

ACT RAEME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RAEME in ACTION

Nov 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

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

President's Message

Greetings All,

As highlighted below, it was great to share a very pleasant dinner with local and interstate members and guests of the Corps. The opportunity to enjoy the company of both past and presently serving members is an enduring feature of the Corps family, and one that we will continue to work to offer in the Canberra region. While the challenges for those serving is keeping them very focused, with the recent announcements of Army's reorganisation, I suspect there are a number of our non-serving community who would be in a position to offer some hard-won lessons about supporting the new(?) structure with less than complete manning and an under-pressure supply chain. Remembrance Day never passes without a pause to reflect on where we have come from; we have much to be thankful for our predecessors for, and I anticipate that we always will.

Stay safe, APA

Getting our ACT together

Members, families or friends visiting the ACT region from other Associations are 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/>. Put these dates in your diaries today!

Date	Time(s)	What	Where	Detail
Fri 24 Nov	1800-1900h	Lanyard Presentation	RMC Golf Club	Link
Tues 28 Nov	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 01 Dec	1630-1800h	RAEME Birthday	Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure)	Link
Tues 30 Jan	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 2 Feb	1630-1800h	RAEME Spanner Club	Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure)	Link

DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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

JANUARY 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
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			

Legend Mixed Lunch Informal Drinks Spanner Club Significant Event

Remembrance Day 20223

On Saturday the 11th of November, the Australian War Memorial hosted the National Commemoration in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard and Sculpture Garden. The service was attended by the Governor General, Prime Minister, the current and former CDFs, many other dignitaries and countless men, women and children who paused to mark the significance of the day.



The Chief of Personnel, Lieutenant General Natasha Fox, AO, CSC reminded attendees that of the 2 million Australians who have served in our Defence Force, they each had their own experience but they shared a common attribute; a desire to help others. They helped their mates, their Battalions, their Corps and their Nation. It is therefore important for us who remain to remember their legacy and the consequences of their service. General Fox also challenged us to strive for and preserve the peace they fought for.

In addition to the commemoration of those Australians who had fallen in war, the day also marked the 30th anniversary of interment of the Unknown Soldier in the Australian War Memorial's *Hall of Memory*. Plans to honour an unknown Australian soldier were first put forward in the 1920s but it was not until 1993 that one was at last brought home. To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the body of an unknown Australian soldier was recovered from Adelaide Cemetery near Villers-Bretonneux in France and transported to Australia. After lying in state in King's Hall in Old Parliament House, the Unknown Australian Soldier was interred in the Hall of Memory at the Memorial on 11 November 1993. He was buried with a bayonet and a sprig of wattle in a Tasmanian blackwood coffin, and soil from the Pozieres battlefield was scattered in his tomb.



At the interment, the Prime Minister, the Honourable Paul Keating remarked:

We do not know this Australian's name; and we never will. We do not know his rank or his Battalion. We do not know where he was born or precisely how or when he died. We do not know where in Australia he made his home or when he left it for the battlefields of Europe. We do not know his age or his circumstances; whether he was from the city or the bush; what occupation he left to become a soldier; what religion, if he had a religion; if he was married or if he was single. We do not know who loved him or whom he loved. If he had children, we do not know who they are. His family is lost to us as he was lost to them. We will never know who this Australian was yet he has always been among those we have honoured. We do know that he was one of the 45,000 Australians who died on the Western Front; one of the 416,000 who volunteered for service in the First World War; one of the 324,000 Australians who served overseas in that War and one of the 60,000 Australians who died on foreign soil; one of the 100,000 Australians who have died in wars this century.

He is all of them and he is one of us.

Lest we forget.

Blackhawk Memorial

- Lead:** 5 Aviation Regiment
- What:** A service to remember those lost or injured during the Blackhawk collision of 12 Jun 1996
- Where:** The Planetum, Townsville
- When:** Sun 20 Nov 2023, starting from 0930h
- After:** Guests may reconvene after the service at a nearby venue for self-funded brunch. Details to follow at the event.



End-of-Year Dinner – November 2023

On Thursday 02 November, the Association met for their end-of-year dinner and what a great night it was! Our venue, Gryphons Caffe at Griffith, was perfect for this event as they provided a simple and easily accessed central venue that was comfortable, private and staffed by a great team. Importantly, the food was amazing too!

The numerous members and partners who attended included both serving and retired members. We were incredibly fortunate to be joined by our Corps Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG Ed Smeaton who travelled from the Sunshine State specifically for this dinner. It was however fortunate that he was able to coordinate some other work activities to align with his visit but we know we were his priority on the night.



We were also fortunate to be joined by the President of the NSW Association, Richard Boyce and his lovely wife. Richard did actually drive the 4+ hours to come for this dinner which is in itself a great testament to our strengthening relationships between our Associations. I hope to see this grow as our Corps members find their family-in-arms as they travel the country.

