RAEME in ACTion

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

Edition: 27 March 2025

RAEME Invictus Game Athletes, Katie Chapman & Adam Jackson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

It doesn't seem quite right that we are in March; time flies when you have a calendar full of IOUs! It was good to see some new faces join our regulars at our first Spanner Club and Mixed Drinks of the year; I encourage all of our members to put the dates for our local gatherings into their calendars. The enthusiasm for progressing opportunities to improve our corps capabilities by our serving members is heartening and makes for some engaging discussions at the gatherings!

As highlighted by Ian in the newsletter, my apprentice mob have our 45th year reunion in Mudgee later this month. Showing my age, this is followed by my OCS mob's 40th in NZ in June. While undoubtably there may be some new versions of the truth shared, I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to gather with the respective crews, as by and large we remain young at heart and appreciative(?) of the education and experiences offered by both institutions that shaped us all going forward.

Stay well. For those marching, I will see you on ANZAC Day (and hopefully before).

Regards APA

GETTING OUR ACT TOGETHER

Fri 07 Mar From 1230h	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club	*Details*/ *RSVP*
Tues 25 Mar From 1930h	Mixed Drinks Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	*Details*
Fri 25 Apr	ANZAC Day Program to follow	*Details*
Fri 02 May From 1230h	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club	*Details*/ *RSVP*

See inside for further details re all events

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

Spanner Club | Mixed Lunch | Informal Drinks | Significant Event

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					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

APRIL

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				

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	

INVICTUS AUSTRALIA NEWS

Invictus Games – Vancouver Whistler – 8-16 February 2025

Team Australia kicks off Invictus Games campaign at full throttle

Following a touching welcome to Canada at the airport – including traditional drums, hearty hellos and bonjours from volunteers, and even a DJ spinning Aussie tunes as Team Australia landed in Vancouver on a Royal Australian Air Force KC-30A a few days earlier, the warm Invictus spirit continued, making the Aussies feel right at home despite the frigid conditions.

The 12,500-kilometre and 18-hour trek across the Pacific Ocean was a physically and mentally tiring one but the jet lag was long forgotten at the opening ceremony where the 33 Australian competitors, staff and about 100 family and friends danced along to live music from Chris Martin, Katy Perry, Noah Kahan, Nelly Furtardo and Quebec's own alt-pop star Roxane Bruneau.

The parade of nations was a particular highlight for Royal Australian Navy Lieutenant Commander Dave Miln, who was honoured with leading the team as Australian flag-bearer.

"It's been a long journey but it's an incredible honour to be given that responsibility, to carry the flag for the team and be that person out the front," he said.

"It's an amazing team of 33, we're all incredibly close and we've created an incredible bond over all the camps we've had but being here just reinforces that."

With a crowd of 40,000 watching on, Lieutenant Commander Miln led the Aussie contingent onto the stage signalling the high point of a long journey for the 39-year-old, who was injured in a tragic snow-removal-machine accident in California in 2023, resulting in the loss of both legs, fractured pelvis and six smashed vertebrae following a selfless act to save his children.

"It's been a long journey to get to this point so I'm just letting everything sink in and process," he said.

"It's been a lot for the family; it's the first time back on the snow since the accident for us so it has a double factor, for us as a family, looking to process and move forward," he said.

That spirit and determination was mirrored during the official opening address from Games patron Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, who founded the competition over a decade ago to support the recovery and rehabilitation of international wounded, injured and ill current and former serving military personnel.

"Over the past decade I've lost count of the times we've heard you tell us that the Invictus Games saved you. Respectfully, I disagree," Prince Harry told the crowd at Vancouver Convention Centre.

"Invictus didn't save you. You saved yourself. It was you, who pushed through the doubt and despair. You, who summited your own mountain and brought us along with you. It was you who kept going even when you didn't think you had any more to give. We didn't do that. You did.

"The Games simply reveal what is already within you. That scarcest - and most precious - of the world's resources: character. A spirit; of fortitude and perseverance that can never be defeated."

Following the opener, it was straight into the action with initial wheelchair basketball pool matches, where Team Australia took on Georgia, succumbing to the former Soviet republic nation 9 points to 12.

Play continues with more wheelchair basketball matches as well as wheelchair curling on day 2, before competitors head to Whistler for snow sports action on days 3, 4 and 5.

Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 continues until 16 February where the Australian Defence Force is partnering with Invictus Australia to support a team of 33 serving and former serving military members.

Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 Team Australia competitors celebrate winning their sitting volleyball game against Team Canada at the Vancouver Convention Centre, Canada

***Source**: https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-02-09/team-australia-kicks-invictus-games-campaign-full-throttle*

Our Invictus Team – *https://invictusaustralia.org/*

The Invictus Games saw over 500 competitors from 25 nations come together in Canada for the first ever Winter Hybrid Games. The Australian team included 33 former & current serving Defence Force members.

