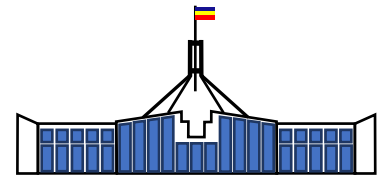




RAEME in ACTION



The newsletter of the ACT RAEME Association

Number 18: May 2024

For the attention of:

Members and supporters of the ACT RAEME Association

For the information of:

Members and supporters of all other national RAEME Associations

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President's Message

Greetings All, I hope this finds you all well and dealing ok with the delayed onset of our Canberra winter (ANZAC Day didn't require a heater but last Saturday was bitter!). Ian has put together another informative edition of the newsletter; it seems that each State views their veteran's concessions rather differently! After three(?) years of construction, having access to the War Memorial Parade Ground again for the Canberra ANZAC Day march contributed to another notable opportunity to share our collective experiences and reflect on those in who's steps we have followed. Sharing a tippie and nibble post march also contributed to a memorable day (there were a couple of my OCS classmates in town which may have extended the reflections a little longer than normal?!). Ian has included the words from the last post, two lines of which are worthy of our continued consideration: *A soldier cannot always be great, but he can be a gentleman and he can be a right good pal to his comrades in his squad. So all you soldiers listen to this—deal fair by all and you'll never be amiss.* I look forward to our next gathering (combined Spanner Club and Lanyard Parade). Stay well, APA

Getting our ACT together

Members, families or friends from other Associations who are visiting the ACT region 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
Tues 28 May	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link
Fri 14 Jun	1700-1800h	Spanner Club and RMC Lanyard Presentation	Olims, Ainslie (The Mecure)	Link
Tues 25 Jun	1930-2030h	Informal drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	Link

MAY						
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		

JUNE						
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

JULY						
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				

Legend



Mixed Lunch



Informal Drinks



Spanner Club



Significant Event

ANZAC Day 2024 - Canberra

ANZAC Day this year saw one of our largest turn-outs in recent years with both serving and retired members privileged to take part in the first parade on the Australian War Memorial's new parade ground with the Governor General receiving the salute for his final time in the role. Rather than words, please see below some images from the parade (images courtesy of the Australian War Memorial) and subsequent gathering at Olim's Hotel. What a great day to be part of!



ANZAC Day 2024 – Around the Globe

Photos courtesy of Facebook and Association Websites



ANZAC Day 2024 – Around the Globe continued



Whilst in earlier editions of *RAEME in ACTion* we reviewed entries from early *The RAEME Craftsman* magazines, for this *Looking Back* section we have included the cover of *Army News* of 25 April 1942, being the ANZAC Day in the year of our Corps' formation. ANZAC Day was recorded as indicated below:

*The Governor-General
(Lord Gowrie)
delivered an Anzac
message last night to
the people of
Australia.*



This newspaper may be read online at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3350913>. I encourage you to Take a look at what was important in a very different era.

Corps Status Update (as adapted from the Corps RSM's monthly report)

During my 15 months as Corps RSM I have had the pleasure of addressing many promotion courses over the last 15 months. There are common themes in the questions I receive, which often emotive and not always based in fact and I would strongly encourage leadership to review my points at the link. It is our responsibility as leaders to ensure we are up-to-date on policy so that our tradies are correctly informed.

1. Why can't we all get a bonus, this will encourage me to stay longer?
2. What is the Corps doing to about retention?
3. Why don't I spend more time doing my trade, and how is the HOC going to fix this?
4. How is the HOC going to help Recovery gain more skills and be able to recover vehicles on major highways/roads?
5. Will the HOC be pushing units to conduct more PME / trade training (recovery) in places like the CTA etc?

These all seem like legitimate questions from a soldier, however when you begin to see the same questions over a 15-month period it becomes evident that the soldier isn't forthcoming with engagement with their respective CoC or the Master Artificers (who all openly state they can be contacted by anyone if they have a trade related question). Whether the lack of insight from the soldier is due to their own awareness or a lack of understand from the CoC is neither here nor there, what is important that we (all members holding a position of rank) take the time to expectation manage / mentor & provide advice to our soldiers.

Please don't take this as I want the questions to stop, that is not my intent at all, I'm asking for help from you all to inform / engage / manage your members, help them to help themselves. I will continue to openly reply to every question, if I am unable to answer I will go find the answer from an SME.

To answer the questions above:

1. Bonuses are a short-term fix that is actually a terrible business model as shown in the Harvard Business Review extract below. Historically members that have been offered a bonus, stay for the short term, once time is met, ask for another bonus or leave anyway. This isn't sustainable.