During the dinner, our President, Andy, provided an update regarding the stability of and coming advancements in our Corps which was great to hear. Importantly though, he recognised the growing numbers of both serving and retired members who had been attending our events. He rightly noted how pleasing this was and expressed his (our) desire to see this continue to grow in future functions. We definitely hope to see you at our next event, being our Corps Birthday celebrations on Friday 01 Dec (details above on the front page). Perhaps at that function we will get Wes to give us a demo of his electric-powered unicycle that sat inconspicuously at the side during the dinner. I'm sure I'm not the only person there wondering how easily we could break our necks riding it!

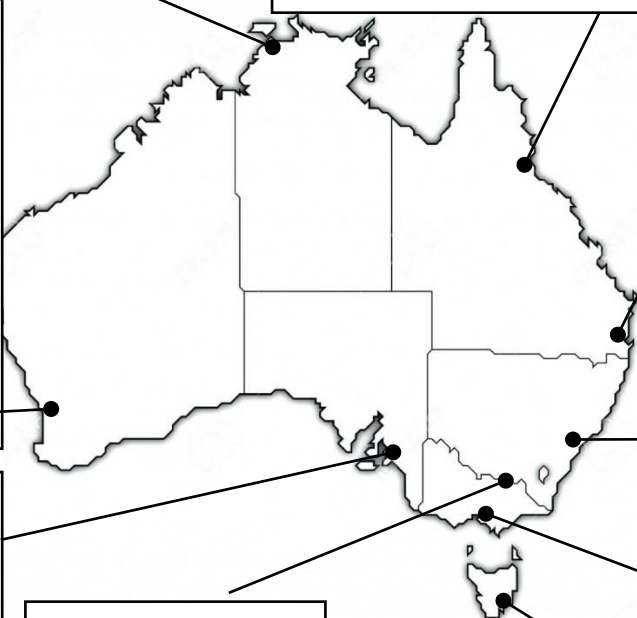


RAEME Birthday 2023

RAEME Birthday in the ACT will be celebrated in the traditional method in Canberra, that is we will gather to partake in some liquid refreshments whilst sharing stories about how good we are (or were). Truth-telling will not be compulsory! Details of the gathering are:

- What:** RAEME Birthday Spanner Club
- Where:** Olims Hotel (Mecure), Ainslie
- When:** Fri 01 Dec from 1630h
- RSVP:** RSVP is not mandatory but it will be helpful for planning purposes via:
<https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/20-raeme-birthday-spanner-club>
- Dress:** Neat casual

The basic details of other Regional Corps Birthday celebrations are:



What: Sports + Awards
Date: Fri 01 Dec
Time: 0800-1500h – (The Awards commence 1200h)
Where: Jackson Field, Robertson Barracks
POC: LT Aaron Kilcullen

What: Spanner Club
Date: Fri 01 Dec
Time: 0800-1600h
Where: 3 CER
Details:<https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/576-raeme-birthday-lavarack-barracks>

What: Spanner Carts
Date: Fri 01 Dec
Time: 1000-1600
Where: 7 CSSB
Details:<https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/575-raeme-birthday-enoggera-barracks>

What: BBQ Luncheon
Date: Fri 01 Dec
Time: 1200h
Where: Ingleburn RSL
Details:<https://nsw.raeme.org.au>

What: Cocktail Party
Date: Fri 01 Dec
Time: 1900h
Where: ANZAC House
Details:<https://www.wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/eventsmenu/event/363-raeme-birthday-cocktail-party>

What: Lunch
Date: Sat 02 Dec
Time: Approx 1200h (post AGM)
Where: West Adelaide Football Club
RSVP: NLT 24 Nov to raeme.sa.association@gmail.com

What: Billy LARCs + more
Date: Fri 01 Dec
Time: 1000-1500h
Where: Latchford
POC:aseme.ops@defence.gov.au

What: Lunch
Date: Sat 02 Dec
Time: 1200h for 1230h
Where: Queens Head Hotel, North Hobart
POC:rclark-7@hotmail.com

What: Lunch for financial members
Date: Sat 02 Dec
Time: 1130h for 1200h
Where: Clayton RSL Bistro Carinish Rd Clayton
RSVP: NLT 21 Nov to alang.37@bigpond.com & mn31050@bigpond.com