Two RAEME members who competed in the Games were:

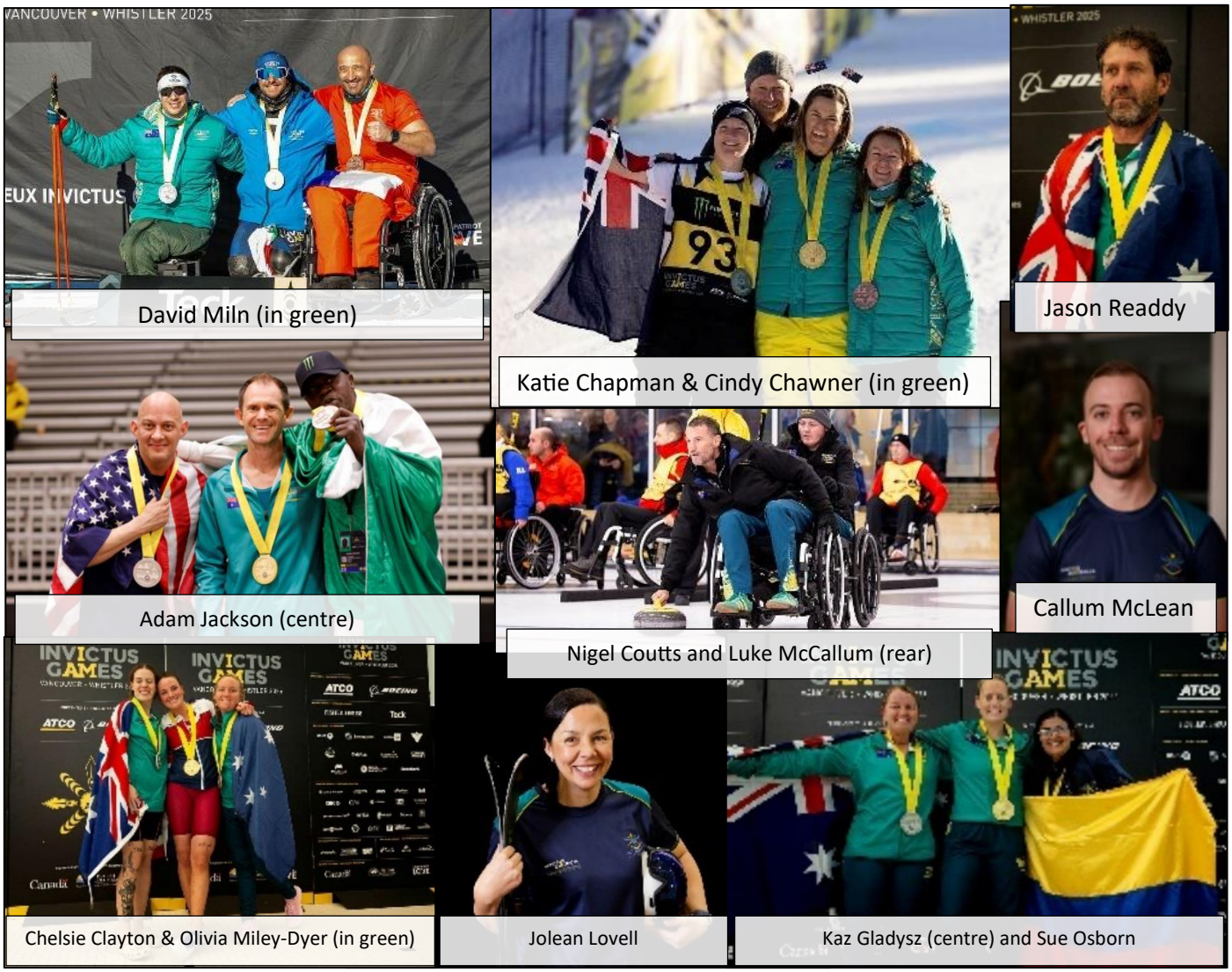
- **Adam Jackson**, a former Avionics Technician who enlisted in 2006 to maintain the electrical systems on Blackhawks, MRH90 Taipan Helicopters and Chinooks. He deployed to Afghanistan twice, and serving our country alongside other nations at Kandahar Airfield was the highlight of his career. Adam competed in: indoor rowing, Nordic skiing, sitting volleyball and swimming.
- **Katie Chapman**, a former EME officer who enlisted as a Reservist in 2001 whilst studying as Sydney Uni before transitioning to ARA in 2003 and graduating from RMC in 2005. Katie was medically discharged on 31 October 2018 with a combination of physical and mental health injuries. She competed in indoor rowing, snowboarding and sitting volleyball.

