

President's Message

Hi All, It was nice to see that the King decided to celebrate his coronation in conjunction with my birthday! As you will read in the newsletter, contemplation of the appointment of our new Colonel-in-Chief continues and there has been a changing of the guard with a new Representative Colonel Commandant being appointed (congratulations and welcome to BRIG Ed Smeaton and many thanks to BRIG David Creagh for his time in the chair). With the announcement of the Defence Strategic Review, it is clear that our current corps members become even more important in keeping Army's new and remaining inventory in good order in what is a complex regional and global environment; given the opportunity, I am confident those with previous experience remain ready to provide their assistance/perspectives (particularly over a brew)!

Secretary's Message

After a little trial and error, we may have found a workable method for letting everyone know about upcoming functions. Each *RAEME in ACTion* will show details of events for the next month and provide a snapshot of the following 3 months. This should allow you to put the placeholders in your diaries. In the week prior to each event, or just prior to the RSVP date of any particular activity, a reminder of the impending function will be sent via email to all members. This will include a link to full details as published on the Association website (<u>https://act.raeme.org.au</u>). Unless an RSVP is directly requested in that email, none will be required.

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. Further details can be found at: <u>https://act.raeme.org.au/</u>

Date	Time	What	Where	Detail
Tues 30 May	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	<u>Link</u>
Fri 02 Jun	1630h	Spanner Club	Mecure Hotel (Olims)	<u>Link</u>
Fri 09 Jun	1800h	RMC Lanyard Presentation	RMC Golf Club (detail below)	<u>Link</u>
Tues 27 Jun	1930h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	<u>Link</u>

JULY				1	AUGUST						OCTOBER											
Μ	Т	W	Т	F	S	S		Μ	Т	W	Т	F	S	S		Μ	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	-	-		-	1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6			-	-		1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		14	15	16	17	18	19	20		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		21	22	23	24	25	26	27		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30	31		-	-		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Legend Mixed Lunch Informal Drinks Spanner Club Significant Events																						

Representative Colonel Commandant

We are very pleased to announce that Brigadier Edward Smeaton, DSM has recently been appointed as the Representative Colonel Commandant for RAEME. Here is a little about him and his plans for the role.

Brigadier Ed Smeaton was born in Rylstone, country NSW. He entered the Royal Military College in 1989, graduating in June 1990 into the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Following a 32-year career in the Regular Army, Brigadier Smeaton transferred to the Army Reserve in February 2021.

Brigadier Smeaton has served in a variety of regimental positions including as a junior officer with the 16th Air Defence Regiment Workshop, 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment, and 1st Recruit Training Battalion. He also served in 7th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), 5th Aviation Regiment and 1st Combat Engineer Regiment.



His command appointments have included Commanding Officer 1st Combat Service Support Battalion and Commander of the Force Support Group / Chief of Staff 17th Combat Service Support Brigade.

Brigadier Smeaton's staff appointments have spanned force structure development at Land and Army Headquarters and also career management within the Directorate of Officer Career Management-Army. He has also contributed to Combat Service Support interoperability within the ABCANZ Armies' Program Office in Washington, DC and to Army's land materiel maintenance reform as Director Plan Centaur.

As Director General Land Manoeuvre Systems, Land Systems Division within the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Brigadier Smeaton was responsible for the acquisition and through-life support of many of Defence's land-based combat, and supporting systems.

Brigadier Smeaton's operational service includes Operation Catalyst as the Officer Commanding of the Force Level Logistic Asset and Operation Slipper as Commanding Officer of the Force Support Unit, both in the Middle East. In 2019-2020 he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Highroad as the Commander of the Australian Task Group and Deputy Branch Head Operational Sustainment in the NATO mission. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership of the national task group and his contribution to the sustainment of the Afghan forces.

Brigadier Smeaton holds a Master of Management in Defence Studies and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. He is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College (2004) and the United States Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy (2016).

Brigadier Smeaton and his wife Simone have three children and together they enjoy travelling, cycling, and being outdoors. He is currently employed with Aspen Medical as the General Manager - Supply Chain and was appointed as the Representative Colonel Commandant for RAEME in April 2023.