Corps Status Update

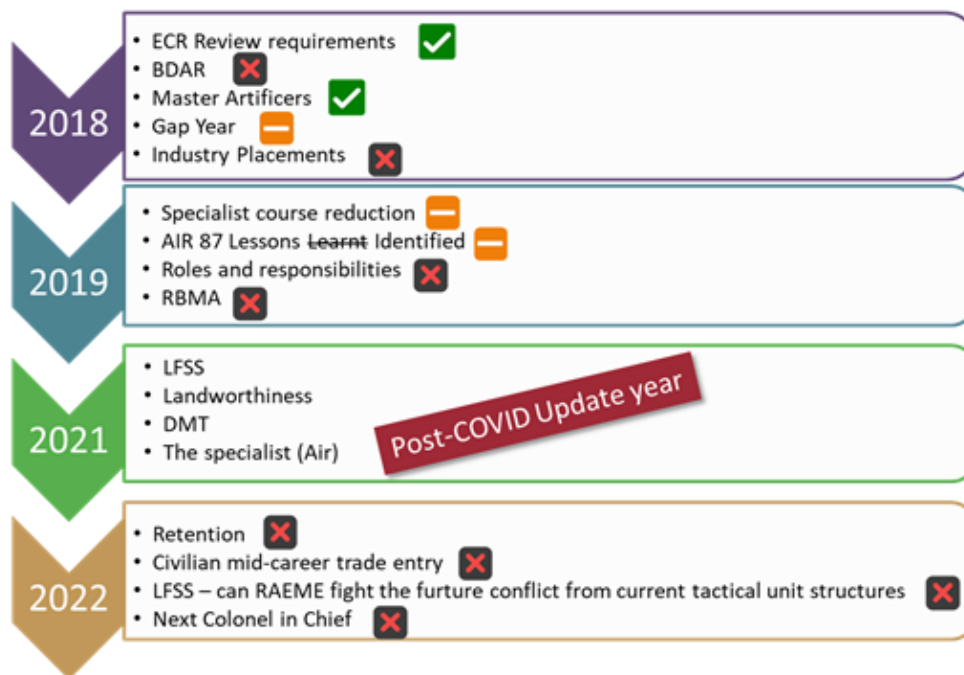
Federation Star. We were privileged to have the HOC Corps (BRIG Slaughter) in location last week to assist with the presentation of a Federation Star to WO2 Grant Sewell. What a fantastic 40 years in the Army, thank you for your dedication and service.



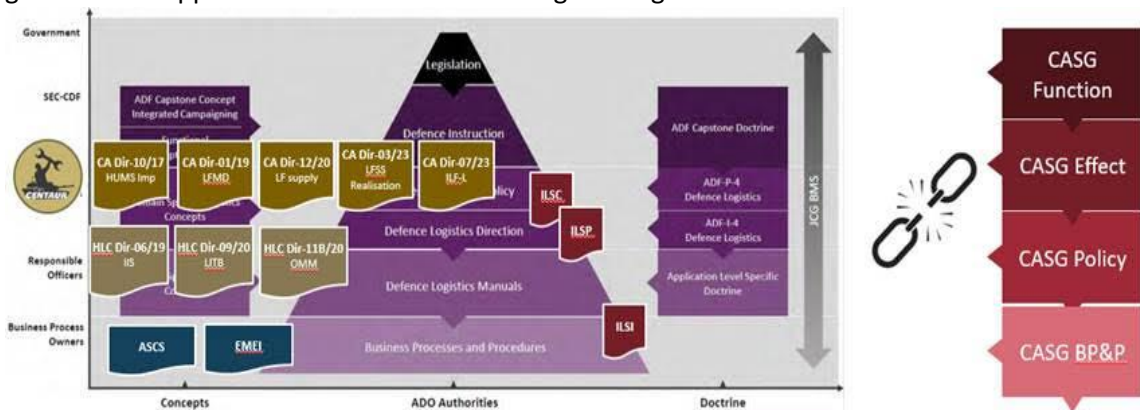
Master Artificers 2024. New Master Artificers will be notified of their appointment shortly. HOC Cell looks forward to working with all of the new appointees throughout 2024.

Corps Conference 2023. The Corps Conference (Light) convened over the period 01-02 Nov 23. It sought to determine how the Corps can generate enhanced influence on the Army Operating System to ensure Corps wide risks are quantified and where possible treated. Specifically, the conference:

1. Reviewed Corps conference outcomes of the last five years to make a subjective assessment of implementation



2. Reviewed extant and draft future guidance on the requirements of the Land Domain Support System and the Functional Level Attributes RAEME, as part of the enterprise system, must generate to support effective maintenance engineering outcomes.



Outcomes: A range of objectives were derived and will now be consolidated and prioritised for conference attendee and support system key stakeholders review prior to HOC briefing to Chief of Army.

Corps Status Update continued

Corps Conference 2024 – Conference Heavy. Once prioritised objectives are agreed and supported by CA, deliberate work will commence on these objectives prior to the Conference Heavy. As such the Conference Heavy will provide an opportunity for collective review of objective progress and initial scoping of emergent priorities.

Whilst thematic conferences have previously been of great value it has been identified that implementation has not been as successful as it could have been. An enduring and progressive objective-based approach seeks to generate greater likelihood of successful implementation by utilising extant Army and Defence Operating System for a and activities to treat Corps issues.

Craftsman Magazine. Articles for inclusion are being called for. All are to be sent to the editor, Mr David Clarke, David.Clarke15@defence.gov.au, no later than 10 Dec 23.

The ACT Association will submit an article regarding our events from the year so if you have any photos or memories you would like to include, please send them to Secretary@act.raeme.org.au at your earliest convenience.

Corps Funds. Corps funds are released annually to Regional Representatives for Corps-based activities such as RAEME Birthday events, Spanner Clubs or Individual Unit activities. The more subscribers they have, the more funds that will be able to be released. For those serving members who aren't subscribers, please consider doing that today. Your regional representative will be able to provide more advice regarding this.

