duntroon in February, 1937, a workshop was re-established under the control of a Mechanist Quartermaster Sergeant.

In April 1942, Captain C. L. Hartwell, an Assistant Ordnance Mechanical Engineer transferred to the new AEME Corps and was appointed as the workshop commander. This marked the commencement of the unit known as the RMC and Area Workshop. The workshop

was then responsible for the maintenance of all towed equipment, saddlery, mechanical transport and instructional aids. Buildings which the workshop then occupied are those in use today.

The present main workshop building was the coach house. The vehicle shop was the stables and the electrical shop was the hay loft and saddlery store. With the introduction of modern equipment, the buildings were progressively changed. The original acetylene gas lighting installed in 1912 was replaced by electric light. Wooden and earth floors were replaced by concrete. The original Farriers shop containing the forge became the welding shop and subsequent storage area.

Between 1947 and 1950, there was considerable debate as to whether the workshop should be a separate sub-unit or part of the college establishment. In 1947 the workshop was taken onto RMC strength. In 1948 it was separated and again in 1950 came under command of RMC instead of being attached.



*Hay loft and Saddlery store which were built in 1912. Building ground floor is now used as the electrical and telecom repair shop. Up until 1974, the upper floor was used as an instrument repair section.*



*The main workshop building about 1965. This building constructed in 1912 was used as the coach house. The coach house doors shown were replaced shortly afterwards by roller doors.*

In 1952, the workshop became known as the RMC Workshop, RAEME and reached at one stage a maximum strength of 85. In those days, trade repair resources were virtually non-existent in Canberra thus requiring all work to be carried out within the College Workshop.

As the College academic courses developed until affiliation with the University of NSW in 1967, so the complexity of technical equipment increased. An increasing amount of equipment had to be repaired by trade outside the Canberra area as the workshop did not have the test equipment or the expertise to repair these items. Trade repair expenditure today now represents a significant

percentage of workshop resources with currently \$80,000 per year being used.

Further changes in status of the unit took place in 1972 when on 29 February, the workshop which had been attached to RMC since 1956 became again integrated into the RMC establishment. On 13 February, 1973, it became known as the ACT Area Workshop and when the Army was reorganised, the name changed again on 1 June 1973 to its present name of ACT Workshop Platoon.

Today the workshop strength is 20 with tradesmen representing vehicle, telecom, general engineering, recovery and clerical trades. Supported units include RMC and Faculty of Military Studies, Joint Services Staff College, Army Office and Army Reserve units in the ACT and surrounding district.

The future of the workshop at Duntroon has not yet been decided. With the possible establishment of the Australian Defence Force Academy at Duntroon to train officers from all three services in the near future, rapid expansion will take place and a consequent expansion of workshop facilities to cope with this.

Previous OC's of the workshop have been since 1942:

CAPT C. L. Hartwell	Apr. 42-Dec. 42.
CAPT J. R. Grace	Dec. 42-Jun. 44.
CAPT R. G. Maddison	Jun. 44-Sep. 45.
CAPT R. M. Webber	Dec. 45-Aug. 52.
CAPT B. Campbell-Taylor	Aug. 52-Nov. 54.
CAPT J. R. Jantzema	Nov. 54-Dec. 55.
CAPT M. C. Connor	Dec. 55-Mar. 57.
CAPT B. C. Gray	Mar. 57-Nov. 58.
CAPT J. R. Lenehan	Nov. 58-Sep. 60.
CAPT A. A. Nolan	Sep. 60-Aug. 62.
CAPT P. C. Musto	Aug. 62-Feb. 65.
CAPT D. S. Hemming	Feb. 65-Feb. 66.
CAPT G. L. Coat	Feb. 66-Dec. 67.
CAPT J. W. Lobb	Dec. 67-Jan. 69.
CAPT L. J. Foley	Jan. 69-Sep. 70.
CAPT J. F. Scully	Sep. 70-Sep. 72.
CAPT R. P. McNaught	Sep. 72-Mar. 74.
CAPT R. J. Bower	Mar. 74-Nov. 74.
CAPT I. L. Cleaver	Nov. 74-Dec. 76.
CAPT J. Trevivian	Dec. 76-



*The interior of the coach house as it is today.*

There are clearly some prominent names on the list of former OCs, including our own Larry Foley!



**Reunions.** The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:koonda@active8.net.au)

#### **Apprentice School 75<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:gwhykes@gmail.com)

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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*:

**New South Wales.** The NSW Association is planning a Christmas in July function at the Ingleburn RSL from 1200h on 16 Jul 2023. The 2-course lunch will cost \$55 per person which will include a complimentary beer, wine or soft drink on arrival followed by a cheese and fruit platter with tea/coffee and cake at the end. This is open to all Corps members, part or present, as well as partners, families and friends. RSVPs with payment are required by Fri 08 Jul. If you are keen to join the lunch, please email the Treasurer at [treasurer@nsw.raeme.org.au](mailto:treasurer@nsw.raeme.org.au) for payment details.

**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.

The North Qld crew are holding a Spanner Club at the Royal Hotel, West End, from 1230h onwards on Sat 24 Jun. If you happen to be in Townsville that day, take a moment to drop in and say Hi.

**Victoria.** ASEME will be hosting a Spanner Club at Gaza Ridge Barracks from 1300-1530h on Wed 28 Jun. This looks like it will be a big one with over \$3k in raffle prizes up for grabs so if you are in Bandiana that day, be sure to drop by. For non-Base Pass holders, contact CPL Jack Peters on [Jack.Peters@defence.gov.au](mailto:Jack.Peters@defence.gov.au) or LT Timothy Hess on [Timothy.Hess@defence.gov.au](mailto:Timothy.Hess@defence.gov.au) for access.

**South Australia.** The SA Association recently released its latest newsletter in which it gave a great wrap up of the SA Association's ANZAC Day. You can read more at: <https://sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters>.

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## What tool am I?

Last month's tool challenge was:

I am a tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

That tool was a Drill Press.

This month's tool identification challenge is:

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'

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

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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  
ACT RAEME Association