From Brigadier Smeaton:

It's a great honour to be appointed as the Corps' Representative Colonel Commandant and I am very much looking forward to working with all members of the Corps, both past and present, in this capacity. We have a very proud history and our exceptionally experienced Colonel Commandants across the regions are an excellent connection to the traditions of the Corps. I hope to continue to build upon the strong networks across our Corps and our esprit de corps, bringing the experience of the past to assist with the challenges of the future.

Brigadier Smeaton's appointment in this role is more proof that our Corps remains in very good hands.

Corps Update

The following Corps Update comes from a variety of sources, including our Head of Corps Cell and Corps RSM. It is intended to be guidance only and not authoritative direction on any particular matter.

Communication. There is a concern that information from the Head of Corps Cell is not being disseminated to all members of the Corps. Maintaining such broad awareness of matters at the heart of the Corps is critical to ensure the team pulls in the same direction. As the Association received information, we will continue to share it with members. We implore all readers to push all relevant messages to RAEME members in their teams as we can only get stronger if we work together at all ranks.

Corps Port. The unit selected to host the Corps Port for 2023 was the Special Operations Engineering Regiment (SOER). We can expect more details re the ordering process closer to the end of the year. The Corps Instruction will be modified with a new unit selection date of 01 Apr of the preceding year to allow for streamlined selection, nomination and preparation of all involved in the process and as a result earlier delivery dates for the Port.

Colonel-in-Chief. At the time of writing, a new Colonel-in-Chief had not yet been appointed however the Corps RSM has requested advice re this from Army Ceremonial Cell. It is envisaged that Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Edinburgh will assume the role in line with being the Colonelin Chief of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and in Canada; Colonel in-Chief of The South Alberta Light Horse and Colonel-in-Chief of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. The Duchess of Edinburgh was born Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones on 20th January 1965 in Oxford. Upon her marriage to Prince Edward in 1999, she became known as Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex. On 10 March 2023 – Prince Edward's 59th birthday – it was announced that The King had conferred the Dukedom of Edinburgh on his brother, with Her Royal Highness becoming The Duchess of Edinburgh.

Corps Subscriptions. RAEME HOC Cell provides funds in accordance with a Corps Instructions for the betterment of serving members. The predominant source of funds for such activities comes from Corps Subscriptions. Previously, these were collected from members by them making allotments from their pay in an amount relative to their rank. Financial members were presented with a Bronze St Eligius medallion. When the use of pay allotments for such funds was ceased by Defence around 10 years ago, an annual subscription was introduced and those members who had been financial members for 10 years were awarded a Silver medallion.

Head of Corps Cell has recently reviewed the amount members pay for a Corps Subscription. They have all agreed that the costs should be equally shared regardless of rank. Life membership will come at a cost of \$230, which will entitle the member to a St Eligius Medallion and framed Corps print 'AFV Repair in the Light Green' with two RAEME coins mounted within the frame. Partial payment of \$60 will entitle the member to a medallion only. For those who may be unfamiliar with the medallion, ask Ian to take a look at his (pictured...yes, he has #1) at our next gathering.

Corps Shop. Head of Corps Cell is looking to reinstate a single POC for all Corps merchandise. Acknowledging that some of the other Associations use individual shop sales as a source of funding, the Corps RSM advised that such arrangements will continue. However, a single POC for the Corps as a whole will allow the Head of Corps team to push more back to the members for events/functions. The current shops can be found at: <u>https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop</u>. What the Corps RSM would appreciate greater input from members as to which items the shop could sell. Any ideas may be sent to Head of Corps Cell at <u>raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au</u>.





Corps Conference 2022. The outcomes from 2022 Corps Conference have been finalised and a report has been sent to Chief of Army for his review. The following is a snap-shot of items within the report.

- Briefs were provided by Career Management Agencies on career management, manning priorities and personnel issues relevant to the Corps were well-received, hence will be a regular agenda item for future conferences.
- Future Corps conferences will seek to be held in various locations, on a rotational basis and will be livestreamed to those unable to attend in person to ensure broader participation.
- Junior Corps members, including award recipients, will be invited by Head of Corps Cell to attend future conferences to gain insight to the Corps Conference and to raise any points from a soldier's perspective.
- Consideration will be given to have ex-serving Corps members provide motivational presentations.
- Syndicate discussions produced several action items regarding retention initiatives, mid-career entry, civilian or foreign trade recognition, and review of the Army's Land Force Support system.