The Results – *https://results.invictusgames2025.ca/IG2025/lrs/home*

Australian Medallists

Events		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Swimming	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay	Team Israel	**Team Australia**	Team UK
	Women's 100m Freestyle ISE	USA	**Chelsie Clayton**	**Olivia Miley-Dyer**
	Women's 100m Freestyle ISC	**Jolean Lovell**	-	-
	Men's 100m Freestyle ISB	**Davil Miln**	Columbia	Columbia
	Men's 50m Backstroke ISE	**Callum McLean**	UK	UK
	Women's 50m Backstroke ISE	USA	**Olivia Miley-Dyer**	USA
	Women's 50m Backstroke ISD	**Karen Gladysz**	-	-
	Women's 50m Backstroke ISC	**Jolean Lovell**	USA	-
	Men's 50m Breaststroke ISB	**Davil Miln**	-	-
	Men's 50m Breaststroke ISE	**Callum McLean**	Israel	Israel
	Women's 50m Breaststroke	USA	**Chelsie Clayton**	**Karen Gladysz**
	Men's 50m Breaststroke ISB	**Davil Miln**	-	-
	Men's 50m Freestyle ISE	Israel	**Callum McLean**	UK
	Women's 50m Freestyle ISE	USA	**Chelsie Clayton**	UK
	Women's 50m Freestyle ISD	**Karen Gladysz**	**Sue Osborn**	Columbia
	Men's 50m Freestyle ISC	Ukraine	**Jason Readdy**	France
	Women's 50m Freestyle ISC	**Jolean Lovell**	UK	-
	Men's 50m Freestyle ISB	**Davil Miln**	Columbia	Columbia

Events		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Biathlon	Men's Int-Adv IBI1 - Sit Ski	Italy	**David Miln**	France
Indoor Rowing	Women's IR7 1 Minute Sprint	**Sue Osborn**	Columbia	**Tricia Reynolds**
	Women's IR3 1 Minute Sprint	Nigeria	**Jolean Lovell**	France
	Women IR7 4 Minute Enduro	**Sue Osborn**	**Katie Chapman**	UK
	Women IR3 4 Minute Enduro	**Jolean Lovell**	Nigeria	-
	Men's IR3 One Minute Sprint	**Adam Jackson**	USA	Nigeria
	Men's IR3 4 Minute Enduro	**Adam Jackson**	Ukraine	Columbia
Nordic Cross-Country	Women's Novice INO4 – Opn	**Olivia Miley-Dyer**	USA	UK
Skeleton	ISK1 Single Run	New Zealand	**Cindy Chawner**	**Tricia Reynolds**
	ISK1 Single Run	**Nigel Coutts**	Netherlands	Ukraine
Snowboarding	Women's Int-Adv ISB5	**Katie Chapman**	New Zealand	**Cindy Chawner**



David Miln (in green)

Katie Chapman & Cindy Chawner (in green)

Jason Readdy

Adam Jackson (centre)

Nigel Coutts and Luke McCallum (rear)

Callum McLean

Chelsie Clayton & Olivia Miley-Dyer (in green)

Jolean Lovell

Kaz Gladysz (centre) and Sue Osborn

Above and cover images courtesy of Invictus Australia and Defence Media. Full game results may be viewed at: https://results.invictusgames2025.ca/ Further Defence imagery may be viewed at: https://images.defence.gov.au/

INVICTUS AUSTRALIA ACTIVITIES – MARCH 2025

Below is a summary of Invictus Australia activities in which you can participate nationwide. To find more details about individual events or Invictus Australia, please visit: https://invictusaustralia.org/events/list/?tribe-bar-date=2025-03-01

Date	Time	State	Activity
Sat 1	8:30 am - 2:00 pm	NSW	True Grit - Hawkesbury, Lower Portland
Mon 3	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra
		Qld	Indoor Rowing Program, Toowoomba
Tues 4	From 9:30 am	ACT	**Invictus Trekkers (hike)** Mount Jerrabomberra, Jerrabomberra NSW
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	**Yoga** Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus Join David and Felicity's weekly yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation at the campus chapel, Burgmann Anglican School.
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Cairns
Wed 5	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Toowoomba
	7:00 pm - 10:00pm	NSW	(not)parkrun Walking Group, Stockton
Thurs 6	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Yoga, Nowra
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Townsville
		S-Qld	Yoga, Toowoomba
		S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Brisbane
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Ipswich
Mon 10	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra
		S-Qld	Indoor Rowing Program, Toowoomba
Tues 11	9:00 am - 1:30 pm	NSW	Discover Sailing - South Coast, Callala Bay
	10:30 am - 12:30 pm	NSW	Veteran and Family Pickleball, Dural
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	**Yoga** Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Cairns
Wed 12	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Toowoomba
Thurs 13	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Yoga, Nowra
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Townsville
		S-Qld	Yoga, Toowoomba
		S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Brisbane
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Ipswich
Fri 14	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	(not)parkrun Walking Group, Maitland
Sat 15	11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Victoria	Veteran and Family Archery, Diamond Valley
Mon 17	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra
		S-Qld	Indoor Rowing Program, Toowoomba
Tue 18	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	NSW	Invictus Trekkers, Dungog Common
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	**Yoga** Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Cairns
Wed 19	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Toowoomba

