

RAEME in ACTION

The Newsletter of the ACT RAEME Association



Edition: 21

August 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

Clearly the joys of a Canberra winter have not been lost on a number of us over the last month, with conversations frequently interrupted with not so gentle bursts of coughing, interspersed with attending to noses that fail to stop running! That said, the brisk starts and clear days are a feature of our region at this time of year in our region.

On 6 Aug 24, the Head of Corps, BRIG Ben Slaughter, welcomed 18 new officers into the Corps (of the 20 graduating into RAEME). This event was attended by a group of local and interstate Corps members, including the Honourary Col Comdt, BRIG Ed Smeaton retd and Corps RSM, WO1 John Tynan. This is the second of three graduations to be conducted this year, a result of the reduction of training time at RMC from 18 months to 12 months.

As has been my pleasure to observe over a number of years of graduating classes, individually and collectively, the new officers present as keen, capable and potentially great ambassadors of the Corps. Those having completed their time at RMC are looking forward to the challenges of their first postings, and those returning to ADFA to complete their studies are looking forward to the day when they too are able to apply what they know in their units as our new engineering brains trust. It was not lost on the graduates, nor those currently serving, that the challenges before the Corps are vast and diverse. As flagged by the HOC, this is not new nor likely to change any time soon, however with a commitment to resolve problems, engage their local and Corps network and retain a sense of humour, they are well placed to excel!

Ian has included a number of articles regarding DVA and support organisations in our local area. It is a timely reminder for each of us to review our circumstances and, where appropriate, follow up with the respective points of contact to ensure we are well informed to enhance our decision making, both for ourselves and our families.

Keep warm and stay well,

Cheers APA



THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

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

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

RAEME PORT 2024

The 1st Aviation Regiment is proud to have the opportunity to present the 2024 RAEME Port, and, for the first time offer a 2024 RAEME Whisky.

The theme that we have chosen for the port this year is 'The Sundowner'.

The Sundowner holds a special place in the hearts of the craftsman that serve amongst the Regiment and we find it fitting with the circumstances 1 AVN currently finds itself in.

With 1 AVN beginning its move to Townsville next year the theme sits well, the Sundowner bar has followed the Regiment around Australia throughout its many relocations.

Buller Wines (Rutherglen, Vic) has kindly taken on the job to supply this year's port, and is well up for the task as they've supplied the RAEME port many times over the previous years. We've chosen a beautiful Old Fine Tawny this year.

2024 RAEME Port is valued at \$30.

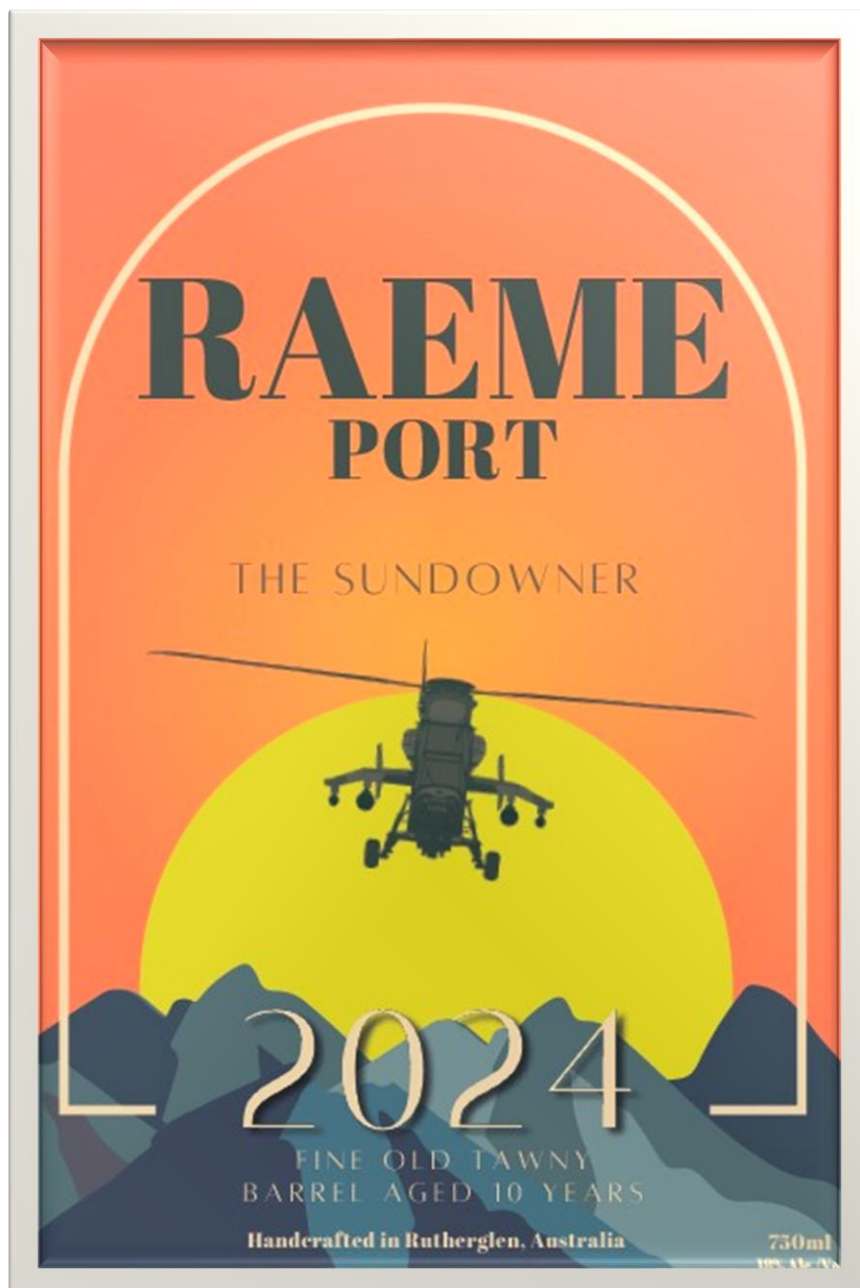
Ancient Wisdom Distillery (Pakenham, Vic) has offered a lovely Australian Whisky aged in Tawny Port barrels which is a captivating expression that marries the robust qualities of the whisky with the luxury of fortified wine casks.

2024 RAEME Whisky is valued at \$70.

Please use the following link to secure yourself a 2024 RAEME Port and Whisky;
<https://www.trybooking.com/CUCVK>

The sales event will finalise 19 Oct 24, to allow for delivery by RAEME Birthday

2024 RAEME Port and Whisky



Select tickets

Thursday 1 August 2024 7:00 PM - Saturday 19 October 2024 11:00 PM

1x 750 ml Port Bottle	Fine Old Tawny Blend - Buller Wines	\$30.00	- 1 +
1x 700 ml Whisky Bottle	Tawny Barrel Aged Whisky - Ancient Wisdom Distillery	\$70.00	- 1 +

RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

The third editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* is currently being drafted.

There is clearly a lot of funny stuff that happens in RAEME service but the editors need more stories!!

This is your chance to share any funny stories you have from your service.

If you have any stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com. Even if you have heard someone else's story or made it up, we want it!

Stories don't have to be true, just believable!

The editors understand that not everyone has the time or talent to write something funny so they will accept stories over the phone. All you need to do is to email your contact details to them at the above email address. Include your preferred days or times to receive a call from the editors and take it from there.