Corps Shop. HOC Cell has been receiving some fantastic ideas and concepts for the shop; please keep them coming in. The on-line shop will be fully live shortly (great work by Alex Smithers). We will be releasing a link to the revised shop soon.

Maintenance Engineering Staff Officer (MESO) Course. The Master Artificers have been invited to present and engage with the annual MESO course (06 - 17 Nov 23) via ASLO or be present at the Plenary scheduled for Tues 14 Nov. The course learning outcomes include BDAR but a lack of authorised policy on this (with the exception of that endorsed for JOC/deployed use) limits what we cover. This will build on the HOC plan to have a BDAR national competition, with the flow on effect being the corps drafts and releases a BDAR document for all emergency repairs.

Corps Port. Bottling and labelling of this year's Corps Port is complete. Orders will be sent to the Regional RAEME Representatives and POCs in the very near future. If you have not received your order by RAEME Birthday, please contact WO2 C Truelove via your Regional Representative.

There are bottles still available for anyone who may have missed out, please liaise with the before mentioned POCs.

Craftsman of the Year Awards. All nominations for Craftsman of the Year awards have been reviewed and voting is complete. Award winners will be notified in the not-too-distant future with the awards to be issued by the Regional RAEME Representatives shortly afterwards.

ASEME. ASEME conducted a Marksmanship Badge Qualification for members of the Shooting Sports Club at Kapooka. 18 soldiers attempted the badge test, with 1 being successful, congratulations to CFN N Tansy on achieving your qualification. Of the other participants, 3 qualified at '1st class' with a further 6 achieving a 'pass'. The activity was supported by 6 staff and 2 members from Vehicle Training Platoon.

RAEME Birthday. The RAEME Birthday event will be held at Latchford 01 Dec 23, if you would like to attend the event, please contact ASEME Ops (aseme.ops@defence.gov.au) in order to facilitate base access. The day will be huge, we are putting a new spin on 'Billy Carts' with 'Billy LARCS' being instigated this year. We will be utilising the Officer cohort to assist in the 'Trebuchet' competition. 'Robot Wars' is on again and we will have plenty of food vendors. We have also been lucky enough to score Brad Jones Racing to attend, through a partnership with Blackwoods.

Corps Status Update continued

Matt Stone Racing Attachments. Soldiers from 7 BDE have been afforded the opportunity to work with the racing team for the duration of the Gold Coast 500 over the period 27- 29 Oct 23. The feedback from those who took part, shows this should remain an enduring activity.



Australian Army Warrant Officer Class Two Jamie Smith, a mechanic from Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group assisting the Matt Stone Racing team at the Formula 1 Grand Prix at Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne. Photo courtesy Defence media.



Warrant Officer Class Two Luke Parlor, a mechanic from Defence Force School of Signals conducts maintenance on a V8 Supercar at the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix in Melbourne. Story by Flight Lieutenant Marina Power. Photo by Leading Aircraftwoman Taylor Anderson. Photo courtesy Defence media.

Corps Status Update continued

W&TG. Training Analysis/Design in progress:

- a. The trial course for L154-1 JCREW FPECM Maintenance (ECN 421) was successful at EESW ASEME. Training will be rolled into the Electronics Technician IET course next year and a solution for the CVRJ trained boffins is still being determined.
- b. The trial course for Salute Gun Maintenance was successful in WA and a Learning Implementation Board will be held to make the course active.
- c. A trial course will be held for the Dry Support Bridge (mounted on 45M) maintenance course.
- d. The MESO course trial is currently running.

Maint Cell continues to work with project teams in the analysis and design of training for:

- a. JP2060 Bio-Med Equipment maintenance course to match the full new suite of deployable medical/dental equipment, to be delivered by SAAB/Aspen in Ipswich QLD Oct 24
- b. L159 Lethality systems – new pistols, shotgun, sniper systems etc
- c. L200-3 interim BMS Maintenance (iBMS) course and the follow-on next gen BMS
- d. L400-2 Boxer CRV variants
- e. L400-3 Infantry Fighting Vehicle – announced as the Hanwha Defence Australia Redback
- f. L4111-1 Protected Mobility Modernisation Project
- g. L8113 Long Range Fires HIMARS and now an ammo resupply vehicle
- h. L8116 Self-propelled Howitzer and ammo resupply vehicle
- i. L8140 Deployable force infrastructure including new low-med capacity generators
- j. L8710-1 Littoral Manoeuvre System – new Close Support Craft (CSC).
- k. L907/8160 Heavy Armour Capability System (M1A2 Abrams and Combat Engineer bridge and breaching vehicles),
- l. Minors project - New Field Lubricating and Servicing Pallet (FLSP)
- m. Minors project - New Modular Distribution System

There is a lot of equipment on the way and a lot of them are new capabilities, not just replacement systems!

RAEME Humour Book

The Second Edition of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies* has now been published and sent to all purchasers!