Date	Time	State	Activity
Wed 19	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	NSW	(not)parkrun Walking Group, Stockton
Thu 20	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Yoga, Nowra
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Townsville
		S-Qld	Yoga, Toowoomba
		S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Brisbane
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Ipswich
Sat 22	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	ACT	**Defence Community Sports Expo** Tuggeranong Archery Club 299 Soward Way, Greenway Join us for the ACT Defence Community Sports Expo on 22nd March! A fun-filled day of sports, connection, and community for all. A welcoming family day that creates a unique opportunity
Mon 24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra
		S-Qld	Indoor Rowing Program, Toowoomba
Tue 25	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	NSW	Cuppa and Carpet Bowls, Nowra
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	ACT	**Yoga** Burgmann Anglican School Valley Campus
Wed 26	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Cairns
		S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Toowoomba
Thu 27	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NSW	Yoga, Nowra
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	N-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Townsville
		S-Qld	Yoga , Toowoomba
		S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Brisbane
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	S-Qld	Women in Fitness HIIT Program, Ipswich
Fri 28	9:30 am - 11:00 am	NSW	(not)parkrun Walking Group, Maitland
	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	N-Qld	Veteran and Family Pickleball Session, Townsville
Sun 30	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	NSW	Veteran and Family Golf Day, Newcastle
Mon 31	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	NSW	Indoor Rowing Program, Nowra
		S-Qld	Indoor Rowing Program, Toowoomba

Ironside Recruiting – Featured Job Listing

National Training Assurance Coordinator - Perth

About the Company

This organisation is a prominent player in the energy and logistics sector, providing integrated solutions across Australia. They support industries such as oil & gas, mining, and resources with a strong focus on safety, operational excellence, and continuous improvement. Their culture is built on integrity, teamwork, and a commitment to high standards.

About the Role

As the National Training Assurance Coordinator, you will be responsible for overseeing training and compliance activities across national operations.

This role requires close collaboration with site managers to identify training needs, develop and implement effective training programs, and ensure compliance with industry and company standards.

About You

You are an experienced training professional with a strong background in compliance and safety. Your ability to engage with diverse teams, manage training programs, and ensure high standards of operational readiness makes you an ideal fit.

Check out the Training Coordinator role by clicking here.

ANZAC DAY NATIONWIDE – INITIAL PLANS

Adelaide
Dawn Service: 0500h at the SA National War Memorial
March: Stepping off 0930h. in Pulteney Street.

Brisbane
Dawn Service: 0428h at Anzac Square
March: Stepping off at 1000h in Adelaide St, City

Canberra
Dawn Service: 0530h at the Australian War Memorial
March: 0930h form up on ANZAC Parade

Darwin
Dawn Service: 0600h at the Cenotaph
March: 0845h form up on the Esplanade.

Hobart
Dawn Service: 0600h at the Cenotaph, Queens Domain
March: 0930h preassemble at Customs House Hotel

Launceston
Dawn Service: 0600h at the Cenotaph
March: 0915h Assemble in Charles St

Melbourne
Dawn Service: 0530h start at the Shrine of Remembrance.
March: Stepping off 0900h from Flinders St

Perth
Dawn Service: 0550h start from the State War Memorial.
March: Stepping off from 0900h St Georges Tce

Sydney
Dawn Service: 0500h at 5 CSSB, Holsworthy Barracks.
March: 0900h form up in O'Connell St, CBD.

Townsville
Dawn Service: 0520h at the Anzac Park Cenotaph
March: 0830h assembly the Strand Park

Wodonga
Dawn Service: 0545h in Woodland Grove on High Street
March: 1000h assembly in top carpark of Wodonga RSL

Note: All of the above details will be confirmed and updated as required in the April edition of *RAEME in ACTion*.

HONOURING OUR ANZACS ON THE FIELDS WHERE THEY FELL

For more than a century, on Anzac Day Australians have recognised those who have served our country in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

This year year, 25 April marks a poignant milestone: the 110th anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli, Türkiye, in the First World War.

Attending an international Anzac Day Dawn Service is a unique opportunity to commemorate Australia's wartime history on the very lands where these events took place, and the Anzac legend was forged – on the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Western Front.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service in Türkiye will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, followed by a mid-morning Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine Cemetery, one of the fiercest battlegrounds fought on by Australians on the peninsula.

In France, the Dawn Service will be held at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux. In 1918, Australian forces intensely battled for the small town of Villers-Bretonneux on the Western Front, taking it back after a major German offensive. An Australian service will be held later in the afternoon at the 'Digger' Memorial, just outside the town of Bullecourt.

Those planning to attend the international Anzac Day Dawn Services in Türkiye or France will need to register for an attendance pass for entry. It's free and available online at https://commemorations.teg.com.au.

We encourage Australians travelling overseas to Türkiye or France to become familiar with the entry requirements for each country and stay up to date with the latest travel advice via https://smartraveller.gov.au.