What we should be talking to is the actual conditions of service we receive:

Base salary CFN – \$84,710 - \$89,203 depending on your trade

Gym membership for yourself – \$800/\$1000

Subsidised housing (based on average rent in a capital city) – \$17,000

HPAS \$16,000 to buy a house

DHOAS, 40% of your house interest repayments up to your loan limit

HPSEA – sell / buy costs covered on posting

Medical & dental for you (insurance /average cost per family) – \$3,000

ADFFH \$800 per dependant per year

25 days paid leave (5 more than your civilian counterparts) – \$1,000

16.5% Super, which is above industry counterparts

From a very basic POV the soldier receives ~\$102,000. This equates to 15% more than the average technician receives at Toyota. Just because you don't see money in your fortnightly pay, doesn't mean you don't earn more money than you see.

Corps Status Update continued

2. The HOC Cell is dedicated to helping with the retention issue (it's not only a RAEME issue), we are pushing more back through AHQ to enlighten them on the larger issues surrounding our technicians (time on tools / parts availability / work place hollowness). The HOC is fighting the retention issues as best he can, what I would advise if you are at all unsure or have questions please head over to the R2T2 page: Pages - Recruiting and Retention (defence.gov.au) and scroll through the various initiatives (includes status updates and RFIs).
3. See my point under Regional Maintenance Dashboard below
- 4/5. The NHVRL has been changed to allow some recovery to occur. I put the training back to Units and individuals, if you think more training is required, then build training plans, get the equipment needed and conduct the training, we as the HOC Cell can try influence command, but it is actually up to commanders (all ranks) to instigate training at all levels.

Corps Conference 2024

The Corps Conference location for 2024 is Townsville within 3 Brigade. This will allow insight into the work occurring around the restructure of the ADF, including base assets (needs to double in size), how the Brigade Commander sees the Brigade being utilised and gives those that may never have had the chance to partake in the conference an opportunity to attend.

At the point of drafting this email the dates look like:

30 Sep / 01 Oct – travel days

01 Oct – All ranks BBQ – dinner

02 Oct – Day 1 of conference

03 Oct – Day 2 of conference (mid-afternoon finish – all ranks dining-in night)

04 Oct – travel day

I will release a 'Warning Order' shortly with the agenda, accommodation details etc.

The Brigade ASM (WO1 Goninan) and WO2 Askew will be completing the relevant administration requirements (with assistance from HOC Cell) in the not too distant future IOT allow members as much time as possible to plan their attendance.

Regional Maintenance Dashboard

The DHOC-G (LTCOL Soper) has built a program that takes data from multiple sources and stores it as a functional / interactive source on information. The intent is for us as a Corps to begin to have a single point of reference that every member could drag data from, build a brief to commanders and allow visibility of all regions and their abilities to assist each other. This won't preclude the actual use of the TSN, this is still a pivotal role within our organisation and should not be discounted.

Craftsman Magazine

The magazine is in final review with Dave Clarke. Once completed he will send for print. Please continue to collect and prepare articles for the next Craftsman magazine.

It is great to see the interest begin to rise with some fantastic articles being submitted.

Corps Shop

The shop is live Welcome to HOC Corps Shop (<https://raeme.org.au>), please continue to provide feedback in order for us to build the stock on items you (the Corps) want to see for sale.

Corps Status Update continued

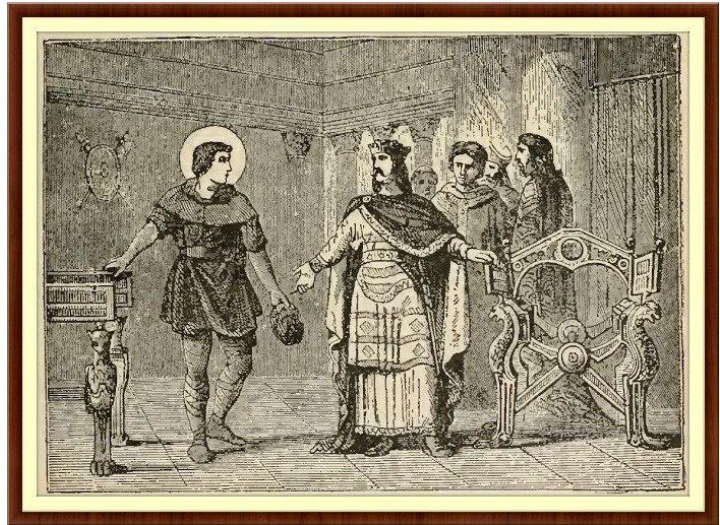
RAEME Corps Awards

Please begin to consider nominations for the awards. I will release more information in a month or two (relating to the changes within the Corps Instruction).

