RAEME in ACTion

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Edition: 37

Feb-Mar 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

I trust this finds you and yours well and embracing the new year. Please accept my apologies for our recent Spanner Club; it was great to hear that it was very well attended, with a number of new faces enjoying the opportunity to connect with fellow spanners. I look forward to catching up with you all at our upcoming events (lunches, Spanner Clubs, ANZAC Day).

Corps memorabilia has been getting some consideration of late, particularly our corps painting and banner (20 May 2026 marks 40 years since Prince Phillip presented his banner at Bandiana to a very excited Corps, including a very young LT Adams!). Whilst not always front of my mind, I am frequently drawn to my copy of AFV in the Light Green hanging on my office wall. For me, it does a good job of capturing the essence of the 'who, what and where' of the Corps, and the enduring requirement for military and technical skills. Accepting that the painting may now be considered dated, I invite you all to share your views on how we might capture the Corps' contemporary environment and responsibilities when we next meet. Until then, stay well and enjoy the newsletter and Maintenance Matters.

Cheers APA

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Fellow Spanners,

With the introduction of our new Corps-wide Newsletter, *Maintenance Matters*, *RAEME in ACTion* will now take on a new focus; to share only that information of relevance to ACT-based members. That will mean there will be less humour, fewer stories and not quite as much general interest articles. The new focus will be on impending events and matters of interest only to ACT-based members.

As I share the editorial duties with *RAEME in ACTion* and *Maintenance Matters*, you will hear a little more from me as I search of stories. I will seek stories from workshops each month but as opposed to the unit jottings reserved for *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, *Maintenance Matters* will only look for snapshots about current activities. Whilst we no longer have a Workshop in Canberra, our Corps does exert quite some influence through delivery of delivery of equipment, development of technical of logistic policy, maintenance advice to senior commanders and much more. I have heard that the host of the Army Cove Podcast may also be a Spanner! There are numerous discrete roles in which our members find themselves so we would love to hear from members posted in them.

If you find anything interesting in your workplace, and you would like to share it to help boost the general awareness of our Corps, please share it as I'm sure plenty of people would like answers to questions like "How does AHQ determine which units get Maritime Technicians", "Who determines the maintenance liability for the new gear we are getting?", "How does Landworthiness influence Army policy?" To share your story, please reach out to Newsletter@raeme.org.au and start the discussion re what you may be able to provide. There is a $50 prize each month for the best published submission!

Regards,

Ian

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

Spanner Club | Mixed Lunch | Informal Drinks | Significant Event

FEBRUARY

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PLANNED GATHERINGS IN THE ACT FOR 2026

Our calendar for the year is firming up now. Presently, key events planned for 2026 include:

Month	Date	Event
January	Tues 27th	Informal Drinks
February	Fri 6th	Welcome Spanner Club
	Tues 24th	Informal Drinks
March	Fri 6th	Mixed Lunch
	Tues 31st	Informal Drinks
April	TBC	ASM's Golf Day
	Sat 25th	ANZAC Day
May	Fri 1st	Mixed Lunch
	Tues 26th	Informal Drinks
June	Fri 5th	Spanner Club / Sausage Sizzle
	TBA	RMC Lanyard Presentation
	Tues 30th	Informal Drinks
July	Fri 3rd	Mixed Lunch
	Tues 28th	Informal Drinks
August	Fri 7th	Spanner Club / Sausage Sizzle
	Tues 25th	Informal Drinks
September	Fri 4th	Mixed Lunch
	Tues 29th	Informal Drinks
October	Fri 2nd	Spanner Club / Sausage Sizzle
	Tues 27th	Informal Drinks
	TBC	AWM Maintainer Tour
November	Fri 6th	End-of-Year Dinner
	Tues 24th	Informal Drinks
	TBA	RMC Lanyard Presentation
	Fri 27th	RAEME Birthday Spanner Club
December	Fri 4th	Last Mixed Lunch for 2026

Informal Drinks. An informal gathering for all members to share a drink and the time to connect. These are held from 1930h on the last Tuesday each month (less April/Dec) at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club.

Spanner Clubs. Our Spanner Clubs are a great opportunity for both serving and retired members to come together to share stories over a cold beverage. Head of Corps occasionally attends these gatherings which gives all members a unique opportunity to engage at the highest level. Spanner Clubs are traditionally held at the RMC Golf Club. A sausage sizzle is normally included for a gold coin donation.