Those unable to attend the international services who wish to share in the commemorative tradition can watch the services live, broadcast on ABC television.

More information is available at: https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorations/commemorative-services/overseas-commemorative-services.

Thousands of pilgrims and dignitaries attended the 109th Dawn Service held at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Image courtesy of the Australian Department of Defence.

CORPS STATUS UPDATE

Source: Adapted from the Corps RSM's monthly reports dated 07 and 27 Feb 2025

Welcome to 2025, so many changes to Units, staffing and what Army undertakes/priorities. I truly hope everyone has had a great break (if able to do so), enjoyed time with family and friends and rebuilt the desire to undertake 'Skill with Fighting'.

2025 – What to expect

For the second time in Corps history, we have a non-corps member as the RSM ASEME. The so what of this is; I have asked to undertake the Corps RSM role. This in itself is exciting as I will be filling the role from Army's newest Battalion, 16 Aviation Support Battalion (16 ASB) in Townsville. This offers an opportunity to see our comrades working on our air assets and provide updates to the wider Corps on their issues (as they become close to heart).

If privileged to be announced as Corps RSM I will continue to send out emails monthly, as knowledge is power, I have always wanted everyone to know what is going on locally, nationally and abroad. I will be seeking input from the new RSM ASEME, WO1 Chris Clifton (RAAC) and WT&G, MAJ Penelope Neilson.

It is important for all to note, RSM ASEME holds no Corps responsibilities, if you have Corps issues, please send to myself. The SO2, MAJ Craig Chatterton and SGT Rob Clarke remain within the HOC Cell and are also great sources of assistance.

Aviation Command will be receiving the Apache attack helicopter, arguably the deadliest helicopter in the world. This in itself will bring new challenges, a giant leap in technology, new training philosophies (pilots and maintainers) and new facilities. In order to facilitate change within Army's strategic plan, Aviation Command has undergone dramatic changes to their construct, 1 AVN REGT will be moved to Townsville over the next 2-3 years, 5 AVN REGT will be sharing facilities with 1 AVN REGT & 16 ASB, with the ASB being the second line maintenance facility in partnership with Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

RAEME AVN will be participating in the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal for a pay case consideration in February 2025. The tribunal will be visiting Hamel Lines (Townsville), with displays and discussion points being finalised over the next two weeks.

If you have any ECN411/412 friends that have separated (VOL SEP) and are interested in part time work, please let them know 16 Aviation Support Battalion has plenty of positions available and are willing to work with any perspective members to assist them in seeking employment.

There are numerous employment opportunities available for any soldier to undertake a trade transfer (any Corps), especially if interested in:

- ECN 222 – Marine Technician
- ECN 411 – Technician Aircraft
- ECN 412 – Technician Avionics

These trades are often very undersubscribed and at risk of nil attendance, please peddle the opportunities amongst your friends and peers, as in the long run it benefits the entire corps.

Head of Corps Announcement

Massive congratulations to Brigadier Gabrielle Follett AM (Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia) with the announcement of her role as the Head of Corps – RAEME. Ma'am, I look forward to working with you and seeing where you choose to take the Corps over the period of your tenure.

Short history on BRIG Follett; currently Director General Fuel Services Branch.

BRIG Follett joined the Army in 1996, completing a Bachelor of Science at Australian Defence Force Academy. BRIG Follett has gone on to complete a Bachelor of Medical Science, Master of Arts in Strategy and Policy, Graduate Diploma of Strategy in Defence Studies, Graduate Diploma of Defence Studies and Master of International relations.

Postings include; 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, 1 Combat Service Support Battalion, HQ Logistic Support Facility, Royal Military College – Duntroon, UN Observer OP PALDADIN, Long term Schooling, 3 Combat Service Support Battalion, HQ 17 Combat Service Support, HQ SOCOMD & Fuel Services Branch.

***Editor's note**: BRIG Follett has advised that she will provide an introduction to her appointment as Head of Corps in due course. Once received, we will be sure to publish it for all members*.

Points of contact – Head of Corps cell

For those not aware, the Corps RSM is not situated within ASEME or the AWMA this year (first time in a long time), I am posted to 16 Aviation Support Battalion – Townsville.

The SO2, MAJ Craig Chatterton (Adelaide) and WO1 Dave Clarke & SGT Rob Clarke remain within the HOC Cell (Latchford barracks) and are also great sources of assistance and will work hard to action anything you require.

ASEME

The new command team, CO LTCOL Hans Hamilton (RAEME) and RSM WO1 Christopher Clifton (RAAC), have been warmly welcomed to the unit, taking over from the outgoing command team of CO LTCOL Soper (RAEME) and RSM WO1 Jon Tynan (RAEME). The outgoing team has left the unit in a strong position, with sustainable training programs and a successful partnership with Wodonga TAFE.

The first month of training has seen staff and trainees return to work and step through their induction training. Trade and promotion courses have also resumed, with CO and RSM visiting the various wings and promotion courses to introduce themselves and offer support.