Eligius Cup

Saint Eligius has been the Patron Saint of our Corps since 1990 and as such, characterises the soldier-tradesman.

Saint Eligius (Known as Saint Éloi in France) is well known on the European Continent and is the patron saint of horses and those who work with them. He is also the patron saint of goldsmiths, metalworkers, coin collectors, veterinarians and is popular with farriers and mechanics.



The Eligius Cup will be a skills competition between three teams of nine, held here at ASEME around the week 25-28 Nov 24. Teams will have all trades of CFN-CPL rank led by a Lieutenant and this year teams will come from 1, 3, 7 Brigades.

At this point in time, the competition design has been ongoing, with the Master Artificers meeting last month to get the finer details down on paper and ready for submission to HOC our intent is to use 2024 as the trial to gauge interest and build on the design for the future. We are working tirelessly to ensure there will be no cost impost on BDEs or units for travel etc (more to follow). MAJ Howells is working with a manufacturing company to design a new trophy to be awarded to winning team (more to follow also).

Corps Subscription

The increased uptake has seen an increase in the time taken to prepare the scrolls / parchments & certificates to be presented to our deserving members. I ask that you provide us plenty of lead time and remain patient as we work through the increased workload (we have 1 person managing it all).

ASEME

Not much to update this month, it is business as usual. The new contract with Wodonga Institute of TAFE (WIOT) is progressing with the CO, KPMG and WIOT all working hard to ensure the change is as seamless as it can be.

The CO has been engaging with CO AST IOT clarify points of contention surrounding ECN222 and the training requirement. Once we (ASEME) have more information on the proposed changes we will release them.

The annual inter-wing completion has begun, with ACW being awarded (hotly contested) the winner of the swimming carnival & taking the gold home for the Mil Float.

Workforce and Training Group

W&TG have been working with Directorate of Recruiting – Army (DR-A) to update the pay for our trades listed on the ADF Careers website, and making the ‘total package’ clearer as shown above.

The ADF careers pages will soon include ECN 034 Technician Assistant, ECN 222 Marine Technician and ECN 235 Material Technician (Unqualified).

Source: <https://invictusaustralia.org/>

The Team at Invictus Australia are promoting the Zero600 movement to encourage veterans to conquer their mornings.

Rise at ZERO600 for six days to conquer your morning. Get active, connected and empowered, while funding sport programs that transform the health of military veterans and families. Invictus report that we lose six veterans a month to suicide. We can't accept that. Will you rise to the challenge and change lives?

About the Challenge

In the dark of winter it's tempting to retreat under the doona and seek the comfort of the snooze alarm. It's time to take back control of your day, by embracing the chill of a June morning to be rewarded with the transformative warmth and light of a sunrise.

Move from the darkness, toward light, a fresh start and a supercharged day!

Get up at 6am, for six days straight, and take on your challenge to raise funds for Australian Veterans, by supporting the work of Invictus Australia.

You'll be supporting programs that use sport to strengthen the mental and physical wellbeing of Aussie Veterans and their Families, by conquering your morning.

How It Works

STEP 1 Sign up for Zero600 at: <https://zero600.com.au/>

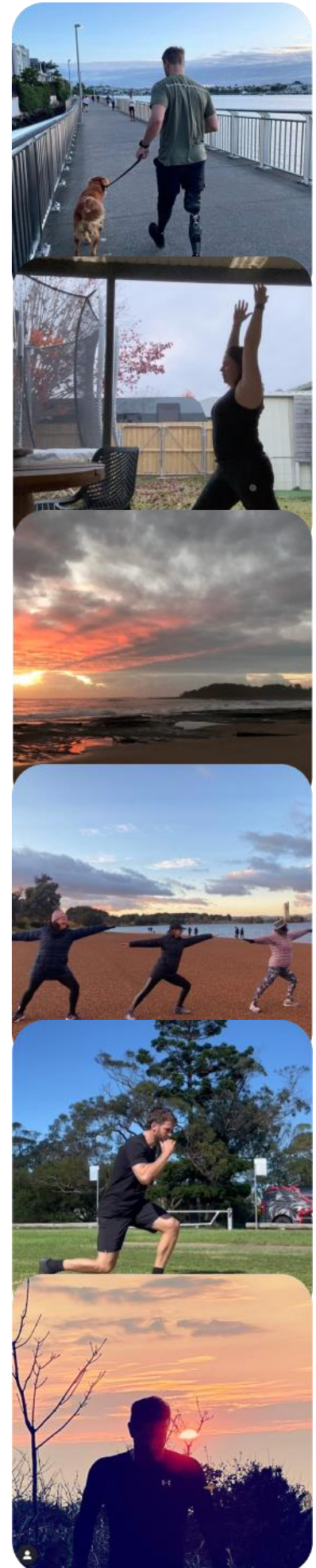
Go solo or even better, get your team, colleagues, or family and friends to  join you.