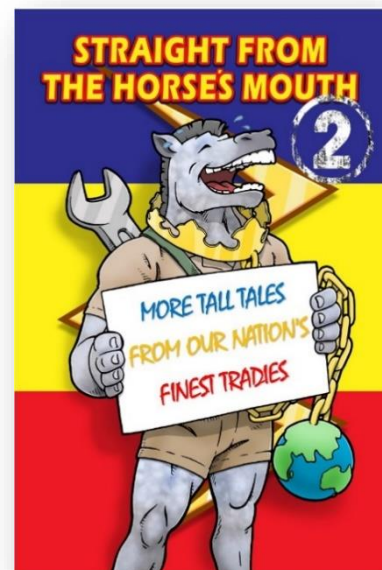
If you didn't get your order in before they shut off, you may still be in luck. Ian has a handful of spare copies of both Edition 1 and Edition 2 that he will take to future Association events but once they are gone (at \$25 each), they are gone!

After that, the books are likely to be available for sale through the Head of Corps Cell Shop and/or the Army Museum, Bandiana (both yet to be confirmed).

The Editors are now collecting stories for Edition 3. Whilst over 20 funny stories have already been received for Edition 3 (thank you to all who sent them), more are required.

If you have any funny stories to share, true or otherwise, please send them to the editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com.

Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable!



Rebuilding the #IntellectualEdge of Army's Technical Workforce

This article offers some simple ways to reinvigorate the intellectual edge of Army's engineers and technical workforce.

It is available for review in full at: <https://cove.army.gov.au/article/rebuilding-intellectualedge-of-armys-technical-workforce>. The online version includes links only accessible within the Defence Protected Network.

by LTCOL Brendan Robinson

"Much like the Ryan Review's goal to improve decision-making superiority in the Army through investment in professional military education and professional discussion portals like The Cove, Army should consider a similar investment in the technical and intellectual superiority of its technical workforce."

– With Skill and Fighting

In the context of rapidly advancing technology and the insatiable need for STEM professionals to deliver and maintain it in military service, many Australian military commentators have raised concerns about the declining skillset of the Australian Defence Force engineering and technical workforce.

Neil Greet suggests the decline began in the late 1980s when privatisation and outsourcing came into vogue affecting both the military and the Australian Public Service. Most recently, Brigadier Mick Scott wrote about the "spiral of capability erosion" affecting Army's civil engineers. His options to remediate it for engineers of the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) included development of a career model, ongoing education and training, and greater opportunity to practice professionally. Captain James McLean echoed similar recommendations for Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) land engineers.

Fundamentally, these concerns reflect how an organisation perceives and values its professionals. Then Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr, acknowledged this value in his [2020 Army in Motion – Command Statement](#):

"Our people understand their context and exercise sound judgement. We do the right thing. We train and operate in ways that are safe, secure and environmentally responsible. We learn and adapt, and uphold our professional obligations to deliver what the nation expects. Ethical leadership ties this all together and enables our teams to succeed."

For all the concerns raised above, reversing the skillset decline in Army's Professional Technical Workforce is not beyond us – but it depends as much on the individual to practice their profession as it does on the organisation to support them. From an organisation perspective, a number of developments have occurred or are underway to address some of these concerns. These include:

- Army participation in the Defence Engineering and Senior Technician Recognition Agreement (DESTRA). This agreement funds Engineers Australia membership and credentialing of eligible personnel into both Leadership and Management and Technical Areas of Practice (AoP) and provides access to continuing professional development (CPD) activities.
- Development of a career management model for RAEME land engineering officers.
- Revision of engineer recruitment targets at the Australian Defence Force Academy.
- The provision of Army and Defence infrastructure project examples and visiting lecturers for civil engineering subjects at the Australian Defence Force Academy.
- Use of the Senior Technical Officer review component in the new ADF joint performance appraisal report (from 2024) to comment on the technical skills and guide the technical development of RAEME engineering officers.
- An Army Technical Workforce program which includes an online seminar series.

Rebuilding the #IntellectualEdge of Army's Technical Workforce continued

To be successful, there is an obligation on the individual to:

- Take ownership of their career and plan this with assistance from their career manager and mentors.
- Join Engineers Australia as a member through DESTRA and seek professional credentialing once eligible.
- Invest in and participate in continuous professional development (CPD) activities, including those provided by Engineers Australia, and short technical courses and post-graduate courses provided by UNSW@ADFA in Canberra.
- Share and obtain technical knowledge through mentoring, writing articles for the Australian Army Journal, The Cove, or Corps Journals, or presenting at work or industry seminars.
- Practice their profession in their unit or headquarters. Army's Military Risk Management approach coupled with the Land Materiel Safety Manual and Land Materiel Maintenance SOPs enable this.
- Find a mentor or use Army's Technical Support Network for technical assistance.
- Look for career opportunities in RICO, Land Capability Division, Capability Sustainment & Acquisition Group and Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Branch within Security & Estate Group to deepen their technical skills.

Developing the necessary skills and experience of our ADF professional technical workforce will take time and personal investment; but it is achievable. To those that are interested and invested, the goal of this article is to offer a way forward.

Over the coming months, The Cove will promote complementary Army-focussed technical 'PME' delivered via the Defence Protected Network to those interested. The first session will outline what DESTRA is and how to participate. Subsequent sessions on Innovation and the Land Materiel Safety Manual, Special Operations Advanced Manufacturing, and the 3rd Brigade's Industry Secondment program are planned.