The command team has made visits to Cerberus to view ECN 222 training and has plans to touch base with regional trade training outlets and On-the-Job-Trainees (OJTs) in Darwin and Brisbane over the coming month.

Physical training is in full swing, with the school moving towards the introduction of fighting Fridays (Battle PT). Small teams of section and platoon strength will be put through their paces, building the unit's combat conditioning and mental reliance.

Overall, the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering is off to a strong start under the new command team, with a focus on sustainable training, partnerships, and enhancing our approach to a warfighting context.

Honours and Awards

Massive congratulations to the below members for their Australia Day 2025 honours or awards:

- CFN N. Conspicuous Service Medal – For meritorious achievement in the application of remarkable judgement in non-warlike situations as the Heavy Marine Maintainer within 2nd Commando Regiment.
- MAJ Katelyn Thorne. Conspicuous Service Medal – For meritorious achievement in streamlining operational reporting, systems administration and governance for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation on OPERATION PALADIN from July 2022 to July 2023.

We have almost completed the full review of all Corps Instructions, the H&A being one I am passionate about.

RAEME Corps Instruction 28 - *The RAEME Corps Annual Performance Awards* is available for comment in draft mode.

With the above in mind, please begin thinking about those who may be warranted of the awards this year. The nomination should consider the member's overall performance, technical mastery and activities external to the ADF (think Community Engagement, etc). I am working on the assessment matrix and once I have that completed, I will ensure it is sent to all.

Corps Port

The current Corps Instructions state; units wishing to nominate to undertake the distribution of the yearly Corps Port are due NLT 01 July in the preceding year. We are amending the CI to state 01 Apr, as this allows each unit more time to engage with their distributors, finalise labels, etc, prior to forwarding the Port onto members NLT 01 Nov of the same year. The intent is to hold the units to account now for their administration and preparedness to undertake the task. It is disappointing for members to not have received their orders in late Feb/march of the following year (this is not the first time this has occurred).

For those units interested in submitting a nomination to undertake the RAEME port this year, the CI is available from HOC Cell.

I have spoken with 1 AVN REGT – Workshops, they are working with the distributor to rectify the issue surrounding members not receiving their order yet. It is as frustrating to them as it is to you. The supplier lost water supply (can't make port without water), floods have reduced access for vehicles, the list goes on. I have asked the representative to engage with all Regional RAEME Representatives to get information out about dates orders can expect to be delivered.

St Eligius Trophy - update

We (RAEME) have been invited to attend the 'Farriers Cup' Competition in New Zealand this year, it is envisioned that the winning St Eligius Competition 2024 team (7 BDE) would make up the majority (if not all) the team. I am in contact with 7 BDE ASM in order to gather the names (and/or replacements) so I can finalise the Overseas Visit Authority (OVA). More information will be released once we can have the form signed and processed through Army Headquarters.

The 2025 competition is already in the planning phase, with our intent to expand to all BDEs and include all RAEME ECNs. This will not be an easy task, however; I am positive the Master Artificers are up to the task. The proposed dates are 24-28 Nov 25, in Bandiana.

I have written to all members that were short listed as the team to participate in the 'Farriers Cup' Competition in New Zealand to be held in March this year. Due to the amount of lead time required, the administrative requirements and impost on units, we have had to postpone our attendance. I have replied to the New Zealand Army, explaining our position and apologising to them also.

The master Artificers and myself have meet for the first time this year in order to discuss the St Eligius Trophy for 2025. The inclusion of AVN components is still proving challenging and will require a lot of work to be included (airframe, etc). Marine Technician is in a similar position, as it's a little complicated finding a watercraft to fit our needs right now,

however; WO1 Costin is working hard to find a solution. With this in mind, the competition will have a similar team make up as last year's competition. The intent for 2025 is to invite all Brigades (and SOCOMD) to participate (a further logistical challenge). There will be some minor changes, with the completion taking on a more combat mindset, which may include things such as:

- Conduct of tasks under NFE
- Actual FRT by day and night

Physically demanding activity, the day prior to induce minor stress on the body. We (MAs and myself) will meet again in Q2 in order to get the details on paper, with invites send NLT June 25 (which will include the concept of the competition).

Corps Flag – appropriateness

Before I am bombarded with emails and rebuttals and without trying to be a negative Nancy or be a Corps RSM without Esprit de Corps, it has unfortunately been raised to myself numerous times throughout my tenure that we (the Corps members) are possibly flying our flags at inappropriate times/locations. Whilst Corps pride attempting to include the RAEME flag in photographs is commendable, unfortunately the inclusion of the flag either prominently, or discreetly in the background, has meant that opportunities to positively reflect Army and/or the Defence Force have been missed through vetting processes that will exclude such images.

IAW Corps Instruction Nine; The Corps Flag may be flown at:

a. a RAEME unit or other RAEME headquarters, commanded by an officer of the rank of LTCOL or above
b. The Craftsman Memorial
c. Sporting and social gatherings when ordered by the local senior RAEME Commander (this is important to remember).