As a special incentive for this edition, the editors will be awarding a free edition to the member(s) who submits the funniest story for this edition. Depending on how many stories are received, this may be expanded to a series of prizes for funniest story in each category, eg service vs retired, barracks vs field, appy vs thick and so on. The editors will work that out based on the number of submissions they receive.

Whilst all story contributors will be named in the book, this will be in the back and not listed against any particular story. This is to ensure your anonymity.

Re anonymity, the editors will change all names provided to ensure the guilty are unidentifiable. Those who were there at the time will know the truth but they don't plan on embarrassing individuals (too much). Likewise, any current unit name will also be changed as the purpose of this book is to have a laugh, not to embarrass the ADF.

If you didn't get your order in for Edition 1 or Edition 2, it is not too late. Our Head of Corps Cell was gifted several hundred copies for sale from the Corps shop with all funds raised to be made available to support serving and retired members of our Corps.

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online (at <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>) but at time of writing, they haven't as yet uploaded their books for sale. When they do, we will let you know but in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Head of Corps Cell at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.

Send your funny story or contact details today! FunnyStories@raeme.org.



COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN SERVICE IN TIMOR-LESTE

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorations/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia/25th-anniversary-australian-service-timor-leste>

Introduction

In 2024, to mark the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Timor-Leste, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will be holding a National Commemorative Service at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra on 20 September 2024 from 9:30am.

Australian service in Timor-Leste spanned between 1999 and 2013 and encompassed Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police personnel, as well as civilians. This anniversary provides the opportunity to honour and remember the service of all Australian men and women who served in Timor-Leste, and the sacrifice of their families. Tragically, six Australians lost their lives whilst deployed, or as a result of their service, in Timor-Leste.

Planning your attendance

DVA strongly encourage all attendees planning to attend the service on 20 September 2024 to register their intent to attend.

Although a formal ticket or attendance pass will not be required to enter the service, the registration process ensures that adequate arrangements can be put in place by DVA.

What to expect

The service will be broadcast nationally by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). DVA are still finalising arrangements for this service; this webpage will be updated with further information in the near future.

Service details

Service:	Nationally broadcast commemorative service to mark the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Timor-Leste
Date:	Friday 20 September 2024
Time:	9:30am: Pre-service program commences 10:00am: Official service commences
Venue:	The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, Anzac Parade, Campbell, Canberra
Register:	You can register at: https://dva.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dbAVSnF8mkdBK06



FRONTLINE YOGA

Source: <https://frontlineyoga.com.au/>

Frontline Yoga offers best practice guidance on the delivery of Yoga to the First Responders, Emergency Services and Military Veteran community. Through our network of skilled teachers, we also offer a suite of Yoga services that cater to the needs and abilities of all members within the community.

Classes are FREE to all Frontline Professionals – Current, Ex-servicing or Retired Police, Fire, Ambulance, Military, Healthcare Workers & Volunteer Emergency Services.

General public and supporters are welcome to attend by donation.

Frontline Yoga delivers accessible classes that are taught with an awareness of trauma and are suitable for anyone with chronic stress, depression, anxiety or PTSD.

The classes focus on developing Resilience, Strength and Connection.

- **Resilience** - both emotional and psychological ability to deal with the ongoing challenges and uncertainty of service on the front line.
- **Strength** – developing both physical and mental strength, to continue facing the rigours of service on the front line or return to full function after injury or illness.
- **Connection** – reinforcing connection between breath and movement, body and mind, Frontline Professionals and the community within which they serve.

All classes are suitable for all ages and ability levels. Frontline Yoga teachers are experienced and capable of providing considered modifications to suit individual requirements. In the ACT, they are run in Phillip and Gungahlin.

Details of classes, which run both nation-wide and on line, can be found at: <https://frontlineyoga.com.au/classes/>

Donations

Whilst classes are free for frontline professionals, Frontline Yoga would welcome donations which would then towards setting up more Frontline Yoga classes through running workshops to train Yoga teachers, scholarship programs for Yoga teacher training for Frontline Professionals and setting up classes within workplaces. Frontline Yoga is a registered charity with the ACNC. You will get a tax receipt for your donation – once an online donation is received, an email is sent directly to your email account. Details regarding donations can be found at:

<https://frontlineyoga.com.au/support/>

Contact Frontline Yoga

If you have a question or would like more information, or, if you have feedback or an experience you would like to share with Frontline, they would love to hear from you! Feel free to use the email addresses below to send them a message.

- **Teach:** volunteer@frontlineyoga.com.au
- **Support:** info@frontlineyoga.com.au
- **Feedback:** ceo@frontlineyoga.com.au



AWM NEWS – BECOME A PART OF RECORDED HISTORY!

Source: <https://transcribe.awm.gov.au/>

The Australian War Memorial has a massive task on its hands to transcribe significant hard-copy records of Australia's military history. They are looking for volunteers to help preserve Australia's history by transcribing records from the National Collection.

How to get started

Sign up To become a volunteer transcriber you need to sign up. This will allow you to transcribe, save your contributions, track your progress and join the volunteer community. Signing up will also allow us to send communication regarding progress of transcription that you contributed to, transcription news, new quests and if you are interested updates about the Memorial.

Activate your account and set your password After signing up you should receive an email to confirm your account and set your password. If you can't find it in your inbox please check your spam or junk folder. Clicking on the link in the email will activate your account then take you to a page where you can set your password.

View a transcription quest Transcription quests are a collection of content which can relate to a single event, person, place or time. There can be one or more quests available to transcribe. Decide which one interests you and join in with other volunteers.

Start transcribing Select a Transcription Item with the status of Open to contributions. If work has already been done on this item, either by yourself or another contributor, please resume transcribing from where that item was last saved.

If this Transcription Item has not yet been started you will be presented with the option to either start transcribing from scratch or to start a new transcription using an AI generated version.

How to transcribe

When you select a new transcription item to transcribe you will be presented with two options. If you join a transcription which someone has already started, you can start transcribing immediately without selecting any of the options below.

1. Prefill with AI generated transcription

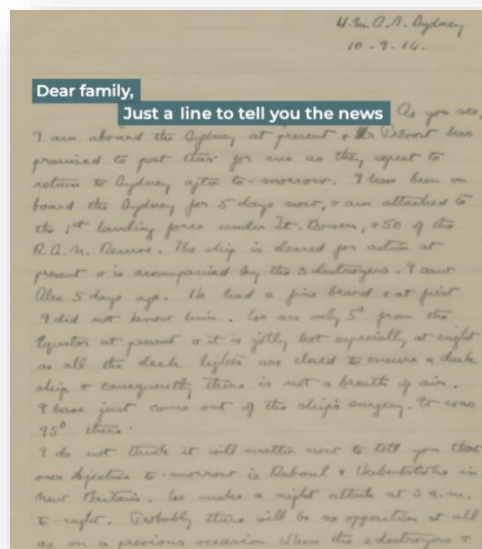
If you select an AI first transcription, you'll find the original page in a box on the left and AI first transcription on the right of the webpage. Start reviewing the transcription in the right box (you'll be asked to log in if you haven't already logged in.)

2. Start transcribing from scratch

If you decide to start afresh, the transcription box would be empty and you can start transcribing by looking at the original page in the left box.

3. Transcribe the text as it is written

Spelling mistakes and strange punctuation and also uncomfortable comments of their times should remain true to the original document to enable historical accuracy and to keep the original style, expression and personality. When transcribing a printed form, for example, a telegram or a medical certificate only transcribe the hand written or typed elements imputed into that form.