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) Update. The DFRT recently approved a proposal to restructure the RAEME Ground Trades employment categories. Many of the trade names are changing, as are requirements to skill grades, hence pay grades for each with the aim to simplify the old model.

Where we previously had range of different Artificer employment categories, eg Artificer Mechanical, Artificer Electronics, Recovery Mechanic Warrant Officer and Artificer Ground, these have all been regrouped under the new title, "Artificer Land".

Fitter Armaments will be rebadged as "Weapon Technicians" but still do all of the same work but with a lesser focus on some advanced machining. Hydraulic hose manufacture will move into their skill set.

A "Marine Technician" category will be established to enhance the marine maintenance capability, thereby taking some of the load of fitters and vehicle mechanics.

Vehicle Mechanics will also be rebadged as "Vehicle Technicians" with additional skills taught to align with requirements of new vehicle fleets, including the PMV-L.

In line with the theme to recategorize all trades as "technicians", Recovery Mechanics will now be called "Recovery Technicians" and Metalsmiths will be called "Material Technicians." Interestingly, Technical Electricals will be renamed "Energy Technicians" with room to qualify in alternate energy technologies as they are introduced.

From the boffin world, Technician Electronic Systems will be renamed "Electronic Technicians" and they will have additional skills added through training on the Integrated Computing Systems in PMV-L.

A new employment has been introduced called "Technician Assistant." Their role will be to complement technical maintenance with non-technical support to allow an enhanced focus on production and quality.

Establishment of Technician Assistant and Marine Technician trades will occur shortly but still require workforce plans and recruiting strategies to be developed before members can be transitioned in or recruited under ab-initio pathways.

The DFRT determination and decision documents for Matter 9 of 2022 are at: <u>https://www.dfrt.gov.au/matters/royal-australian-electrical-and-mechanical-raeme-ground-trades</u>

Head of Corps Reserve work available. Reserve positions are available for a Secretary and Treasurer within the Head of Corps Cell. This work can be conducted remotely. For any SERCAT 5 members interested in these roles, please reach out for details.



RAEME input into new acquisitions. Workforce & Training Group continues to assist CASG and AHQ on the training analysis/design for new equipment being introduced into service that will require technical maintenance. Some examples of our current work are:

LAND 8116-1: Protected Mobile Fires (Self-propelled Howitzers & Armoured Ammunition Resup Vehicle) LAND 8160: Armoured Engineering Capability (Assault Breacher Vehicles, Joint Assault Bridges) Joint Project 2060 Phase 3: Deployable Health Care and Biomed Equipment Maintenance LAND 19-7B: Short Range Ground Based Air Defence System (NASAMS with CEA RADAR) LAND 8140: Deployed Force Infrastructure (Generators, field kitchens, dog kennels etc) LAND 154-4: Joint Counter IED Capability manpack and vehicle mounted ECM LAND 400-3: Infantry Fighting Vehicle (still under tender evaluation) LAND L8710-1: Army Littoral Manoeuvre (Army is buying a Navy!) LAND 200 Tranches 1 and 2: Battlefield Command System LAND 907-2: Main Battle Tank Upgrade (M1A2 SEPV3) LAND 400-2: Combat Recon Vehicle (Boxer) LAND 8113-1: Long Range Fires (HIMARS) Boxer 8x8 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (Image courtesy http://defence.gov.au)

Initial Trade Training. Numbers for ITT has dropped to its lowest in a decade (minus ECN 229 Vehicle Technician). Head of Corps Cell has called for all serving members to encourage unit members to consider a Corps/Trade transfer (especially to ECN 226 Recovery Mechanic) when weighing up their personal options.

In Training Graduations Trade On the Job Training **Fitter Armament** 23 27 36 64 60 Vehicle Mechanic 97 10 26 **Electrical Technician** 33 5 **Electronic Systems Technician** 6 8

Actual numbers of trainees currently undergoing training within ASEME, as taken from a Wodonga Institute of TAFE spreadsheet for training year 22/23, are.

Artificer Pay Structure. Previously, completion of Subject 2 and Subject 4 for WO courses would result in a pay grade change. The relevant Instruction is currently being re-written to note that members will now be paid when expected to conduct the role of an Artificer (HDA) or at rank of WO2 on promotion. Members who are currently (or before 11 May) ECN 006 or 007 at the rank of SGT will not be adversely affected.

