

**TO: Members of the ACT RAEME Association**

**FOR INFO: Members of all other RAEME Associations**

**President’s Message**

Hello All, I trust this finds you all doing okay moving into autumn and winter sports, and towards Easter and ANZAC Day. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank the outgoing HOC, Brigadier James Allen, who was committed to steering and advancing EME capability during his time in the chair, albeit while being asked to do so while holding down an extremely busy day job. Congratulations go to Brigadier Ben Slaughter who has been appointed as the new HOC RAEME (bio below). Ian and I met with our new HOC last week to provide him with the benefit of our combined experience and wisdom(?) and update him on our local Association activities. While it is not realistic to expect to see the HOC at all of our gatherings, we will be extending invitations and hope to see him in attendance at some events during the year. As always, if you have views on what the association is or might be doing, please don’t hesitate to reach out and let us know. Stay safe and well.

**Secretary’s Message**

We had originally planned a Spanner Club for April but with the focus for this month being on the national commemoration on ANZAC Day, the Spanner Club has been put on hold. Our regular rotation between Spanner Clubs and informal lunches will continue from May. We would love to see you there.

**Your Committee**

President: Andy Adams [President@act.raeme.org.au](mailto:President@act.raeme.org.au)

Secretary: Ian Cook [Secretary@act.raeme.org.au](mailto: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. Visitors to the ACT region on any of these dates are more than welcome to join us. Calendar invitations will be sent to all members for daytime events.

Date	Time(s)	What	Where
Tues 28 Mar	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
Tues 25 Apr	0900-1200h	ANZAC Day March	Australian War Memorial
Fri 05 May	1230-1330h	Informal Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
Tues 30 May	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club

**Association Website Updates.** The latest changes to our Association webpage include attempts to make the page a little more user friendly. Pictures scrolling in the background tended to make the screen look a little cluttered so we have turned them off. We’ve included a drop-down menu that provides a direct link to every other Association sites, including the National Site and we’ve added all future function details on the top of the homepage. This makes it so much easier to quickly see what is happening on each month. We will continue to update the page to better display images and stories but if you have any ideas about what you would like to see on our webpage, please let me know ([Secretary@act.raeme.org.au](mailto:Secretary@act.raeme.org.au)).

## New Head of Corps

Brigadier Ben Slaughter was recently announced as our new Head of Corps.

Ben Slaughter was born in Brisbane where he attended Brisbane Grammar School and studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Queensland. He started his military career as a Reserve Officer Cadet while a full-time university student. In 1992 he transferred to the Regular Army as a Second Lieutenant into the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME).

Brigadier Slaughter's early career included a variety of corps, regimental, and capability development roles in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. More recently he has worked in maintenance engineering, incident management, and force structure plans. In 2019 he posted to London and was embedded in the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters as the J5 planning lead for UK joint operations in Indo-Pacific region and Africa.



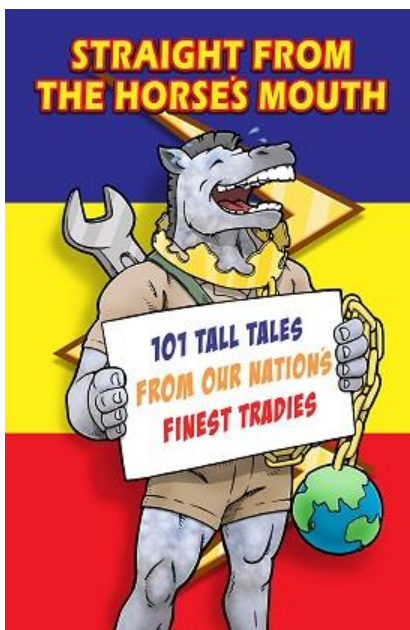
Brigadier Slaughter has been privileged to have had command appointments as the Officer Commanding Support Squadron 2nd Cavalry Regiment, the Commanding Officer 7 Combat Service Support Battalion and Commander Joint Logistic Unit (Victoria).

He has deployed as the lead for the first Maintenance Advisory Team into Iraq in 2003, the lead for the first Logistic Assurance Team into the Special Operation Task Group in 2004 and with 2nd Cavalry Regiment in 2006/07 as part of the Overwatch Battlegroup in Iraq.

He has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Queensland, a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology and a Masters in Strategy and Management from the University of NSW. He is a Fellow of the Defence and Strategic Studies Course and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Brigadier Slaughter is married to Maria who is a workforce planning consultant in the Defence sector. Like many working couples they share the parenting of two active boys and when they can find time around the boy's sporting commitments, the family enjoy the outdoors and travelling.