DVA NEWS – NEW VETERANS’ LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/new-veterans-legislation-introduced-parliament>

Correct as at: 11 July 2024

On 3 July 2024, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh, introduced legislation into Parliament to simplify and harmonise the veterans’ rehabilitation and compensation framework. This is another important step the Government has taken to respond to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide’s Interim Report.

The Bill would consolidate all legislation governing veterans’ compensation and rehabilitation into the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) from 1 July 2026. This means the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) will be closed to new compensation and rehabilitation claims. An underlying principle of the Bill is that there will be no reduction in payments that veterans or families have previously received or are currently receiving.

These changes will make the claims system easier to navigate and help veterans and families receive the support and services they are entitled to. It will also ease the administrative burden for DVA, making determinations less complex, and reducing training and system maintenance overheads.

The Bill also introduces a range of enhancements that will improve compensation arrangements for veterans, including:

- a new Additional Disablement Amount (ADA), similar to the existing Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) available under the VEA (This will compensate older veterans who have a high degree of incapacity due to service-related conditions.)
- introduction of ‘presumptive liability’, which will allow the Repatriation Commission to specify injuries and diseases that can be determined on a presumptive basis where they are known to have a common connection with military service, without needing to engage with the Statement of Principles (SoP) system
- consolidation of household and attendant care, travel for treatment, and retention of automatic granting of VEA funeral benefits in the MRCA
- an increase to \$3,000 for funeral allowance for previous automatic grant categories currently covered under the VEA, and the availability of reimbursement of funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service-related deaths.

The 2024-25 Budget included a measure providing an additional \$222 million in veteran and family entitlements across the first 2 years from commencement of this legislation, with increased expenditure continuing beyond the forward estimates.

The Bill is the result of significant community consultation undertaken over 3 rounds since late 2022. Over 50 consultation sessions were conducted in 2023 and 2024 and 569 submissions were received. DVA found there was broad support within the veteran community for a single ongoing Act.

Following consideration of the feedback on the exposure draft in early 2024, these changes have been made to the Bill:

- Veterans in receipt of DRCA incapacity payments will automatically transition to MRCA incapacity payments on the date of commencement.
- Where the Repatriation Medical Authority updates an SoP between the veteran’s primary and reviewable decision, the version of the SoP which is most beneficial to the veteran’s circumstances will be applied.
- An introduction of an instrument-making power to enable the Repatriation Commission to determine circumstances where a veteran must receive financial advice before receiving a lump sum payment.

The Senate referred the Bill to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 3 October 2024. More information is available at: www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform.

ADF NEWS – NEW LIGHT BLUE BERET FOR THE ROBINSON CLAN

Source: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-07-19/new-light-blue-beret-robinson-clan>

Inspired by his father's aviation career, one of Aviation Command's newest aircraft technicians is set to follow in his footsteps and work on Army's new fleet of Black Hawks.

Craftsman Lee Robinson graduated from the RAAF School of Technical Training as an aircraft technician last month and stood side by side with his father, Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Wayne Robinson, wearing the same light blue beret.

Though few words passed between them, Craftsman Robinson knew it was a watershed moment for them both.



"Finally being able to wear the same colours as him, being in the same Corps [Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers] and the same role just makes it extra special," Craftsman Robinson said.

"There were a few tears; it was a proud moment on both sides."

Growing up in Townsville, Craftsman Robinson enlisted in February 2016 as a driver specialist and drove a plethora of vehicles all over Australia.

While he loved the role, he yearned for another challenge, which resulted in a corps transfer in 2022. To his father, it came as no surprise.

"He has always been interested in aircraft; he has a pile of models," WO2 Robinson said.

"I had friends at Toowoomba that were mad on radio-control flying models. One of the guys actually gave him a powered glider – which we crashed about an hour later. He's mechanically minded like me."

Craftsman Robinson said his enlistment as a driver specialist, then his transfer to the aircraft technician trade, were inspired by his father.

"Finally being able to wear the same colours as him, being in the same Corps [Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers] and the same role just makes it extra special."

With a background in civil aviation, WO2 Robinson's career with Army began in 1996 with a string of Recognition of Prior Learning in place of courses, including one on Black Hawks, which he had built in his civilian work.

Coincidentally, Craftsman Robinson will be part of the first Initial Employment Training course to work on the UH-60M Black Hawk at the Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School in Oakey.

The training will enable Craftsman Robinson to be part of Army's aviation maintenance workforce, responsible for keeping Army's feet of helicopters operational.

"Working on new airframes will be pretty cool, especially with the new AH-64 Apache airframe coming in - even on the mature airframes like the Chinook," Craftsman Robinson said.

"I'll work on anything really, but the Black Hawk takes the cake."

With father and son wearing the same uniform and specialising in the same profession, there's no doubt further instances are to follow where WO2 Robinson will feel he has come full circle.

Craftsman Robinson inherited his thirst for knowledge from his father, which WO2 Robinson said was ideal since the course is quite challenging. He is looking forward to opportunities to travel and work on aircraft with advanced avionics and weapon systems. For now, however, he can't wait to be proficient in his trade.

THE PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Source: <https://www.pva.org.au/>

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc. (PVA Australia Inc.) is a not-for-profit, non-government, voluntary organisation – they do not have any paid workers, all are volunteers. PVA is not funded by government – all funding is derived from membership fees, applying for grants, donations and fundraising.



**The Partners of Veterans
Association of Australia Inc**

PVA believes that there is a great need for support for all partners/carers, widows/widowers and families of Australian veterans, both now and in the future, as our defence forces continue to be deployed to areas of conflict throughout the world. Their aim is not only to support the partners of our generation, but also to consider the needs of all future generations and to have in place a support network that was not available when many of our veterans returned from their war service.

PVA's NATIONAL 1300 HELPLINE

The PVA 1300 Helpline is a 24/7 link to support and information for partners of veterans, current serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families.

This nationwide service makes information referral and welfare assistance an affordable and less stressful exercise for those seeking help. Many partners are more willing to ring the association for advice on where to get help for not only themselves and their children but also in many cases, for their veteran.

The 1300 Helpline is available for the cost of a local call (from landlines) and in particular helps those partners living in rural and regional areas.

Each PVA State branch has answer points spread over a large geographical area within their state and callers will be speaking with TIP trained welfare officers to pass on any referrals needed.

Our 1300 Helpline provides vital assistance to a section of the veteran community (namely partners and children) who in many cases find it difficult to speak with government departments and are more at ease speaking with partners who are trained and able to pass on up-to-date welfare information while offering friendship and understanding at the same time.

Your nationwide link to support, friendship, information and understanding is 1300-553-835.

HOW TO JOIN

Anyone who is a partner, ex-partner, widow/widower, or immediate family member of a current or former member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) or its Allies, is eligible to join the association.

There are two classes of Membership

- **Ordinary** - for current or former partners - with full entitlements
- **Associate** - for immediate family members - with restricted entitlements

Online Application for Membership form and payment instructions at:

https://www.pva.org.au/index.php?option=com_chronoforms5&chronoform=membership-form .

OR

Download and complete the Application for Membership form at:

<https://www.pva.org.au/P.V.A.%20Membership%20Application%20October%202022.pdf>

On the 1st of Aug 1942, being the year of our Corp's formation, the Army News released what was important at that time. Some of the more interesting stories are below. For more <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3350754>



Advice received by the Federal Government indicates the probability that 'there has recently been an intensification of activity by enemy agents in Australia.