The Flag should be flown at RAEME parades at which the Colonel-in-Chief, Representative Colonel Commandant, Head of Corps, or a Colonel Commandant is present.

RAEME Workshop Tri-colour Flags may be flown in unit static or field locations to denote a RAEME establishment or detachment. The Flag is not to be embellished by the attachment of unit/formation identification symbols. Note: The Tri-colour should not be flown in tactical situations where equipment or lives may be jeopardised (including training serials). The RAEME flag (in either form) is subordinate to the ANF, as such should NOT be flown in any overseas deployment unless permission from gained from Ceremonial Cell – Army.

Army Ceremonial & Protocol Manual – Corps, regiment and unit flags are not to be flown at functional command or formation HQ, unless another unit is collocated within the same building. A functional command and formation HQ is to fly the ANF both in Australia and overseas.

My best advice, if you are planning n on displaying the Corps flag or Workshop tri-colour, please do the right thing and ask permission. The majority of the time, Commanders will grant permission, but may include caveats such as:

- For the last photo only
- Not for public displayed photos

Regional Maintenance Dashboard (RMD)

LTCOL Soper has updated the RMD (noting he is extremely busy, I really appreciate the effort), please remember the information is only as correct as we all make it. Pages (Defence network only) – http://drnet.defence.gov.au/Army/RAEME/Pages/Regional-Maintenance-Dashboard.aspx

Corps Shop

RAEME Clothing: https://shop.hunterpp.com.au/raeme/

Corps Shop: https://raeme.org.au/index.php/shop

We continue to build the shop with items as requested by yourselves. If you have suggestions, please let me know and we can do our best to make it available.

Course Information

For course information, Defence members may review the RSM's full email on the Defence intranet at: http://drnet/Army/RAEME/Pages/RSMs-Page.aspx

Workforce and Training Group

This short note is to reiterate the two functional components of Workforce and Training Group (W&TG), Maintenance Cell. The first functional component being Employment Category Management which is to ensure that RAEME ground trades meet Army's capability requirements via sustainable trades and career profiles and to represent the Corps at DFRT and associated committees and hearings. The second functional component is Training Design which ensures the suite of RAEME courses meets Army's capability requirements and conforms to the requirements of the Systems Approach to Defence Learning (SADL) and civilian governing bodies (ASQA and ISCs).

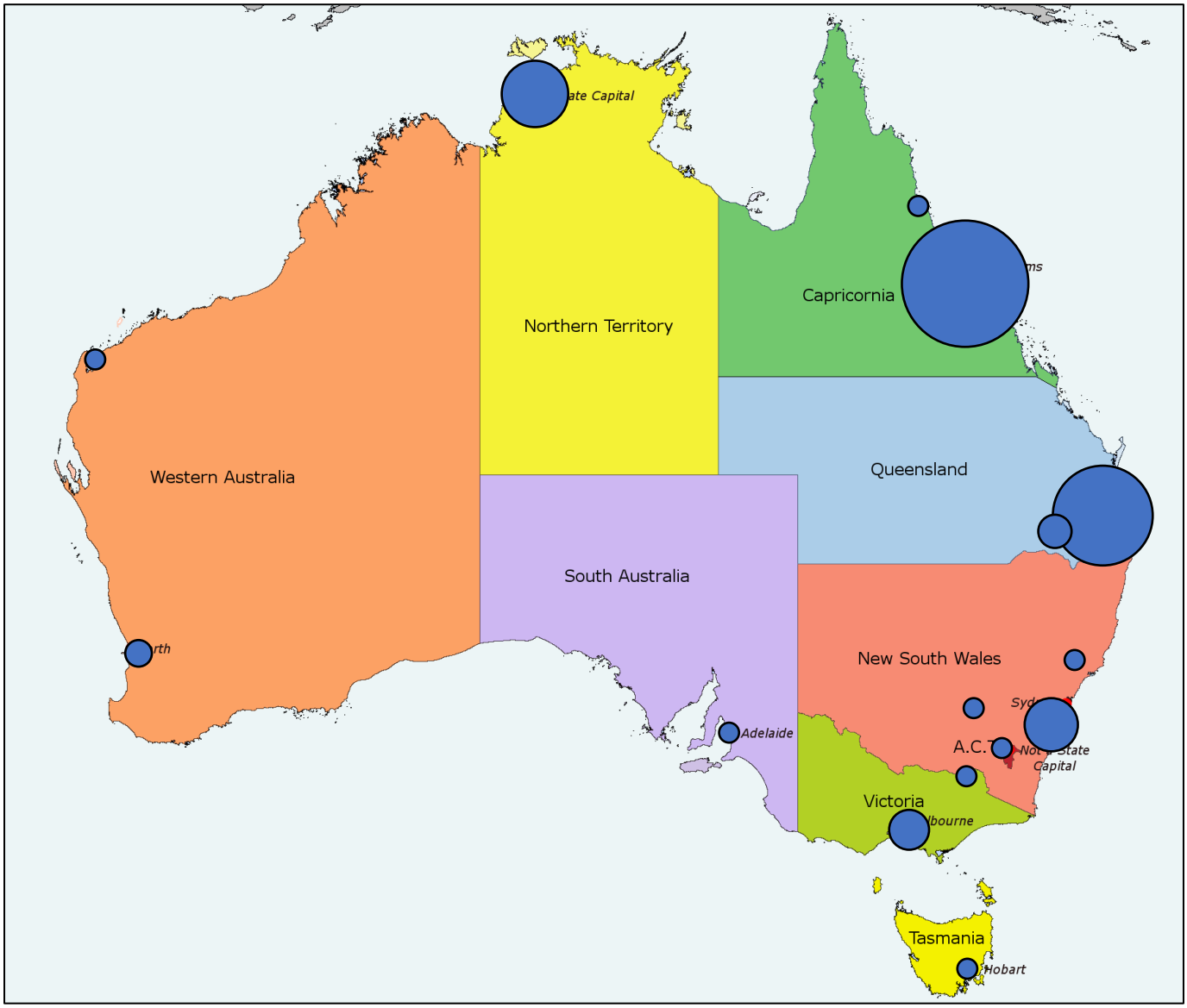
In 2025, The RAEME Ground trades EC Manager is MAJ Penelope Neilson and the EC Advisor is WO1 Paul Kitching. Throughout the year we will provide further updates regarding RAEME Ground ECs, courses and new projects coming into service. If you have any queries please review our Intranet site or send an email to wtg.raeme.ecm@resources.defence.gov.au http://drnet/Army/ALTCHQ/Pages/Maintenance-Cell.aspx