An invitation to present is extended to those officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers who wish to pass on their experience and knowledge via this forum.

"... the responsibility for professional development between periods in formal programs rests with the individual officer. This is inherent in the nature of the military officer's calling. It is inherent because the body of knowledge which constitutes the art and science of war is not only broad and deep but is also dynamic."

– MAJ Paul Van Ripper USMC, 1982 with thanks to @WarIntheFuture for the quote

About the author:

Brendan Robinson is a graduate of the UK Joint Command and Staff College and the Royal Military College Duntroon. Trained as a mechanical engineer at the Australian Defence Force Academy, he has served with armoured, infantry and logistics units and has deployed twice. He recently commanded the Army School of Logistic Operations and is now Chief Engineer – Army. He maintains an interest in good writing, world affairs and Army modernisation. Find him on X @oddangryshot and on LinkedIn.



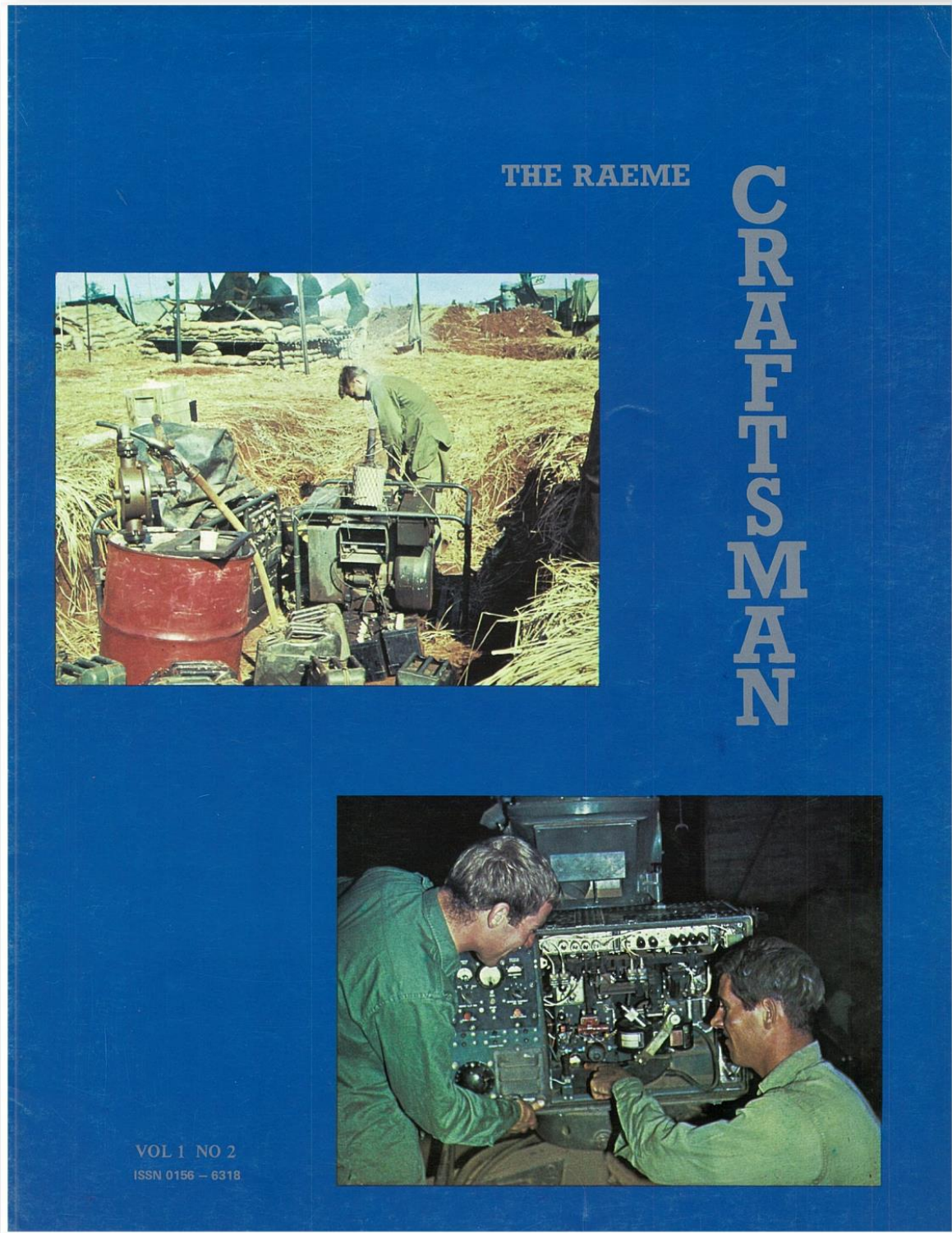
Looking Back

Looking back at some of the older *RAEME Craftsman* Magazines has been an interesting activity as it has allowed us all to relive some more interesting events from the past or simply to see what topics or issues were of interest to our predecessors.