It was revealed recently that Federal Ministers accept as probable, suggestions which have been made that agents may have been landed on the Australian coast from Japanese submarines in the same way that German agents have been put ashore on the American east coast from U-boats.

It is believed 'that steps are proceeding to meet this possibility.

BIG DROP IN CAR SALES

Only 4450 new cars were sold in Australia for the year ended June 30.

This is only 23 per cent of the 18,900 vehicles sold in the previous 12 months, and 71 per cent. of the 60,000 sold in the peak year of 1937-

NEWS FROM AMERICA – TEST FOR NEGRO BASEBALLERS

The New York "Daily News" says that the Pittsburgh Pirates will grant trials to several negro baseball players. The club president, Mr. Benswanger, asserted that coloured men were American citizens with American rights. He adds: "I know there are many problems connected with the question, but somebody has to make the first move."

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME QUEENSLAND

The RAEME Association in Queensland has been busy supporting their ever-expanding membership base. This includes with regular Spanner Clubs in both the North and South of the State.

At a recent event in Townsville, the Bde EME WO, WO1 Dean Goninan, presented SGT Davo Krause his Artificer's Scroll.

The awarding of an Artificer Scroll provides a mechanism to formally recognise the achievement of Artificer Status within the corps and to be presented in conjunction with the Badge.

Members of the Corps at the rank of Sergeant who have successfully completed the mandated training courses relevant to their Employment Category are entitled to wear the Artificer badge.



Instagram

The RAEME Association Queensland also recently announced the launch of its official Instagram page, @raeme.qld.

This new social media platform will serve as a hub for sharing stories, events, and achievements of the RAEME community. The Instagram page aims to connect members and veterans by showcasing experiences and contributions of the Association. Followers can look forward to regular updates featuring Corps insights, profiles of members, and coverage of both local and national events.

The next big news from Queensland was their release of their latest Newsletter, *Spanner News*.

In this edition, the Queensland team have plenty of details about what is happening in the State. They have included:

- Messages from the Association Chairman and Qld Colonel Commandant
- Details of Corps members who were recognised in the recent King's Birthday Honours
- A feature article from 1Avn Regt TTSS
- Details about RAMS 35th Birthday celebrations
- Notes from 3 RAR Admin Coy
- ANZAC DAY Events wrap
- An update from the National Spanner pack team
- Details of upcoming RAEME Functions and Events
- and Much More



This is available to download at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/spanner-news>

Other than that, the Queensland team is preparing for a couple of impending gatherings, including:

- A RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion Brisbane 2024 on 17 August. For more details, see: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/611-raeme-reserve-cmf-reunion-brisbane-2024>
- A Darling Downs Luncheon in Toowoomba on 18 August. For more details, please visit: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/608-raq-darling-downs-luncheon>
- A Gold Coast Luncheon on Saturday 24 August. For more details, see: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/604-raq-gold-coast-luncheon-2024>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The President of RAEME Association South Australia, John Prince, is leading the way by demonstrating his resolve to save lives. He is doing so through his participation in the National Breast Cancer Foundation's **Step up to Breast Cancer** challenge.

Every day, 57 Australians are diagnosed with breast cancer, and 9 people lose their lives to this disease.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation is asking Aussies to join **Step Up to Breast Cancer**; walk or run 57km throughout August to raise funds for vital breast cancer research to help save lives.

Every death is one too many, and research is critical to better understand, prevent, detect, treat and stop breast cancer from taking the lives of the people we love.

Will YOU step up to breast cancer?

John will be walking at least 57km this August to do his part to help save lives.

John's goal is to raise funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation to support vital breast cancer research. Ongoing research is the only way we can improve our understanding of how breast cancer originates, grows and spreads, in order to develop tests, treatments and interventions to improve outcomes for people with the disease.

None of us can do this alone so your support of John's efforts will be greatly appreciated.

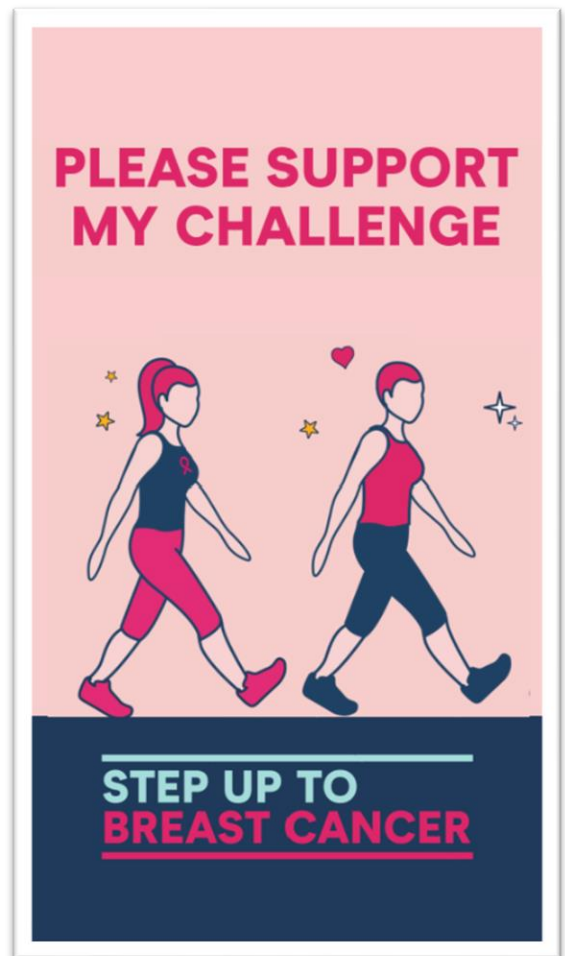
Please view John's fundraising page and make a donation to support his 57km challenge:

<https://fundraise.nbcf.org.au/fundraisers/johnprince>

Your donation (if over \$2) will be tax-deductible so you'll be provided with a receipt via email.

To learn more about the National Breast Cancer Foundation's work visit them at:

<https://fundraise.nbcf.org.au/event/step-up/home>



DVA NEWS: COMPENSATION OFFSETTING AND RECOVERY – AN INTRODUCTION

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/compensation-offsetting-and-recovery-introduction>



Put simply, compensation offsetting and recovery aims to prevent someone being paid twice for the same injury, incapacity or death. But there isn't a lot that's 'simple' about this topic.

Offsetting can be easily misunderstood, but the primary purpose is to ensure, as far as possible, fairness and equity for compensation recipients.

Offsetting results in a reduction to a compensation payment which is paid for the same injury, incapacity or death

as another compensation payment you have already received. This might also mean a debt is accrued.

DVA have put together the following facts to help you better understand offsetting and recovery:

DVA administers 3 pieces of legislation to provide compensation to veterans and their dependents. Some individuals may be eligible for compensation under more than one Act for the same injury, incapacity or death, and the Acts contain provisions that prevent compensation payments being duplicated in these circumstances.

Some individuals who are eligible for compensation under veterans' legislation may also be eligible for compensation following an award of damages in common law actions against third parties for the same injury, incapacity or death. The Acts require offsetting to apply under these circumstances.

There are a number of other practices undertaken by DVA that are commonly, though incorrectly, referred to as 'offsetting'. For example, the reduction of incapacity compensation payments by Commonwealth superannuation, and means testing. Two of DVA's Acts have specific provisions that reduce DVA incapacity compensation payments by the Commonwealth-funded portion of superannuation payments received.

All of these practices generally involve the reduction of one compensation payment in recognition of another compensation payment for the same injury, incapacity or death.