STEP 2 Pick your morning challenge

You could do a daily dog walk, 100 squats every morning or a 10k a day. It's your morning to conquer, your way.

STEP 3 Share and raise funds

Shout about your challenge on social media, and help to raise funds that will change the lives of veterans and their families.



The Australian War Memorial has a vast range of material recording the service of so many Australians but they also have a great collection of resources regarding the Customs and Traditions associated with Service. This can be found online at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/customs-and-ceremony>

Here is how the War Memorial records the significance of the Last Post.

In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition that mark the phases of the day. While Reveille signals the start of a soldier's day, the Last Post signals its end.

The call is believed to have originally been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as "tattoo", that began in the 17th century. In the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit's position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets. The officer would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The "first post" was sounded when he started his rounds and, as the party went from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest; if the soldiers were in a town, the beats told them it was time to leave the pubs. (The word "tattoo" comes from the Dutch for "turn off the taps" of beer kegs; Americans call this "taps" or "drum taps".) Another bugle call was sounded when the officer's party completed its rounds, reaching the "last post" – this signalled that the night sentries were alert at their posts and gave one last warning to the other soldiers.

The Last Post was eventually incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell, and symbolises the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.



When considering this against the lyrics of the Last Post, one can see not only how soldiers were called to return to barracks but also how significant the bugle call is now when played at commemorative events.

Come home! Come home!

The last post is sounding for you to hear

All good soldiers know very well there is nothing to fear while they do what is right, and forget all the worries they have met in their duties through the year

A soldier cannot always be great, but he can be a gentleman and he can be a right good pal to his comrades in his squad

So all you soldiers listen to this—Deal fair by all and you'll never be amiss

Be Brave! Be Just!

Be honest and True Men!

A video of the Last Post playing with these lyrics included as sub-titles can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXcPWvX3W9g>



Nationwide Summary of Potential Veteran Benefits of Concessions

Some military veterans are eligible based on their service or conditions that resulted from that service. The range of support is broad but regularly evolving.

The detail in the table below is a summary of potential eligibility for different concessions nation-wide. All information below was summarised from: <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/discounts-and-concessions>. Whilst all care has been taken when compiling this summary, all relevant State or Territory sites should be checked for currency or additional details regarding each potential concession.

Abbreviations used are listed below.¹

	ACT	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	NT	Tas
Medical								
PBS medication discounts	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC
National Diabetes Services Scheme discounts	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
Hearing services discounts	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
Discounted ambulance	PCC	PCC, GC, WC	Some		PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC
Discounted Glasses	PCC	Some	PCC, GC, WC		Some	PCC, GC, WC	Some	PCC
Discount dental		PCC	PCC		PCC	PCC, GC		PCC
Disability equipment discounts								PCC
Orthotics/prosthetics discounts								PCC
Lymphoedema support								PCC
Wig discounts								PCC, GC, WC
Enteral feeds and supplements								PCC
Continuous Positive Airways Pressure Program								PCC
Transport								
Public transport concessions	TPI, EDA, PCC, GC	PCC, GC, Some	TPI, EDA, Some	TPI, EDA, PCC, Some	TPI, EDA, PCC, GC	PCC, TPI, EDA, Some	PCC, Some	TPI, EDA, PCC, Some
Taxi Subsidy	Some	Some	TPI, EDA, GC, Some		Some			PCC, Some
Country Age Pension Fuel Card						Some		
Free or discounted driver licences	PCC, GC	PCC, GC, Some			Some	PCC, Some	Some	PCC, GC, WC

¹ All = All white or gold card holders

PCC = Pensioner Concession Card holders

GC = Gold Card Holders

OC = Orange Card Holders

WC = White card holders with specified conditions

Some = May be limited with individual concessions or conditions regardless if approved by DVA