The cover of Edition 2 of the magazine from May 1979 (below) depicted the sorts of activities that most of us could relate to from some points in our different journeys in our careers. That certainly appears to have been the intent.

Cover:

The cover photographs were selected as being representative of the Corps' roles a both Electrical and Mechanical engineers in both a base and field environment. (Photographs by Lt Col M.J. Burgess.)
Ideas and photographic contributions for future front covers would be most welcome.



Would similar images appear on the cover of the *RAEME Craftsman* magazine today? I doubt they would. See over for what one prominent player from the time thought about these images.

Looking back continued

In Edition 3 of *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, dated October 1979, a letter to the editor from a senior WO1 was published in which he expressed some concerns with the cover images.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

NOT AMUSED WITH COVER

Dear Sir,

Not unlike Queen Victoria “. . . we are not amused!”

I refer, of course, to the distasteful photograph on the cover of “*The RAEME Craftsman*”, Vol. 1 No. 2, which claims to represent, more or less, “the mechanical role in our Corps of RAEME”.

Personally, I find it distasteful on two counts, viz: Its vacuous intent which, by implication, exposes both the editorship and the mechanical trades to unflattering and cynical contempt and the ineptness in selecting subject matter, tending to convey the impression that we mechanics are but “handymen!!”

A little research on the expertise, roles and responsibilities of those privileged to belong to the mechanical trades within RAEME would elicit the fact that we deserve a far better portrayal.

With the explosion of technology, the mechanical trades are, today, shouldering a much wider responsibility of equipment alone, without mentioning the advanced repair and maintenance techniques involved. Diversification is the name of the game these days.

Anyone who is unaware of this fact is, I’m afraid, not in touch with reality!

A more important aspect of the subject photograph, which should be apparent to the discerning observer, is the apparent disregard for the potential fire hazard as depicted by the proximity of the 200 litre drum of flammable fuel – to the cigarette hanging from the lips of the alleged mechanic, trying to start the equipment!!

To think that this house magazine circulates among other Directorates and Branches leaves me speechless. One can only imagine the cynical comments. We have, Sir, done ourselves a grievous injury.

Naturally, the editor responded with a suggestion regarding how they may move forward in future editions.

EDITOR: We seem to have drawn some flak on this one. Naturally I am concerned that our last cover should upset even one reader. I have received one other comment verbally, which was not quite as directly worded but which did offer some positive suggestions for future covers.

Perhaps we should have run the cover in a similar manner to that often adopted by our sister Corps (REME) under the heading of “Spot the Deliberate Mistake”.

Given the attention my earlier typos with event details drew, it seems I may not have been the first to have the idea of embracing errors made in our duties!

2024 Napier Waller Art Prize Open Now

The Napier Waller Art Prize is open to all current and former service personnel in the Australian Defence Force. The prize encourages artistic excellence, promotes the transformative power of creativity, and raises awareness of the experiences and talent of service personnel.

Serving personnel and veterans are invited to enter an original artwork and artist statement. Each year, entries are judged by a panel of art experts and professionals, and a winning artwork selected on merit. Entries using diverse artistic media and original concepts are encouraged.

The winning work is accessioned into the Australian War Memorial collection, with the winning artist receiving a \$15,000 cash prize. Finalists' works are displayed on the Australian War Memorial's website for the general public to vote for the People's Choice award, the winner of which will receive \$5,000.



2022 Winning Entry:
The promotion
by Anneke Jamieson

Applications for the 2024 Napier Waller Art Prize opened on Friday, 8 September 2023, with veterans from across the country invited to apply. Applications close midnight Sunday 17 December 2023.



2020 People's Choice Winning Entry:
Afghan diggers' ghosts at the AWM 2020
by Gary Ramage

drawing, sculpture, digital, decorative, and installation. There is no theme for the award, and entries do not have to address military or service topics. Entries using diverse artistic media and original concepts are encouraged.

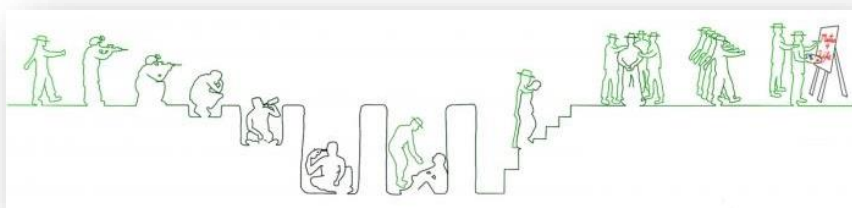
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Details of how to enter are on the Australian War Memorial site at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/napier-waller-art-prize-hub/how-to-enter>

The Memorial invites entries in all visual art mediums, including (but not limited to) painting, photography, printmaking,



2019 Winning Entry:
You are in danger and I am far away.
by Natalie Duncan



2018 (Inaugural) People's Choice Winning Entry:
Mates, for life
by Ian Cook



What's On in Canberra

The following public events are scheduled for the ACT region:

Veterans and Family Expo

Lead: RSL ACT Branch

What: The inaugural Veterans and Families Expo is a free event for the ACT Defence community to explore and gain understanding of local information, support, services and programs available to them in Canberra and its surrounds.