In addition to the compensation offsetting provisions, if you are receiving an income support payment from DVA or Services Australia and receive compensation regarded as being for a reduction or loss of income or capacity to earn, then compensation recovery provisions may apply. This can include a period when an income support payment is restricted or a reduction being made to the amount of income support pension a person receives on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

It is important that you inform DVA if you receive a compensation payment, settlement or an award of damages as this can affect the benefits you receive from them.

If you've been impacted by offsetting and recovery rules, DVA encourages you to seek advice specific to your individual circumstances by a suitably qualified financial professional or ex-service organisation advocate. You might be able to access help through other government services and community organisations to assist you with financial advice. Some suggestions are on the [DVA website](#).

DVA are working hard to simplify the current complex legislation by delivering a single ongoing Act. To find out more about the legislation reform visit the [DVA website](#).

For more information about how your entitlements may be affected by compensation offsetting and recovery see [What to know about multiple claims](#).

DVA NEWS – NEW MEDICAL ASSESSMENT FORMS BRING GREATER EFFICIENCY AND CLARITY

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/new-medical-assessment-forms-bring-greater-efficiency-and-clarity>

In May 2023, DVA embarked on an ambitious project to review the Compensation Medical Assessment Forms (MedForms), a critical component in the processing of veterans' claims.

DVA are pleased to announce the successful completion of this project, which marks another milestone in our ongoing commitment to improve the claims process for veterans.

The primary goal of the review was to create new forms that are not only easier to understand but more effective in helping DVA delegates obtain and understand the information necessary to make informed decisions on claims. DVA recognised the need for forms that are concise, user-friendly and digitally ready – all of which contribute to faster and more accurate claims assessments.

Through this journey, DVA undertook extensive consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders. Internally, they relied on the expertise of their dedicated processing teams, while externally they collaborated with medical providers and peak bodies, ex-service organisations (ESOs), and the Australian Government's Behavioural Economics Team. This collaborative approach ensured that the new forms would meet the practical needs of those on the front lines of veteran care.

The project reviewed 210 medical forms which spanned an overwhelming 658 pages. Through consolidation and simplification, DVA have successfully reduced this to 84 streamlined forms – now encompassing just 183 pages.

The newly designed Medical Impairment Assessment forms are now in active use and available from DVA's Provider forms web page; <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/fees-forms-claims-providers/provider-forms>.



The forms represent DVA's ongoing efforts to serve veterans and their families better.

They are designed to be intuitive and straightforward, ensuring that medical providers can easily navigate and complete them, ultimately speeding up the assessment and decision-making process.

This reduction in paperwork alleviates the administrative burden on medical providers as well as enhancing the clarity and efficiency of the claims process. DVA is now identifying the best way to progressively make these forms fully digital.

As DVA look to the future, they remain committed to continuous improvement and welcome ongoing feedback from all stakeholders. DVA encourage providers with questions or suggestions regarding the new or existing forms to reach out via email to Business.Improvement.CBD@dva.gov.au.

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

Source: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/programs-workshops/upcoming>

Doing anger differently

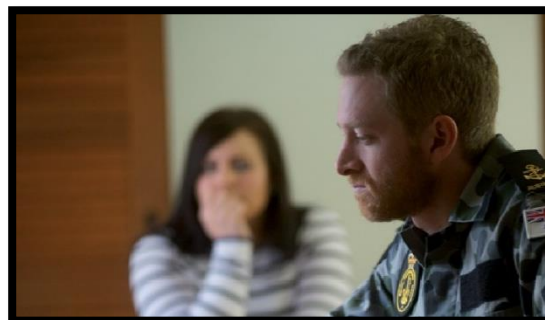
What: A program to help you understand anger and aggression

Who: Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.

Venue: Online or Canberra

When: 21 & 23 August, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Online)
22-23 August, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm (Canberra)

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#doing-anger-differently>



Beating the Blues

What: A program to help you understand and manage depression

Who: Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.

Venue: Canberra

When: 29-30 Aug, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#beating-the-blues>



Sleeping better

What: A program to help you manage disturbed sleep

Who: Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.

Venue: Online

When: 10 & 12 September, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#stepping-out>



Managing pain

What: A program to help you learn about effective pain management strategies

Who: ADF members and their partners about to or recently in transition to civilian life.

Venue: Online

When: 19-20 September, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

More info: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#managing-pain>



To find more information about the programs offered by Open Arms to support veteran well-being, or to register for any of the above sessions, please visit: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

The RAEME Craftsman magazine, edition 3 of October 1979 included the following reports from the RAEME Associations. The expansion of the NSW Association into Canberra is raised for the first time!

R.A.E.M.E. ASSOCIATIONS

OBITUARY

THE PASSING OF A GREAT R.A.E.M.E. OFFICER BRIGADIER C.A. JILLET, OBE

The funeral of the late Cecil Arthanard Jillett, OBE., in Sydney on the 11th May 1979, was attended by an impressive group of serving and retired officers and other ranks of RAEME.

Though "Jill", as he was always known, left our Corps in 1955, he was never at great distance from us.

He took up a civilian appointment in St. Mary's, an outer western suburb of Sydney, for a short while before moving into a teaching role with the New South Wales Department of Education.

He attended most RAEME Corps Officer Birthday activities and, for some time was a member of the 2MD RAEME Corps Committee. He became the first President of the RAEME Association in New South Wales following its reactivation in 1972.

He could never accept an easy role in retirement, and after ending his teaching appointment, he undertook special work with the College of External Studies, a role he derived great satisfaction from and one in which he achieved a high reputation as well as the admiration of most who knew him.

"Jill" was 71 years of age. As the senior officer in the RAEME group attending the ANZAC DAY march in Sydney, was afforded the honour of Corps Leader. Only a lapse in health prevented him attending the 1979 parade. He fell ill the following day, entered hospital and failed to recover.

In his twenty years of service he rose from Lieutenant to Brigadier, having served in Middle East and Pacific war zones. His appointments were formidable and numerous, and as such, made him one of the best known officers of the Corps during both war and post-war years.

His technical status was as conspicuous as his military honours and awards.

LEST WE FORGET

(Honorary Secretary
RAEME Association, NSW)

1940 — ON A BACKWARD GLANCE

by **BULLPUP**

It's strange how some people intrude into one's life.

Not in some forceful manner, but as something that just happens. Out of the blue, the mist — out of nowhere, right into your life and on occasions, into your heart, establishing a permanent place for themselves.

Such a person came into my life in the late 40's in the person of a Sergeant Major Roberts.

A small man in stature, diminutive of frame but a giant in intellect. A courteous, knowledgeable man, effervescing with an eagerness to impart his vast store of knowledge and skills to any human ready to receive it.

I was working in the erection shed, sharing a problem with Ernie Green, the oversight, Jack Scott, Alec Barber and Victor Sylvester. All of us were in a state of hilarity, tinged with bewilderment over a subject which will make an interesting story at some later date, when I walked this dapper little man.

He was fastidiously dressed in ceremonial parade dress and wore the insignia of a Sergeant Major. He entered the shed with an air of authority and familiarity with both location and procedures. With a pleasant greeting to all he addressed himself to the NCO IC, Ernie Green. A few words were exchanged and the visitor retired to the Captain's office.

"Who was that?" someone enquired. "Dunno!" replied another and, with a shrug of the shoulders from yet another, the moment passed and we all returned to our various tasks. One of our group, incidentally, was absorbed in hammering the tang of a file into the bowels of a Mills Grenade in a determined effort to remove the explosive material contained therein.