Mixed Lunches. We meet to share a meal with friends and families. These have traditionally been held at Ainslie Football Club, commencing from 1230h but we invite recommendations for other venues to make these more accessible to all members.

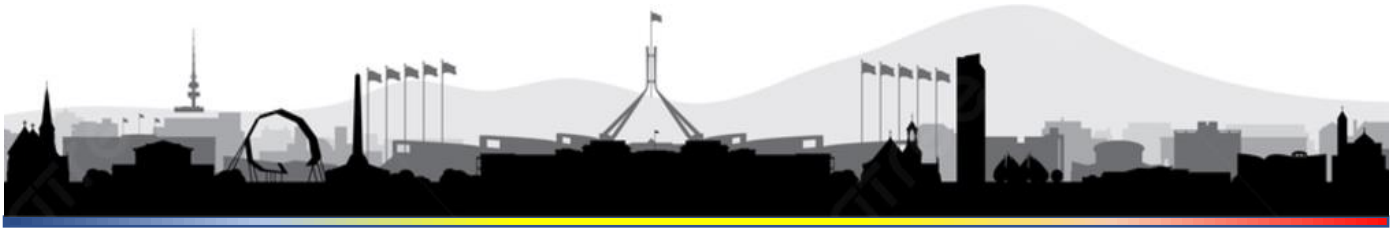
ANZAC Day. The key event for the year is joining in the National Veteran's March at the Australian War Memorial. We then meet at Olim's after. More details are on later pages.

RMC Lanyard Presentations. Typically held twice per year, we welcome new officers who are about to graduate into RAEME. Our Head of Corps presents each new LT with a Corps lanyard and other Corps-specific information. These are most commonly held at RMC Golf Club but on occasion, at alternate venues around town. Dates and locations will be sent to all ACT-based members when locked in by RMC.

End-of-Year Dinner. Getting in before other work functions, we have our end-of-year dinner in early November each year for serving and retired members with friends and families.

RAEME Birthday. Celebrating our Corps Birthday is one of the biggest gatherings of the year. Our Corps birthday this year falls on a Monday so our celebrations may be either Friday 27 Nov (most likely) or Fri 04 Dec. As soon as this is locked in, we will let everyone know

For more info: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events



ABOUT THE SOUTH CANBERRA VETERANS SHED – ***https://mensshed.org/sheds/south-canberra-veterans-shed-inc/***

SOUTH CANBERRA VETERANS SHED

What are Veterans' Sheds?

Veterans' Sheds are meeting places where currently serving and ex-serving Defence Force members (Veterans) and First Responders (Police, Fire, Ambulance & Emergency Services Members) and their families can socialise, discuss issues of concern with like-minded mates, enjoy themselves, learn new skills, work on projects together and get involved in activities to support their shed and their local community.

The Veterans' Shed concept is based on the well-known backyard shed and offers membership and peer-to-peer support to all currently serving and ex-serving service men and women and First Responders and their families.

Vision

South Canberra Veterans' Shed (SCVS) Vision is to be part of a network of Sheds across Australia, offering a place for all Veterans, First Responders and their families, to get together chat, work on various projects, help mates in need and provide assistance to other Veterans, First Responders and their families and the local community.

Aim

To create and maintain an environment for members where concerns, past trauma, health issues and welfare issues can be discussed with other members who have empathy through similar life experiences.

Objectives

- To encourage the reduction of social withdrawal and to foster social inclusion.
- To actively build mutually beneficial partnerships with both government and non-government agencies and other community groups.
- To encourage Shed members to develop, redevelop or learn new skills which will enhance their self-esteem and in turn provide a positive impact upon their lives, their family, their mates and the community.
- To work together with Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) and other support groups to provide assistance and support to our members and their families.

SCVS provides members with a place to go, to get out of their house, to meet after work to allow them to recharge their batteries in an inclusive, welcoming environment among their peers.

SCVS has two (2) programs:

- The General Gathering Program, with members participating in a social gathering in a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere, with talks, guest speakers, card playing, computing, bus trips and other activities, and
- The Workshop (Community Projects) Program which involves workshop activities to carry out personal or shed projects - shed projects are designed to create items that support individuals, the shed and the local community.