TPI = Totally and Permanently Incapacitated members

EDA = Extreme Disablement Adjustment members

	ACT	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	NT	Tas
Free or discounted driving tests		Some						
Free or discounted registration	PCC	PCC, Some	TPI, PCC, GC	PCC, Some	PCC, Some		Some	PCC, GC, WC
Free or discounted motor vehicle tax / Stamp duty		PCC, Some	TPI, EDA		Some			PCC, GC, WC
Motor Vehicle GST exemption	TPI, Some	TPI, Some	TPI, Some	TPI, Some	TPI, Some	TPI, Some	TPI, Some	TPI, Some
Bass Straight air/ferry Concessions								Some
Communication								
Discounted postage stamps	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC
Discounts on re-directing mail	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC	CG, WC, OC
Discount on new telephone service connection fees	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC
Reduction in your home phone line plan costs	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC	PCC
Home								
Water, sewerage and storm water rebates	Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, OC	PCC, Some
Energy rebates or assistance payment	PCC, TPI, CG	PCC, Some	PCC, GC, Some	Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, Some	PCC, GC, OC	PCC, Some
Rebates on property rates	PCC, GC	TPI, EDA, PCC	TPI, EDA, PCC	PCC, GC	TPI, EDA, PCC	Some	PCC, GC, OC	TPI, PCC
Fire Services Property Levy Concession			TPI, PCC					
Water and Sewerage Connection Scheme			PCC, GC					
Utility Relief Grant Schemes			PCC, GC					
Medical Cooling Concession			PCC, GC					
Air Con Rebate						PCC, GC		
Property Stamp Duty concession			PCC, GC					
Other								
Discounted fishing licences		TPI, EDA, PCC	TPI, PCC					PCC
Discounted game licences								PCC
Discounted firearms licences								PCC
Pet Registration			PCC					
TAFE or RTO fees		Some				PCC		PCC
Will Drafting discount						All		PCC
Adult Education Discounts		Some				PCC		PCC
Discounts on recreation park entry								Some

Nationwide Summary of Potential Veteran Benefits of Concessions continued

For further details regarding concessions that may be available in each State or Territory:

ACT	https://www.act.gov.au/community/support-for-veterans-and-their-families https://www.act.gov.au/money-and-tax/cost-of-living-support/key-concessions-to-help-with-the-cost-of-living
NSW	https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/guide/veterans
Vic	https://www.vic.gov.au/concessions-veterans
Qld	https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/veterans/financial-and-legal-support/concessions
SA	https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/concessions/
WA	https://concessions.communities.wa.gov.au/
NT	https://nt.gov.au/community/concessions-and-payments
Tas	https://www.concessions.tas.gov.au/

State-by-state equality

Due to the nature of variations between regulatory authorities in each State or Territory, it is evident that different regions apply differing levels of support to veterans.

If you find a State or Territory has a veteran benefit that would be of benefit to you, you might consider writing to your relevant authority to recommend introduction of a similar scheme in your region. Those authorities may be:

ACT	Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families – https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/veterans/ministerial-advisory-council-for-veterans-and-their-families
NSW	NSW Office for Veterans Affairs – https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/about-us/veterans-information-and-services/ Minister for Veterans – https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/about-us/minister/
Vic	Victorian Veterans Portfolio – https://www.vic.gov.au/about-victorian-veterans-portfolio
Qld	Office for Veterans – https://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/government-structure/office-for-veterans https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/veterans
SA	Veterans SA – https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/
WA	Veteran Services – https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-jobs-tourism-science-and-innovation/veteran-services
NT	Minister for Veterans' Affairs – https://parliament.nt.gov.au/members/by-name/brent-potter
Tas	Minister for Veterans' Affairs – https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/cabinet/guy_barnett

Disclaimer

It is clear that the available concessions vary greatly between States and they are continually evolving.

Whilst the information presented here was correct at the time of drafting, it should be checked for accuracy as circumstances apply to the reader.

Happenings across the RAEME National Network include:

- **Queensland.** The Qld team have recently expanded their social media presence to include Facebook. You can find their page by searching for “RAEME Association Qld”. They also had their General Meeting last month, the Minutes from which reported some very healthy growth in membership. The other big news from Qld is that the Association has just welcomed that 1,000th member. The Qld team is at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au>.
- **Tasmania.** The RAT team recently released their latest newsletter. In this, they announced release of some good-looking polo shirts in their store. They also provided write-ups about Association activities, including ANZAC Day and last year’s RAEME Birthday. The big news from the Apple Isle though is the reunion they were considering for mid-November has now received enough interest that it is going ahead! Details are on the reunion pages below, as are a couple of other Tasmania-based events. Check out the Association: <https://tas.raeme.org.au/>
- **Northern Territory.** 1 CSSB Recovery teams from 101 Field Workshop worked alongside RAAF personnel on RAAF Base Darwin this week to lift an A3-100 Mirage. The Mirage had to be lifted from its display pad and relocated to the road alongside so it could be taken for a quick freshen up with a coat of paint and to receive any minor repairs required. The Recovery team utilised their heavy assets being the MAN 45M Heavy Recovery Vehicle which made light work of the task at hand.