Having no knowledge of the stability, or otherwise, of explosives in any category, I watched from a distance, apprehensive, interested but particularly mindful of personal safety. I knew that, with the bottom off the grenade, ignition could take place and blow the face off the determined demolition expert, yet, those of us watching from a distance would be in no danger from flying fragments. This, I conveyed to the souvenir gatherer in no uncertain terms, to which he replied "It's my face. It won't hurt you so why worry yourselves?" Sometimes a subordinate rankled.

However, I digress.

I had no particular task in hand so returned to the self-appointed task of marking out seven equally spaced holes on a given radius for one of the fellas in the machine shop — or Turnery, as our genial Captain termed it. I loved to show off!

My mind was still centred on the cause of our laughter and bewilderment and wondered what the ultimate result would be. I had made a blunt statement of fact on a subject I considered myself an authority on and had had it challenged by the Boss, who was far from happy with me, and further angered by the laughter plainly heard from the Erection Shed.

Ernie Green was called to the office. During his brief absence I waited with apprehension, perhaps with alarm, hoping I was not the subject of conversation.

I could see the office clearly, and I saw the door open. Ernie Green emerged, came straight across the road, entered the shed and grinning, announced — "The Boss wants you!"

I sucked in my breath, filling my lungs with life-giving oxygen, held it a moment and released it slowly through the nostrils. It was a trick I had learned as a boxer. My heart which had been racing, slowed down and, placing my dividers carefully on the bench, I walked very erect and soldierly toward the office.

Of course, I observed the usual procedure of shedding the Caps, Working Blue, before entering the office, thus avoiding the need to salute.

Approaching the door, I knocked and on being bidden, "Enter", did so with a brisk walk to the table, halted, clicked my heels and stood stiffly to attention.

The Captain addressed me by name and, with a smile, said, "I'd like you to meet Sergeant Major Roberts. You'll be spending some time with him over the next few weeks."

WELL!!

There I was, figuratively speaking, with an exercise book down the seat of my pants, expecting a bawling out and reprimand, and what did I get? An introduction.

LOOKING BACK continued

I reacted by turning to honour the guest and looked right into the eyes and smiling face of this wonderful man. Muttering the usual formalities, I grasped his hand and completely forgot the Captain.

I remembered my place, came back to earth and left the conversation to my superiors. I turned to face the Captain and sprang to attention.

A few words passed between them and after being excused, the Sergeant Major and I left the room by another door.

"What's your Christian name?" enquired Mr. Roberts. I told him and he continued, saying "Unwind! Formality has its place and it's certainly not here."

It was easy in his presence. He went on to tell me that I was to help in the restoration of some almost forgotten Artillery pieces on the coast, for defence purposes. Until then I'd been unaware of the seriousness of the affairs affecting the defences of our City, against possible enemy action. When he revealed to me the urgency of the task and the part I was to play in it, I, too, became quite concerned and ready to play my part.

The main task was to restore the Armstrong guns. One at Bondi and the other at Coogee. Other weapons also, were to be restored. The first view I had of these gave me the impression I was looking at relics from Man-O-War days and their previous use was as Bow, or Stern, Chasers on Blackbirding Schooners, Frigates and Barquentines. Brass 3-pounders and Nordenfeldts, possibly obtained in a raid on some Maritime Museum.

My first view of the Armstrong guns, the disappearing 9.2's, left me breathless at the magnificence of the machinery. There were no oils used on the weapons, other than for lubrication. The recuperation hydraulics medium was water in which soap crystals, of a nature only known to Sergeant Major Roberts, were immersed. He had been sent to Kitchen's Soap Factory, by Army Office, to instruct them in the manufacture and blending of these crystals.

Could that have been the reason for his sudden emergence into our workshop activities?

Gun crews were selected from the adjacent 9.2 stations and, as well as restoring the weapons, Mr. Roberts instructed the crews in the art of their operation and maintenance. The guns had a very limited range of approximately 7,000 yards, using only half charge, and were fired only in dire emergency, such as to repulse any attempt by the enemy to land on our shores.

No practice firing was permitted. The reason, I believe, was that the crew would have been in greater danger from firing the old weapon than they would have been from enemy action.

FOCUS ON RAEME

"A picture," they say, "is worth a thousand words", and in order to save our photographic fiends slaving over a writing pad "The RAEME Craftsman" is to introduce its own photographic competition.

The "Focus on RAEME" competition is aimed at encouraging you to scoop the pool, so to speak, in focusing on RAEME and its activities. Your photographs can be taken in Australia or overseas. Our criteria is — that they show RAEME at work or play, serious or humorous.

Photographs may be black and white or colour prints, or slides. No print should be smaller than postcard, or equivalent, size — depending on what you can get from your photo-processor, and certainly no larger than 20 x 25 cm (8" x 10"). Prints do not have to be mounted.

Beware of glass-mounted slides. If they are not properly packed and are damaged, the glass could cut the slide. In fact, for any material you send, protection can be obtained by enclosing a piece of cardboard slightly larger than the photograph, or slide, enclosed.

WHAT? A RAEME ASSOCIATION? NEVER HEARD OF IT!

Oh, dear me! How many times have I heard that statement?

I have to admit, it would seem, that our advertising must be, frankly, inadequate. Heaven knows we have tried so hard here in New South Wales and, yes, in 2MD as well, to be seen as a viable extension of our Corps.

Indeed, we now have a new Constitution which we are proud of and are hoping to expand away from Sydney to Canberra, as we have done to Newcastle. There is also a plan developing for other World War II AEME Workshop Associations to affiliate.

It is our belief that other States could re-activate their old World War II AEME Associations into this new format, as we have done.

With this in mind, those so interested are invited to call upon this New South Wales Association for guidance and help.

We would certainly like to see all serving and retired members of RAEME united under one big association, but that idea died under the weight of excessive legalities and a top heavy administrative superstructure. Now we are going it alone — and intend to keep going.

It is our aim to build something all members of RAEME will be proud to be associated with. Yes, you can join! That's if you really are a "CRAFTSMAN".

Try writing to:—

The Honorary Secretary,
RAEME Association NSW.,
4 Homedale Avenue,
Bexley North. N.S.W. 2207

Editor: Bullpup, we believe is, or was a member of your Association. His reminiscences are both interesting and entertaining. I'm sure there must be others in your area who could provide anecdotes of their service with the Corps, too. We would be most pleased to hear from them for future issues, and, should any wish to recall historical moments in the Corps' history, please encourage them to get in touch.

FOOTNOTE

(Literally)

Making his first visit to RAEME Training Centre, a certain WO1 (No, he wasn't *that* lucky — just a transferee from the Navy!) came up with a novel way of avoiding a CO's parade.

On his way between the Sergeants Mess and Barracks — although we're not too clear on which direction he was, in fact, taking, (as if that would make any difference!), he fell on some steps. Obviously they weren't Navy steps.

In a case of hit two, miss one (do they teach knitting on the Production Supervisor's course?) he fell and broke a hip.

The idea may have been some kind of practical joke, or a bet, but, in our opinion, that's one hellofaway to get a "No standing chit!!"

ADF NEWS – SOLDIER COURTS SUCCESS AT WIMBLEDON

Source: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-07-26/soldier-courts-success-wimbledon>

For 70 years, members of the UK Armed Forces have volunteered their time to help the Wimbledon Championships run smoothly.

This year, a member of the Australian Army made it an international effort.