## 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](mailto: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

## **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.

Our new Head of Corps, Brigadier Slaughter, has been invited to join us for the March so maximum attendance would be appreciated. This is our opportunity to start getting RAEME Representation in the March back to the pre-COVID levels so we look forward to seeing you all there.

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)

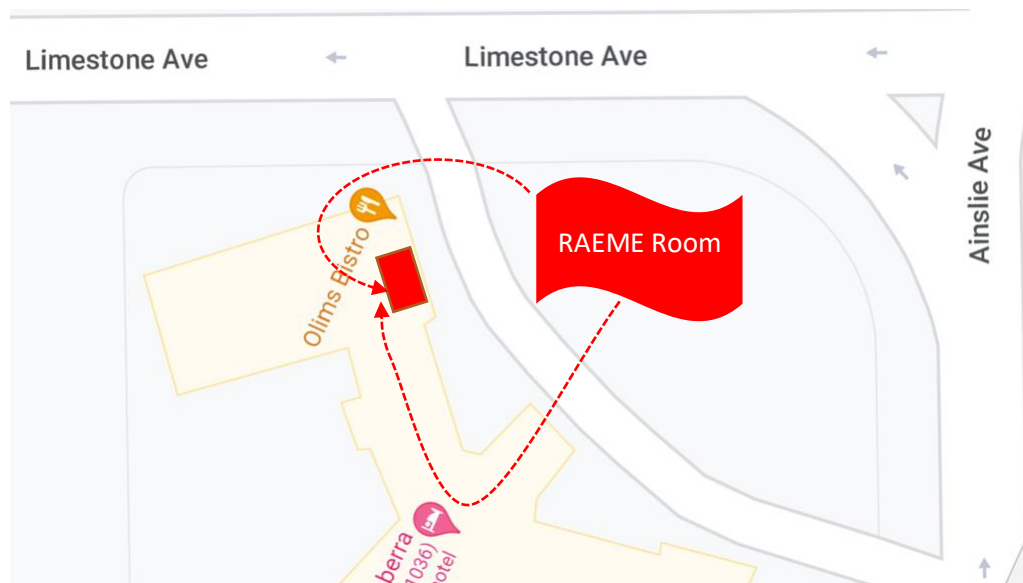
**Phase 2 - National Veteran's March**

0900h RV at the AWM. Exact RV location TBA

0930h Veteran's March Commences

**Phase 3 - Reflection post-march**

~1100h Reassemble at Olims (Mecure Hotel). We have a room organised (look for the signs inside) and will provide a couple of platters of snacks. Donations towards the cost of the platters will be appreciated.



A calendar invitation will be sent to all members with details as they are locked in.

**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](mailto:Secretary@act.raeme.org.au). Alternatively, you can send personal or historic stories directly to the editors at [raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au](mailto:raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au).

## RAEME Annual Get Together Summary

The Annual RAEME Get Together was held at the Yallakool Caravan and Recreation Park, Bjelke-Peterson Dam, near Murgon (about 3 hours North of Brisbane) over the weekend of 24-27 Feb 2023. This gathering started 6 years ago with only 20 members. This year, 170 members and families from around the Nation attended for a weekend of fun!



The weekend started with an official meet and greet on the Friday afternoon. The organisers tried to give a run-down of planned activities but as you can imagine, people were busy catching up with mates they hadn't seen for decades, especially as drinks were flowing. Once they got visits by a peanut van and local winery out of the way, a huge seafood feast was put on for all who wished to join in. Few if any walked away hungry. After dinner, the Port Barrel came out and entertainment was provided by a local one-man band with songs and music that saw everyone enjoy the night. The dancing went on until late, but not as late as some of the story-telling.



Accommodation ranged from tents to caravan sites to cabins with a pool, tennis courts and amenities. Some guests took boats so Saturday's fun around the dam included a series of waterborne activities as well as some land-based activities. The local Rotary Club provided a large meal for dinner, complete with mud cake and ice cream. Again, no-one walked away hungry. There was supposed to be Karaoke that night but apparently sketchy Wi-Fi meant it didn't take off. Well, that was the excuse the organisers gave but noting RAEME is better-known for technical abilities and not vocal skills, I'm not sure if Wi-Fi was the only reason.