- **Apprentice Association.** Expressions of interest are sought from members for the AGM and Australian Army Apprentices Association Dinner, to be held at the Maroochy RSL, Sunshine Coast Qld, on 26th October 2024. There will be an all-intakes get-together on the preceding Friday evening, with casual drinks and food at attendees’ cost, to see who you can remember and those that you can’t. The 2024 AGM of the Association will be held on the Saturday morning starting at 1030 hrs.

Members’ attendance is appreciated to see what is happening within the Association and also a chance to be part of the voting for those positions on the Committee that become vacant at the meeting. Or in fact to nominate for a position prior to the meeting. A formal sit-down 3-course meal for Association members and their partners will be held on the Saturday evening at 1830 hrs for 1900 hrs start. Seating will be at round tables to allow easier conversations to be held. To enable the Committee to better select the venues and best pricing we can negotiate, an indication as to the number of personnel who will be attending the get-together, AGM and dinner is required.

Please provide the following information to treasurer@austarmyapprentice.org by 30th April 2024:

Name

Regimental number

Association Membership number

Intake

Total number of personnel attending, i.e., self and how many others?

Saturday morning AGM YES/NO

Saturday evening Dinner YES/NO, number

As time comes closer, the Association will provide a registration form which will provide actual pricing. Further details are at: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/>

DVA: Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP)

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/programs-services/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap>

What is the RAP

The Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) provides aids, equipment and modifications to help our clients to live safely and independently. The RAP supplies items (such as aids, equipment and modifications) to clients to:

- help them with an assessed clinical health care need
- minimise the impact of their disabilities or dysfunction
- improve their quality of life
- enable them to live safely and with independence
- facilitate their participation in the community
- be an adjunct to their health treatment or a rehabilitation plan

What items are available under the RAP

The [RAP National Schedule of Equipment](#) (RAP schedule) lists the aids, equipment and modifications that are available. These fall into the following broad categories:

- assistive listening devices and tinnitus devices
- speech and communication devices
- low vision appliances (non-optical)
- cognition and memory devices
- swallowing and feeding appliances
- bathing, toileting, continence and personal hygiene products
- diabetes products
- assistance dogs (psychiatric assistance dogs, guide dogs, hearing assistance dogs and mobility assistance dogs)
- alarm system / communication appliances/assistive listening devices
- respiratory home therapy devices, including oxygen and positive airway pressure machines, beds and related appliances
- chairs and other supports
- Lifting devices
- adaptive household appliances to help with doing everyday things around the house mobility devices to help with moving around, such as a walking frame, knee walkers, manual wheelchairs, electric scooters and wheelchairs
- orthoses and prostheses
- footwear not obtained through the Medical Grade Footwear Program
- rehabilitation exercise and treatment machines
- palliative care appliances
- home modifications – non complex
- home modifications – complex
- stoma appliances

Who is eligible for support under the RAP

Clients may be eligible for the RAP if they have an assessed clinical need and either a:

- Veteran Gold Card
- Veteran White Card and the equipment is for an accepted condition

Further eligibility criteria apply to some items.

Nominations open for Prime Minister's National Veteran Employment Awards

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/nominations-open-prime-ministers-national-veteran-employment-awards>

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh recently announced the opening of nominations for the 2024 Prime Minister's National Veteran Employment Awards.

The annual Awards recognise the achievements of Australian organisations that actively recruit, employ and support veterans and veteran partners, and are creating workplaces where they can thrive. The Awards also commend individual employees and entrepreneurs who are using their ADF-related experience to succeed within the civilian workforce.

Now in their seventh year, the Awards are the flagship of the Veteran Employment Program (VEP), which brings together a range of resources and initiatives to support veteran and partner job-seekers and employers. It also seeks to champion veteran employment by raising awareness of the skills and experience veterans bring to the civilian workforce

Veteran employment is a key priority for the Government, which is investing \$24 million to deliver the VEP.

A key element of the VEP is the renewed Veteran Employment Commitment (VEC), which was announced in April 2024. The VEC requires organisations to demonstrate their commitment to creating an environment where Australia's veterans can perform at their best.

There are 9 Award categories open for public nomination, including a new category to recognise regional employers: the Excellence in Supporting Veteran/Partner Employment – Regional award.

Categories for this year's Awards include:

Individual

- Veteran Employee of the Year
- Veteran Entrepreneur of the Year
- Partner Employee of the Year
- Partner Entrepreneur of the Year



2021 Winner – Australian Expedition Vehicles

Previous ex-RAEME recipients

2021, [Australian Expedition Vehicles](#), owned by Mick McMillian, won both the *Veterans' Employer of the Year – Small* and *Outstanding Veterans' Employer of the Year* awards.