Membership

- **Full** – Open to all Veterans (serving and ex-serving), all First Responders (Police, Fire, Ambulance & Emergency Service personnel) their families.
- **Associate** – Open to like-minded people.

There is a (one off) Joining fee and an Annual Membership Fee.

Meetings

Social & Workshop: Mondays - Saturday
10:00 – 14:00-ish

Other times by arrangement.

Location / Contact

- **Address**: 7 Finlay Place, off Castleton Crescent, Gowrie. ACT. 2904
- **Phone**: 0498 847 278
- **Email**: scveteransshed@gmail.com
- **Web**: http://mensshed.org/profile/AMSA101255/

SCVS is proudly supported by:

ABOUT THE VETERAN SUPPORT CENTRE – ***https://www.vscact.org.au/***

About

The Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation ACT Branch was formed in 1994 by a handful of Vietnam Veterans which met each Tuesday at the Ainslie Football Club in Canberra. They became known as the *Vietnam Veterans*™ *Federation ACT* Inc (VVF).

After some years the ACT Government generously offered a lease on a house in Ainslie. When the Federation outgrew the house, the VVF leased premises at 9 Burkitt Street Page on 1 July 2004.

In 2009 the Federation changed its name to Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation to better represent the origins and aspirations of their members. Membership has grown over the years to 550 members.

The VVF / VSC is an incorporated entity, GST Exempt, a deductible gift recipient and an income tax exempt charitable institution, ABN 58 534 419 650

Support

As the support for Vietnam Veterans has continued, the Federation also noted that more recent conflicts such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran were starting to identify serving and ex-serving members so in 2016 the Veterans Support Centre (VSC) was established.

The VSC now supports any veteran who has served in the ADF for at least one day (DVA Definition of a Veteran).

The VSC offers administrative support to members making claims on DVA through providing a number of Advocates who are experienced in identifying conditions for which members can claim, and developing the appropriate correspondence to support the claim. All Advocates are volunteers and there is no cost for their services.

Contact

VSC is located at 9 Burkitt Street in Page, ACT. Their contact number is (02) 6255-1599 and their web address is: https://www.vscact.org.au/. The office may be emailed at: office@vscact.org.au. To find the VSC on Facebook, visit: https://www.facebook.com/vscbelconnen

Services

Services provided by VSC include, but are not limited to:

- Advocates are available on week-days to assist with filling in paperwork and lodging claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Representation at the Veterans Review Board (VRB) and Administration Appeals Tribunal (AAT)
- Trained Wellbeing Advocates to support members
- The Food Van, which attends various community functions remains a main source of fundraising

Membership

Membership is open to Veterans of any conflict, serving and retired service personnel. Membership is not compulsory to attend functions or to attain support for DVA claims or welfare matters but it does support VSC work. It also gives access to early notification of a wide range of social activities held by the VSC. The VSC offers a place to get together with a mob of like-minded Veterans.

Cost: $50.00 Single - $55.00 Family. VSC warmly welcomes veterans or all ages but like many valuable organisations, they would appreciate the opportunity to support younger veterans. The VSC membership form may be downloaded from the VSC website: https://www.vscact.org.au

Regular activities

If any of the following regular activities sounds interesting to you, reach out to the VSC regarding your possible attendance:

- Mondays
  - Gardening group from 1000-1200h
- Tuesdays
  - Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h
  - Walking groups. Contact the organiser, Terry Lawler on 0401 109 550 or terrylawler71@bigpond.com to confirm starting locations each week.
  - BBQ lunch ($5) from 1200h
- Wednesdays
  - Coffee Connections for veterans and families from 1000-12000h (sponsored by Open Arms and the VSC)
- Thursdays
  - Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h
  - Pie lunch ($5) from 1200h
- Fridays
  - Guitar group (all skill levels) from 0930h
  - Ladies Craft Group from 1300h (3rd Friday of month)

Please contact the office for more details regarding any event or services available to support veterans.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT

Coming Events

Our first big event for the year will be our **Welcome Spanner Club.** This is our opportunity to welcome all new RAEME members and families to the region and to welcome back those who continued on from 2025. This will occur from 1600h on Friday 06 February, being the first Friday of the month. We will then alternate between Spanner Clubs and Mixed Lunches on the first Friday of each month.