The Sunday morning gave the opportunity for some of the families and locals to show off their talents with a local market. Homemade jams, plants, woodwork items and more were on display for all to see. After lunch another of the wives had figures made of driftwood for anyone to paint as they wished. Some of the painters were very talented, and other not so much but fun was had by all.



The last Happy Hour was held late in the day to say farewell to those leaving. After dinner, one of those who remained hooked up some portable speakers so the music played. The night finished just as every other day did, with stories about individual and collective greatness being shared; exactly like it should be.

If you are keen to join in next year (23-25 Feb 2024), I recommend you book your accommodation now It is going to be bigger and better than ever!

## Caught in the ACT

**Informal Lunch.** Our informal lunch this month was well attended with a range of service and retired members present to enjoy a good meal and great company. We were even joined this month by Michael who was visiting from the Apple Isle. It was great to have a chat with everyone. Hopefully next time we gather, I will remember to stop chatting for a few moments to take a photo!

## Reunions

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

### Southeast Queensland Apprentice Reunion

**Who:** All Apprentices Members and families

**Where:** Bulimba, QLD

**When:** Sat 10 Jun 2023

**POC:** Details to follow

### Apprentice 39<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**Who:** 39<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jeff@nortonhomes.com.au)

Andrew Clarke 39th F&T, [andrew26567@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew26567@hotmail.com)

### 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

**Proposed program:** TBA

**POC:** Garry (Snow) Whykes at [gwhykes@gmail.com](mailto:gwhykes@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 Queensland Association for a busy month ahead with a Spanner Club planned at the Indooroopilly Hotel from 1400-1600h on 31 Mar. RSVP is required by 17 Mar so if you are able to attend, please visit the Qld page ([qld.raeme.org.au](http://qld.raeme.org.au)) to register. After this, the Association will have its monthly meeting (members only) on 05 Apr before they head into ANZAC Day. As the Qld Association is geographically dispersed, ANZAC Day will be spread across two main locations; Brisbane and Townsville. The North Qld gathering will form up at North Ward, Strand Park for step off at approx. 0900h. After the march, they will reconvene at Flynn's Hotel. In Brisbane, the team will form up in George Street, towards Stephens Lane alongside Casino before stepping off at approx. 1040h. The gathering afterwards at the Post Office Hotel is usually a great time so if you are in North or South Qld on ANZAC Day, be sure to join the guys there.

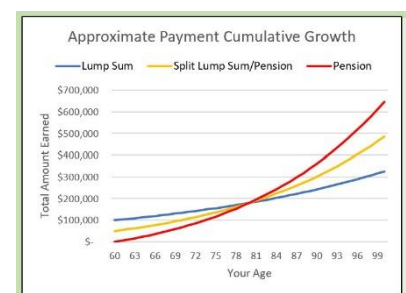
**Western Australia.** The WA Association recently released their Summer edition of the *Horse's Mouth*. In that they advise of their plans for ANZAC Day which includes a RAEME at the Sandukan memorial in Kings Park, meeting at the tennis club at 1900h on ANZAC Eve. From there, they will move forward under the direction of their Piper and Padre to commemorate foundation members of the Corps who were captured at Singapore and perished on Sandukan. This included four Craftsmen and one Corporal who are the only members of the Corps commemorated with plaques at Kings Park. After the ANZAC Day March, all Association members and families are however invited to attend the after-march function in the Rubix Bar and Restaurant at the IBIS Hotel, 334 Murray St. Check out their newsletter for other interesting and humorous stories. It can be found at: <https://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/horsesmouth>

**Apprentices.** The latest Apprentice newsletter, released in February, can be viewed at:



<https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>. Liz Fitzgibbon, 40th ET, has invited Apprentices to March in Toowoomba on ANZAC Day, and to continue on at The Goods Shed afterwards. It will commence at approximately 0900h on ANZAC Day. Full details of the event can be found on the Apprentice Facebook pages; being: "Australian Army Apprentices Association (Official)" or "Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian youth". Form up points etc. will be posted in due course. This is not an official function but a chance to get together, let people know we exist and enjoy a catch up

**DVA Compensation Payment Comparison.** Many who have had DVA claims for incapacity approved have been presented with an option to receive compensation options of either a lump sum payment, a pension or a combination of the two. It can be challenging to work out the best option for you hence professional financial advice is always recommended but you may also want to compare the value of each option over time. To help with that, I've prepared a comparison tool that can be downloaded from <https://bit.ly/DVAPaymentComparison>.



That's about it for this month. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the impending events, especially on ANZAC Day for the march at the Australian War Memorial.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook  
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