2019, [Ironsides Resources](#) won the *Excellence in Supporting Veterans' Employment* award. They were also finalists in 2018, 2020, 2021. The owner, Glen Ferrarotto also received an award in 2018 for *Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to Veterans' Employment*.



2019 Winner – Ironsides Resources

Industry

- Employer of the Year – Small
- Employer of the Year – Medium
- Employer of the Year – Large
- Excellence in Supporting Veteran/Partner Employment – National
- Excellence in Supporting Veteran/Partner Employment – Regional

Nominations for the 2024 Awards are now open and close 11:59pm AEST 31 May 2024, with the winners to be announced later in the year.

To nominate for the Awards, and for more information, visit the Veteran Employment Program website (www.veteranemployment.gov.au).

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: An exhibition of 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 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: 17 May only

Cost: Free

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lifting-the-lid-view-the-original-australian-constitution-tickets-803615835597?aff=oddtcreat>



Open Arms Group Programs

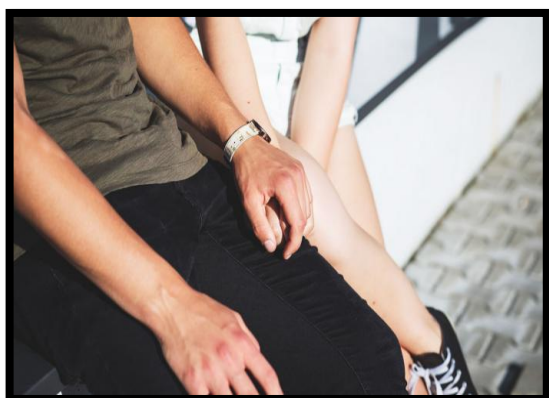


Stepping out

- What:** A workshop that examines the civilian transition process in both practical and emotional terms
- Who:** ADF members and their partners about to or recently in transition to civilian life.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 16-17 May, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Sleeping better

- What:** A program to help you manage disturbed sleep
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 30-31 May, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm



Recovery from trauma

- What:** A program to help understand and manage the impact of trauma on you and your family
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 20-21 June, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Understanding anxiety

- What:** A program that teaches you strategies and skills for managing anxiety
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Length:** Two-day program
- When:** 25-26 July, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm



To find more information about these programs or several others, or to register for one of the above sessions, please visit: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

Veteran Support Centre

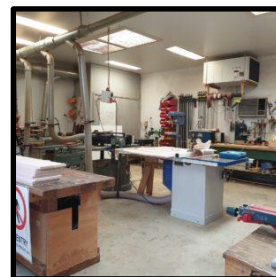
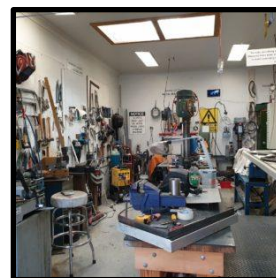
The Veterans Support Centre (VSC) is a veteran-run organisation with a mission to help veterans through-life. Pre-2009, VSC was known as the *Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation*.

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.



Newsletter. In a recent (and very comprehensive) newsletter, VSC outlined a lot about what is happening in the veteran support space. Some of the key points were:

- **DVA harmonisation.** The combining of DVA's different legislative acts into one is warmly welcomed by VSC for the support it will provide veterans, especially when noting that the new legislation will be introduced on the premise that no veteran will be disadvantaged.
- **Regular activities:**
 - Mondays Gardening group from 1000-1200h
 - Tuesdays Walking groups. Contact the organiser, Terry Lawler on terrylawler71@bigpond.com or 0401-109-550 to confirm starting locations. 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)
- **Pension increases.** The newsletter provides a summary of recent boosts to all DVA pension amounts.
- **Advocate training.** DVA recently ran training for veteran support advocates. They are however taking numbers for the next course so if becoming an advocate is something you may be interested in, please reach out to VSC.
- **DVA processing.** VSC reports that DVA have adopted a new model that sees claims allocated to a delegate within 2 weeks or so rather than sitting in an inbox for an extensive period. This doesn't mean it will be resolved quickly (yet) but at least it is a move in the right direction.
- **Maralinga medal.** Individuals who served at Maralinga and other UK nuclear test program locations, like the Monte Bello Islands, are now eligible for a medal recognizing their service. Known as the Nuclear Test Medal, this medal was authorized by the British Prime Minister in September 2022. The Nuclear Test Medal is open to British and Commonwealth military personnel, as well as civilians, who took part in nuclear test programs. For detailed eligibility requirements, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-test-medal-eligibility-criteria>.
- The VSC website is under development but the newsletter will be available online soon.