RSVPs for the Spanner Club will be welcome for planning purposes as we typically do a sausage sizzle (donations welcome on the day). You can RSVP via the event at: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/92-spanner-club-and-sausage-sizzle

Our next event for 2026 will be **informal drinks** at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club. This will start from 1930h on Tuesday 24 Feb, being the last Tuesday of the month, as is our tradition.

There is no need to RSVP for this, except if you aren't a member of the club. If that is you, please let me know so we can sign you in however membership will also give you access to the Ainslie Football Club, being the venue where we have bi-monthly lunches. Membership to the Ainslie Group of Club costs approximately $10 for 3 years. More details are at: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/72-informal-mixed-drinks

What else is on in the Region

Date	Time	Activity	Lead	Location
February				
Fri 06	1730-1930h	**Intro to Archery**	Invictus CBR	Canberra Archery Club
Sat 08	1000-1500h	**Community Services Day**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Showground
Tues 10	1000-1200h	**Veterans Guitar Group**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 10	1800-1900h	**Yoga**	Invictus CBR	Burgmann School, Gungahlin
Tues 10	1900-2200h	**Yoga**	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Wed 11	1000-1200h	**Create and Caffeinate**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Wed 11	1200-1245h	**Free Exercise Physiology Class**	JB Rehab	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Fri 13	0930-1030h	**Mind-Balance-Tai Chi**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 17	1000-1200h	**Veterans Guitar Group**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 17	1900-2200h	**Yoga**	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Wed 18	1200-1245h	**Free Exercise Physiology Class**	JB Rehab	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Thurs 19 – Fri 20	0930-1630h	**Managing Anger**	Open Arms	Venue TBA on registration
Fri 20	1700-2000h	**Free Barefoot bowls or Croquet**	Open Arms	Belco Bowling Club, Hawker
		Call the club on (02) 6254-2157 for more info or to RSVP		
Fri 20	0930-1030h	**Mind-Balance-Tai Chi**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 21	1900-2200h	**Yoga**	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Sat 21	1330-1530h	**Fermentation & Preserving**	Soldier On	Gungaderra Homestead
Tues 24	1000-1200h	**Veterans Guitar Group**	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 24	1900-2200h	**Yoga**	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub

Date	Time	Activity	Lead	Location
Tues 24	1800-1900h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Burgmann School, Gungahlin
Wed 25	1000-1200h	Create and Caffeinate	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Wed 25	1200-1245h	Free Exercise Physiology Class	JB Rehab	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Fri 27	0930-1030h	Mind-Balance-Tai Chi	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
March				
Tues 03	1000-1200h	Veterans Guitar Group	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 03	1900-2200h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 03	1800-1900h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Burgmann School, Gungahlin
Wed 04	1200-1245h	Free Exercise Physiology Class	JB Rehab	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Wed 04 – Thurs 05	0930-1630h	Group Program – Stepping Out	Open Arms	Venue TBA on registration
Fri 06	0930-1030h	Mind-Balance-Tai Chi	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 10	1000-1200h	Veterans Guitar Group	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 10	1900-2200h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 10	1800-1900h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Burgmann School, Gungahlin
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Tues 31	1000-1200h	Veterans Guitar Group	RSL Lifecare	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub
Tues 31	1800-1900h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Burgmann School, Gungahlin
Tues 31	1900-2200h	Yoga	Invictus CBR	Queanbeyan Veteran Hub

CLOSING COMMENTS

That's about it for this edition. Future editions will follow a similar format with regular sharing of information with relevance to both serving and retired members in the ACT region.

If you would like to submit something for future editions, or it you would like to see something in particular published that is relevant to the Corps, please email me at: Secretary@act.raeme.org,au.

You can also send your submissions for *Maintenance Matters* to me via Newsletter@raeme.org.au or preferably lodge them online on the **RNN website** where you will also find templates and further guidance.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary, ACT RAEME Association

President: Andy Adams, President@act.raeme.org.au
Secretary: Ian Cook, Secretary@act.raeme.org.au
Website: https://act.raeme.org.au
Membership of the ACT RAEME Association is free to all serving or former members with a connection to RAEME who also live or work within the ACT region.