Sergeant Lars Jessop, an aircraft technician originally from the Sunshine Coast, volunteered to be one of 400 military stewards.

"I saw that the UK Ministry of Defence was looking for volunteers to help out at Wimbledon earlier this year. I thought it would be a unique experience and one I wouldn't get to do anywhere else, so I submitted an application," Sergeant Jessop said.

Initially not chosen, Sergeant Jessop was put on a reserve list.

"A few days later I got a call to say one of those initially selected had to pull out and would I be interested in taking their place? It was a no-brainer," he said.

The relationship between the military and Wimbledon goes back to the end of World War 2, when the championships resumed in 1946. Service personnel were involved in helping direct people to their seats around the damage caused by bombing during the blitz.

Today they help provide security, lining the courts in breaks of play to prevent court invasions, conduct safety checks, ensure good crowd behaviour in the stands and assist members of the public.

"It has been an unbelievable experience and one of the highlights of my time in the UK," Sergeant Jessop said.

Sergeant Jessop arrived in the UK with his wife and son in January 2023 as part of an Army exchange program.

Head of Australian Defence Staff Brigadier Grant Mason said there were many opportunities for members of the ADF to work with their UK Ministry of Defence colleagues.

"I'm proud of members like Lars who are gaining important skills and knowledge that they'll be able to take back to Australia with them and help make us a stronger and more capable fighting force," Brigadier Mason said.

"But equally importantly, they're strengthening relationships with one of our closest allies by supporting local military traditions in ways that reflect well on both our countries' Defence Forces."

DVA GUIDE – MAKING A CLAIM FOR A SERVICE-RELATED CONDITION

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/financial-support/compensation-claims/making-claim-service-related-condition>

Video: <https://youtu.be/UcMW2R5Vc8k>

Last updated by DVA: 11 May 2023

Find out what you need to do when you submit a claim. If you've already submitted your claim, don't worry. You can still provide additional documents. The sooner you provide them, the sooner DVA will be able to finalise your claim.

The 3 Acts

Veterans' service is covered by 3 Acts, known as the MRCA, VEA and DRCA. Which Act you are covered by will depend on the service that relates to your injury or disease. As a general rule, if your condition relates to service:

- after 1 July 2004, then the MRCA will apply
- before 1 July 2004, then either the VEA, the DRCA or both will apply
- that spans 1 July 2004, then one or more of the VEA, DRCA and MRCA will apply.

For information on the 3 different Acts, go to:

- MRCA – Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004, <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/compensation-claims/laws-cover-claims/mrca>
- DRCA – Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988, <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/compensation-claims/laws-cover-claims/drca>
- VEA – Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/compensation-claims/laws-cover-claims/vea>.

The Claims Process

If you have an injury or health condition that relates to your service you need to submit a claim to access medical care and compensation. One claim can include multiple conditions.

To establish liability, DVA need to consider the evidence provided to support your claim and they will use that evidence to decide whether or not to accept that the condition is service related.

For claims under MRCA & DRCA once liability has been accepted for a service related condition, a needs assessment will be completed before any compensation can be paid. A needs assessment is a discussion between you and one of our delegates to identify the types of benefits, services and support you may require. A needs assessment can be completed at any time after liability has been accepted.

For information on the different types of compensation that might be payable visit:

- incapacity compensation – <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/support-when-you-cannot-work/what-are-incapacity-payments-and-how>
- permanent impairment under MRCA – <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/compensation-claims/claims-if-you-were-injured-after-30-june-2004/benefits-if-you>
- permanent impairment under DRCA – <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/compensation-claims/claims-if-you-were-injured-1-july-2004/drca/support-under>

If you have an injury or disease arising out of, or aggravated by, a period of full-time service when you were covered under the VEA, you may be eligible for a Disability Compensation Payment (<https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/support-when-you-cannot-work/pensions/disability-compensation-4>) and medical treatment.

If DVA accept your claim they will check if you can get a Disability Compensation Payment. You may apply for a higher rate if you already receive a Disability Compensation Payment and your service made your injury or condition worse. Your pension amount will depend on how severe your injury or health condition is and its impact on your ability to work.

When lodging a claim for initial liability, follow DVA's 3-step guide

To make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- **Step 1: Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis**

A medical diagnosis is required in order to determine your claim. Your claim will be investigated more quickly if you provide a diagnosis with your claim. If you don't have one, DVA will arrange for you to see a medical practitioner as part of the investigation.

Claiming via MyService

When you claim using MyService, you can upload diagnoses there. Also, if you claim through MyService, you can upload any additional documents at any time before your claim is finalised.

If you haven't already, sign up to MyService to make claiming easier.

Submitting a paper claim

If you are making a claim for more than one condition, you should:

- fill out a separate Injury or disease details sheet (<https://www.dva.gov.au/node/12058>) for each one
- where possible, have your treating medical practitioner provide a separate diagnosis for each condition and sign each separate sheet.

If you need to provide additional information that you didn't include when you sent DVA your claim, you can contact them. Email DVA at primary.claims@dva.gov.au to find out more.

- **Step 2: Supply the documents you need to**

When you make your claim, you need to make sure that you provide all of the necessary documents and sign the claim form.

You must provide proof of identity documents

You can complete the proof of identity process online at MyService. Go to MyService to sign up.

You will not need to provide proof of identity documents if you are already a registered user in MyService.

By having a secure MyService login, you are known to DVA.

If you are submitting a paper claim and you haven't already, you must provide DVA with proof of identity documents. For information on requirements, read more on our proof of identity page.

You can provide supporting documents

As part of the claim investigation process, DVA will obtain relevant records from Defence, such as medical records, Defence incidence reports and service records, and DVA may need to request supporting documents from your medical practitioner.

To help DVA assess your claim more quickly, you can provide copies of any supporting documents that you have, such as:

- clinical notes
- specialists reports
- scans, MRIs or X-ray reports
- witness statement(s)
- Authority to Participate in Civilian Sport
- Hazardous Material Exposure Report
- Entry Medical Board Questionnaire

Providing these documents up-front can help to save time later.

- **Step 3: Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment**

In some cases, DVA can cover the cost of your treatment before your claim is finalised.

Fully funded non-liability health care

For eligible veterans, DVA will pay for the treatment of certain conditions, including mental health conditions and cancer, without accepting them as service related.

For more information on non-liability health care, go to:

- fully funded mental health care for veterans – <https://www.dva.gov.au/node/11542>
- fully funded treatment for cancer and pulmonary tuberculosis – <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/injury-or-health-treatments/free-treatment-cancer-and-pulmonary-tuberculosis>

Provisional access to medical treatment (PAMT)

You may be eligible for free treatment while DVA are considering your claim if it is for one or more of the most commonly accepted conditions. This only applies if you are claiming under either the:

- Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) – <https://www.dva.gov.au/node/12250>
- Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) – <https://www.dva.gov.au/node/12179>

You can go to PAMT for details at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/node/11919>.

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is here to help

It can take some time to process a claim. While DVA are processing your claim, they encourage you to get extra support.

Open Arms is a free service available to current and former ADF members and their families.

Open Arms offers:

- counselling for individuals, couples and families
- case management for clients with more complex needs
- group programs to develop skills and enhance support
- community and lived experience veteran and family peer workers
- after-hours telephone counselling
- suicide prevention training
- mental health literacy and awareness training
- information, education and self-help resources
- referrals to other services or specialist treatment programs as needed.

For more information on these services and others, you can contact Open Arms on 1800 011 046. You can also visit their website at <https://openarms.gov.au>.