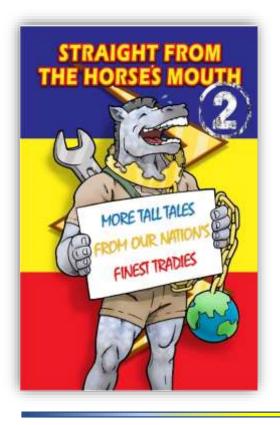
The HOC Cell has agreed with the Master Artificers that the requirements for being awarded the Arts Badge requires review and subsequent change. Importantly to the Corps members, the change now dictates that Corps members, regardless of Category are no longer required to complete Subject 2 Warrant Officer Combat Service Support in order to qualify for the badge. There will be teething issues surrounding a small number of members who may have qualified under the current scheme who do not have the badge awarded to them as yet. Head of Corps Cell will work their way through this issue but will require assistance from individuals with this as they don't have scope nor capacity to chase this information



RAEME Humour Book

The CSM told me I was too fat to be in the Army. I asked him why then did the Army make uniforms to fit me. That didn't end well for me.

True or not, this story will appear in the Second Edition of RAEME's official humour book, Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies, if we get enough stories to finish it.



Pre-orders will soon be called for Edition 2. With almost 600 copies of Edition 1 printed and sold, all copies of Edition 2 are expected to be snapped up quickly. We do however need a few more good stories before we can lock it in.

There is still time to get your funny stories considered for inclusion. Please send them quickly to <u>FunnyStories@raeme.com</u>.

Include as much detail as possible but to protect the innocent (or not-so-innocent), the editors will change all names and unit titles. We will also filter out any potentially operational sensitive information. All we want is the humour.

We understand that some people would rather tell their story than write it so if you email us your contact details, we will contact you so you can share the laughs with us over the phone. We will then write them down and include them if possible.

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

Looking Back

We are introducing a new section to the *RAEME in ACTion* in which we will review some of the finest moments from our Corp's history as recorded in *The RAEME Craftsman* magazines. Starting with Edition 1 from December 1978, we could find no better place to start than with the words of then the Head of Corps, or as he was then known, the Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Brigadier Powell. I'm confident that these words would resonate just as well had they been published today. The more things change, the more they stay the same.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Apprentice tradesman, skilled craftsman, manager of a workshop, designer and maker of line objects; a man of great courage showing no interest in personal gain, is the word picture of St. Eligius, the Patron Saint of our sister Corps REME. It is an apt summation of the characteristics for which we in RAEME must strive. RAEME has a difficult task. No matter how we would

RAEME has a difficult task. No matter how we would like to exercise our professional skills we are constrained by the realities of our day to day environment. Much has been written about the problems which the Corps, indeed the Army, faces today. These problems are significant but I believe that it is essential that we in RAEME keep the situation in the right perspective. We have "walked this road" before.

In general, the task of maintaining Army equipment is essentially a time and space problem. The right tradesmen, tools and repair parts are needed in the right place at the right time. We could hold numbers of complete equipments in reserve but the large costs involved limits this alternative. What is needed is to hold reserves in reasonable proportions and have a repair organisation which can quickly restore equipments to battleworthy condition. It is for this role that RAEME must organise. The RAEME weapon is the repair manhour — we must use it wisely.

There is a natural conflict associated with the materiel desires of Armies. The desire is to have the best and most capable of weapons at the earliest possible time. But, no matter how successful are the planners, it will always be fact that the larger part of the inventory will be made up of old and used, often well-used, equipment, RAEME must span this technological gap — like the Colossus of Rhodes we must place one foot in the camp of the new whilst retaining the other firmly in the old. Our tradesmen must be preparing to meet their repair responsibilities for the most sophisticated weapon systems whilst still managing to retain current equipment in service in sufficient quantities to enable units to function.

Our greatest asset in our approach to the problem is our "craftsmen". Craftsmen of all ranks must be resourceful and versatile, with great depth of ability not only in their basic trade but also in kindred or allied fields. Whatever else happens RAEME must not lose the thoroughness of its training. This training provides us not only with the flexibility for postings and appointments, but also with the soundness of base from which to approach new repair responsibilities.