Reunions or Gatherings

The following reunions or gatherings are being planned:

RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members.

Where: Toowoomba City Golf Club

When: Sun 19 May 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

Army Museum of SA – History Lunch

Who: All past and serving members

Where: Army Museum of SA

When: 22 May 2024 from 1200-1400h

Cost: \$30 per person (\$25 concession)

POC: Greg Rosser on GregRosser@adam.com.au or 0423-715-464

SE QLD Apprentice Reunion

Who: All apprentices

Where: Bulimba Bowls Club

When: Sat 1 Jun 2024

POC: functions@qld.raeme.org.au

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.

Where: Lenah Valley RSL

When: 15 June, 1800-2100h

Annual OCS Portsea Alumni Lunch

Who: Alumni, Staff and other friends of Portsea are most welcome to attend

Where: Kittyhawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club

When: Tues 16 Jul 2024

POC: <https://www.ocsportsea.org/ocs-alumni-lunch-2024/>

All Intakes Apprentice Reunion

Who: All intake Army Apprentices

Where: Largs Bay RSL

When: 3 August 2024

Time: 1200 hrs to 1600 hr

POC: Michael Thompson, 26th Intake Vehicle Mechanic

Details: Facebook – *Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth* page

Reunions or Gatherings continued

101st Field Workshop Reunion

Who: All past and present members of 101 Fd Wksp
Where: Ingleburn RSL Club
When: Sat 17 Aug 2024
Cost: TBA once locked in
POC: Karen Cairns, karencairns@bigpond.com, 0438-385-109
Michelle Lafferty (nee Bond), dmiji@bigpond.com, 0404-004-775
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

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

RAQ Gold Coast Function

Who: All past and serving members
Where: Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC
When: Sat 24 Aug 2024

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")

Reunions or Gatherings continued

RAT Luncheon

Who: All past and serving members in Tasmania.

Where: Claremont RSL

When: 19 Oct, 1800-2100h

AAAA AGM and informal dinner

Who: All apprentices

Where: Maroochydore RSL

When: Saturday 26 October 2024

Details: TBA

24th Intake 55th Reunion

Who: 24th Intake Apprentices

Where: Maroochydore RSL

When: 1-2 November 2024

POC: Phil Gibbs, 24th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, pergware4@bigpond.com

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

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

Cost: Dinner cost TBA closer to the event

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

Note: The Committee understands the financial burden of travelling to Hobart but needs sufficient numbers to make the reunion viable. If the Committee determines that it is not viable the event will be cancelled and notification will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

This decision will be made by Friday 10th May 2024 therefore please do not make any firm travel plans until after this date.

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*.

Whilst a student on Sub 1 for Sergeant at Singleton in the early 90s, I was on parade when a Sergeant who was conducting the dress inspection yelled at me:

"You're a RAEME Chick aren't you, CPL?"

Doesn't RAEME issue their girls a 'spare tyre', CPL?"

He continued yelling in my face out of his crooked mouth:

"Why didn't RAEME issue you a spare tyre, CPL?!! Answer Me!!"

The only appropriate answer I could beef out was:

"It looks like they gave it to you, Sarge"...

Yep, I spent the rest of the parade outside the SI's office. I may have been the only one smiling at that point!

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 stories!!

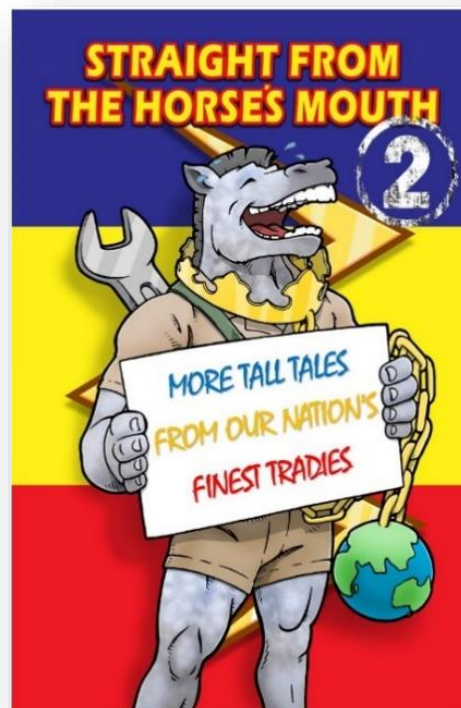
If you have any funny stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com.

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.

Ian also has a handful of copies left for sale (\$20 for Edition 1 and \$25 for Edition 2). He will take them to the next Association gathering. but once they are gone, they are gone!

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online but 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 published relevant to the Corps, please email us at: Secretary@act.raeme.org.au.

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary
ACT RAEME Association