Stallholders will include (at least): Defence Bank, ACT RSL, RSL Veterans' Employment Program, Office for Seniors and Veterans, Australian War Widows, Disaster Relief, Bosom Buddies, Kookaburra Kids, ACT TPI Association, CBRE, Australian Military Wives Choir, Australian Military Bank, The Personnel Group and The Australian War Memorial.

Where: Australian Catholic University, Watson

When: 25 Nov 2023 from 1000-1600h

Details: <https://www.actrsl.org.au/veterans-and-family-expo>



Happy and Glorious

Lead: The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD)

What: An exhibition dedicated to The Queen's Visit in 1954.

Old Parliament House was central to the royal tour while the Queen was in Australia and the exhibition is presented in the very room the Queen used while she was at Old Parliament House. You can explore this room in the President of the Senate's suite and see how it was while she was visiting.

Where: Old Parliament House

When: Daily until 03 May 2024

Details: <https://bit.ly/HappyAndGlorious>

Cost: Free

What's On in Canberra continued

Last Post Ceremony

Lead: Australian War Memorial

What: Each evening, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony.

Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

Where: Australian War Memorial, Commemorative Courtyard

When: Commencing daily at approximately 4.45 pm AEDT,

Registration: <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>

Veteran Support Centre

Regular activities. If any of the following regular activities sounds interesting to you, reach out to the VSC regarding membership and attendance:

- Mondays – Gardening group from 0930-1130h
- Tuesdays – Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h + BBQ lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Wednesdays – Cooking for One course from 1030-1300h\
- Thursdays – Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h + pie lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Fridays - Guitar group (all skill levels) from 0930h and Ladies Craft Group from 1300h (3rd Friday) of the month

Barefoot bowling. Do you like bowling? Do you lack shoes? If you answered yes to these questions, head along to VSC's barefoot bowling event on Wednesday 22 Nov. The RSVP date just got changed to Fri 17 November.

Christmas Party. All VSC members are welcome to attend the VSC Christmas Party on 10 Dec. Details below.



Call for advocates. Are you interested in becoming an Advocate to support Veterans as they negotiate the DVA claims process? If so, the Veteran Support Centre (VSC) would love to talk to you.

There will be an introductory training session so that the process can be described. It would be anticipated that where the opportunity arises then you will begin to conduct your own interviews.

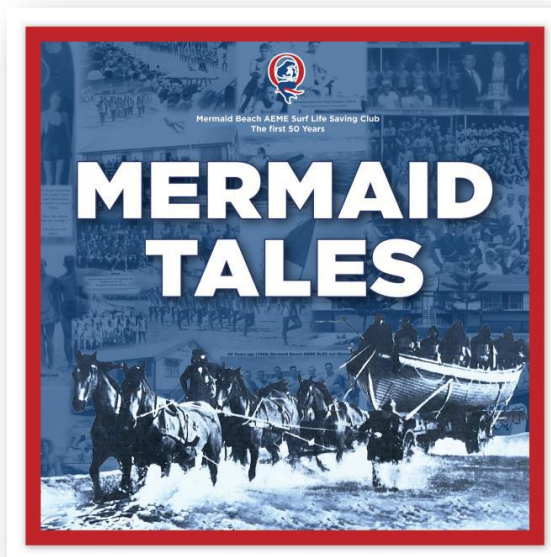
Please contact Ward Gainey (ward.gainey@bigpond.com or ward.gainey@vseact.org.au) and let him know if you wish to begin the Advocate training.

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. Our sunshine State brethren recently released the latest edition of their newsletter, *Spanner News*. In this edition, they have included a very detailed review of life in 102 and 106 Fd Wksps over the last year as well as reports from various functions held around the State recently. This and quite a bit more can be found on the Qld Association website under “Publications”: <https://qld.raeme.org.au>

The Qld Association is also planning a Book Launch for a 360-page book called “Mermaid Tales”. This book tells the history of the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club in its first 50 years with particular reference to the connection with serving AEME units who supported the club from the very beginning. The book will be officially launched by the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Mr Tom Tate, at 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 21 November at the Clubhouse on Hedges Avenue, Mermaid Beach.



All Corps members and veterans are cordially invited to attend and join the Qld Association in celebrating this milestone event. The book will be on sale at the launch.

Northern Territory. The NT Association is planning for its AGM to be held at 1800h on 29 Nov at Midway, Berrima. All NT members are welcome to attend. The POC for this is Alan Dorahy.

Apprentices. The latest Apprentice newsletter, *The Apprentice About*, was released this month. It can be viewed online at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>. This edition has some very interesting articles on a range of topics. The piece on Project SPAASSM, being the Special Project for Army Apprentices School Special Material is definitely worth a read.

What tool am I?

Last month’s tool challenge was:

I am a tool used to make hoses too short.

That tool was: A Hose Cutter.

This month’s tool identification challenge is:

Originally employed as a weapon of war, I am now used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit. I also allow you to learn how to curse in new languages when I hit your thumb.

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

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association