The years ahead are going to place the resourcefulness and flexibility of RAEME under great challenge. The Army must continue to be able to function in a wide variety of situations, hence the equipment it needs must be kept in the best condition possible. In times of plenty the task is difficult enough, but in times of constraint, RAEME needs every member to exercise skill and dedication to achieve the results required. I know you have this ability.

My best wishes to you all.

Douth

Brigadier A. D. Powell.

<u>Reunions.</u> The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

28th Intake 50th Anniversary Reunion							
Who:	All 28 th Intake Apprentices						
Where:	Perth, WA						
When:	22-26 May 2023						
Proposed Program:	Tue 23 May, 1100hrs, Cockburn RSL Meet and greet, Sausage sizzle						
	and bar open for 3 hrs, dress casual						
	Wed 24 May, 1200hrs, lunch, Gage Roads Brewery, dress casual						
	Thu 25 May, 1730hrs, Cockburn RSL, Reunion dinner.						
POC:	jenneric8kins@gmail.com on behalf of Paul Prickett and Committee						
ACT Region Apprentic	e Quarterly Lunch						
Who:	ACT-based Apprentices						
Where:	Ainslie Football Club						
When:	07 Jun 2023						
POC:	news@austarmyapprentice.org						
Southeast Queensland	d Apprentice Reunion						
Who:	All Apprentices Members and families						
Where:	Bulimba Bowls Club						
When:	Sat 10 Jun 2023, 1100-1600h						
What:	Sausage Sizzle. BBQ available for use. Drinks available at the bar.						
POC:	RSVP to Brian Daley, 14th VM, 0412 721 761, <u>bjdaley14@gmail.com</u>						
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, <u>Iparfitt@bigpond.net.au</u>						
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						

Reunions continued

Apprentice School 75 th 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/					
<u>"Back to Bandi" reunion</u>						
Who:	Former tradesmen who attended Adult Tradesman Courses in Bandiana					
Where:	Bandiana, Victoria					
When:	20-22 Oct 2023					
POC:	Garry (Snow) Whykes at 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					
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

State/Territory Association News. Here is a quick summary from other State, Territory or Other Associations since the last edition of *RAEME in ACTion*:

Tasmania. The RAEME Association Tasmania (RAT) recently released a bumper edition of their newsletter. This includes way too many articles to summarise here but some that caught my attention were a Message from our outgoing Head of Corps, BRIG Allen, an extensive summary of matters from RAEME Nation Chair, BRIG Ross Grant (ret'd) and an interesting reflection of the Crops in its early days. One other point of note was the RAT's report on an Association visit to Joint Logistics Unit (Victoria) (JLU(V)), which has a Workshop detachment in Hobart. If you would like to check it out, you can find the newsletter at: <u>https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters</u>

Other State/Territory Associations news continued

Queensland. The latest issue of *Spanner News* was released in March. You can check it out at: <u>https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/spanner-news</u>. A new edition is being compiled now so we should see that released in the not-too-distant future.

South Australia. The SA Association has released its latest newsletter in March too. You can read more at: <u>https://sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters</u>.

Western Australia. Continuing the theme, the WA Association released their last newsletter, *Horse's Mouth* in March, at: <u>https://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/horsesmouth</u>.

Apprentices. The latest Apprentice newsletter, *The Apprentice About*, was released this month. It can be viewed online at: <u>https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/</u>. This edition has some very interesting articles on a range of topics such as trade breakdowns or historic vehicle crossing techniques using tight ropes and more! It is definitely worth a read.

<u>Medals found</u>. The Hervey Bay RSL sub-branch have advised that they have found medals belonging to QX42641 (Q122973) Craftsman Jack Crane Wilkins.

If anyone knows CFN Wilkins or his family, please have them contact Simon Morley at the RSL either via phone (07) 4197-7477 or via email: <u>subbranch@herveybayrsl.com.au</u>.

Recovery Mechanics Memorial – Dotswood NQId

The Qld Association have advised that they have reached just over 75% of the \$40,000 funding required for construction of the Recovery Mechanics Memorial. If you are in a position to help, donations can be made to:

Bank: Defence Bank

BSB: 833205

Account Number: 20682037

Account Name: RAEME Association Queensland.

Please ensure you add 'Memorial Donation' to any deposit description.

Memorial website: http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/about-us/raq-recovery-mechanics-memorial

What tool am I?

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.

The answer will be published in the next RAEME in ACTion!

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