Find an Advocate

Advocates are people who are trained to help you access DVA services and payments. They are generally volunteers and work for one or more ESOs. Advocates can take the stress out of the claiming process for you by helping you prepare and lodge a claim.

If you are looking for advocate, you may like to visit the 'Finding an advocate' page on the DVA website – <https://www.dva.gov.au/civilian-life/finding-advocate>

Your privacy is protected

Go to our privacy page (<https://www.dva.gov.au/node/12777>) to find out more about how DVA handle your personal information. This includes what information they can ask for, how they manage it and who they share it with.

What to expect after you submit a compensation claim

For more information about the claims investigation process, visit the What to expect after you submit a compensation claim page. <https://www.dva.gov.au/what-expect-after-you-have-submitted-compensation-claim>

Editor's note: Whilst submitting a DVA claim may be relatively straight forward for many members, the importance of gaining expert advice from an advocate cannot be overstated.

Advocates, be they paid or free, typically have prior knowledge of many claims and a far more in-depth base knowledge given their training and experience. It is therefore highly recommended that an advocate is engaged early in the claims process to ensure claimants don't fall into any of the unseen traps.

VETERAN SUPPORT CENTRE

The Veterans Support Centre (VSC) is a veteran-run organisation with a mission to help veterans through-life. Pre-2009, VSC was known as the *Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation*.

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.

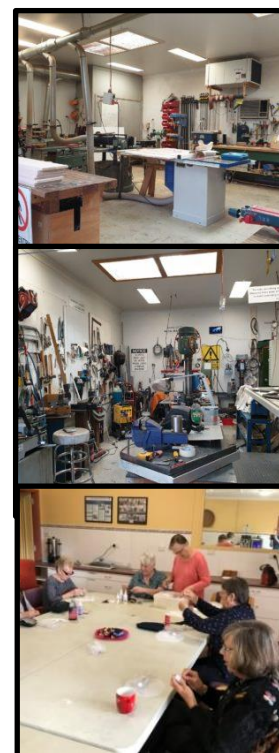


Services. Services provided by VSC include, but are not limited to:

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

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 Walking groups. Contact the organiser, Terry Lawler on 0401 109 550 or terrylawler71@bigpond.com to confirm starting locations each week.
Wood and metal workshops (all skill levels) from 1000h
BBQ lunch (\$5) from 1200h
- Wednesdays Coffee Connections for veterans and families from 1000-1200h (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 the month)



Please contact the office for more details regarding any event.

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 or as attached at the end of the January 2024 edition of *RAEME in ACTION* (<https://act.raeme.org.au/> Look under Publications).

WHAT'S ON IN CANBERRA

The following public events are scheduled for the ACT region:

Happy and Glorious

- Lead:** The Museum of Australian Democracy
- What:** Old Parliament House was central to the royal tour while the late-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 Jun 2025
- Cost:** Free
- Details:** <https://bit.ly/HappyAndGlorious>



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



View the original Australian Constitution

- Lead:** National Archives of Australia
- What:** Don't miss your chance to view the original Australian Constitution and the Royal Commission of Assent signed by Queen Victoria
- Where:** National Archives of Australia, Kings Avenue Parkes, ACT 2600
- When:** Sun 15 Sep and Sat 23 Nov only
- Cost:** Free
- Details:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lifting-the-lid-view-the-original-australian-constitution-tickets-803615835597?aff=oddtcreat>



REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

101st Field Workshop Reunion

Exercise 101 Fd Wksp Sydney Cocktail Reunion

Ingleburn RSL - The Bardia Room
Saturday 17th August 2024 - 5pm
Dress Code: Cocktail / Smart Casual
\$60 per person

RSVP as soon as possible please for catering purposes!
Karen Cairns - karencairns@bigpond.com - 0438 385 109 or
Michelle Lafferty (Bond) - dmjjj@bigpond.com - 040 400 4775 or
Rebecca Yoxall - rebecca.yoxall@defence.gov.au - 0414 483 302

RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

Who: All past and serving reserve members

Where: Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL

When: Sat 17 Aug 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.

Where: Ross Hotel, Ross

When: 17 Aug, 1200-1500h

Details: <https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/18-social-gathering>

RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Toowoomba Golf Club

When: Sun 18 Aug 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS continued

RAQ Gold Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC

When: Sat 24 Aug 2024

Details: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events/event/604-raq-gold-coast-luncheon-2024>

SE-Qld Spanner Club

Who: All past and serving members

When: Fri 13 Sep 2024

Details: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/> (Under “Notices” → “Events”)

RAQ Sunshine Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Maroochydore RSL

When: Sat 21 Sep 2024

Cost: \$28 for RAEME Association Qld/serving members. \$48 for non-members.

Details: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/> (Under “Notices” → “Events”)

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.

Where: Claremont RSL

When: 19 Oct, 1800-2100h

RAQ Darling Downs RAEME Birthday Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Toowoomba City Golf Club

When: Sun 17 Nov 2024 **POC:** functions@qld.raeme.org.au

RAEME Association of Tasmania Reunion

Who: All past and present serving members who have served in Tasmania

Where: Hobart **Cost:** Dinner cost TBA closer to the event

When: 15 Nov – 1730h for 1800h – Welcome Drinks – Venue TBA
16 Nov – Dinner at Queens Head Hotel
17 Nov – 1230h for 1300h – BBQ lunch at Derwent Barracks

RSVP: https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php?option=com_rsform&view=rsform&formId=16

DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?

The following is a summarised version of a story published in Edition 1 of *Straight from the Horse's Mouth: 101 Tall Tales from our Nation's Finest Tradies*.

There was a SGT at SME years ago having a practice run inspecting the troops before his Subject 1 for WO course ...

First digger – "Well turned out"

Second digger – "Well turned out"

He then got to me, looks me up and down and said: "Make your moustache look like mine!"

I replied: Sorry Sarge, I haven't got any silver frost paint!"

With that, he turned and went on with his inspection. We both still laugh at this.

RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

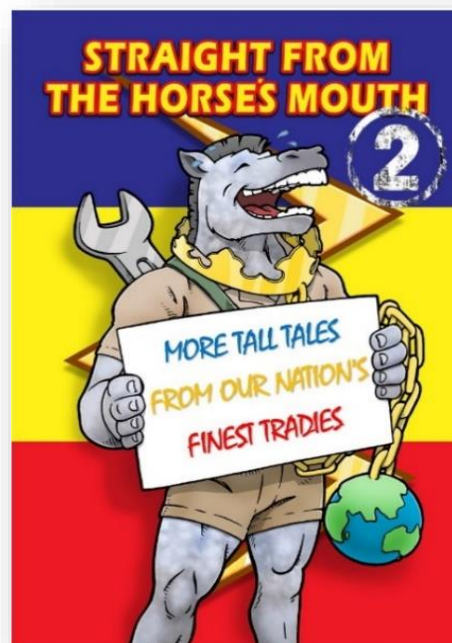
Due to the huge success of the First and Second editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* a third edition is being drafted now. The editors need more stories!!

If you have any funny stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com.

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

If you didn't get your order in for Edition 1 or Edition 2, it is not too late. Our Head of Corps Cell was gifted several hundred copies for sale from the Corps shop with all funds raised to be made available to support serving and retired members of our Corps.

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online (at <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop>) but at time of writing, they haven't as yet uploaded their books for sale. When they do, we will let you know but in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Head of Corps Cell at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.



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

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 Association is free to all serving or former members with a connection to RAEME who also live or work within the ACT region.