Stay safe, Arte et Marte,

WO1 Jon Tynan
Corps RSM

WHERE WE SERVE

This map provides an indication as to the number of serving members posted around the nation. The bigger the circle, the more people are posted in that region. It turns out over half of the Corps serves in Qld, with N-Qld coming in with the greatest concentration. Regions with minimal RAEME representation are not shown below.



Podcast – From a Whisper to a Bang! – Episode 2 of 6 – *Walking a Mile in Harry's Shoes*

The Memorial commissioned a six-part podcast series about war, remembrance and Australian prisoners of war in Germany during the Second World War. This is presented and produced by Australian broadcaster Megan Spencer.

In Episode 02 Megan visits the crumbling, 75-year-old ruins of two of the four stalags her grandfather Corporal Harry Spencer, VX1113, Prisoner No. 91985, was held in, between 1941-1945, after being captured in Crete by the German Army in WW2.

The first, Stalag VII-A, is in Moosburg in Germany's south; the other, Stalag 357 near Fallingbostel, is in the north. They were two of Germany's biggest POW camps during the war, each housing tens of thousands of prisoners from all over the world.

With the help of locals, family members, military historians and narration from Harry's handwritten memoirs, Megan dives deeper into her grandfather's POW experience, reimagining it 'in situ'. It is a highly emotional trip – one that, as she finds out, is only just beginning…

You can listen to this podcast at:

https://fromawhispertoabang.libsyn.com/website/from-a-whisper-to-a-bang-2-walking-a-mile-in-harrys-shoes.

PLANNED GATHERINGS NATIONWIDE FOR 2025

Planned RAEME gatherings across Australia for 2025 are summarised below. For further details on any events scheduled in:

- **Canberra**: Visit our events listing website and click on individual events.
- **Queensland**: Contact the Functions Officer or visit the events listing website`
- **Other**: Please reach out to the contacts listed below or the relevant State/Territory Associations as required.

Where calendar icons for MS-Outlook or Google appear below, you can click on either to add an event calendar entry. Please note that this will just add the event to your calendar. You may still need to RSVP if one is required.

Month	Date	State/Territory	Event
March	Sat 1st	N-Qld	**RAQ(NQ) Gathering** Dalrymple Hotel Sports Bar from 1230h
	Tues 4th	SA	**Harry the Horse" Luncheon** West Adelaide Football Club Contact Bob Killoran on 0412-060-315 by the Friday before the luncheon
	Wed 5th	S-Qld	**RAQ Monthly Meeting** Kedron Wavell Services Club
		SA	**Committee of Management Meeting** Plympton-Glenelg RSL
	Fri 7th	ACT	**Mixed Lunch** Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 05 Mar via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Sat 8th	SA	**Spanner Club** Club Marion, 262 Sturt Rd, Marion RSVP to Ian Starick via SMS 0419-035-457 with your name/no. attending
	Fri 14th	Victoria	**Spanner Club** Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
		Tasmania	**Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess** 1630 for 1700h
	Tues 25th	ACT	**Mixed Drinks** Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club. Otherwise, no RSVP is necessary; just turn up and look for the team
April	Wed 2nd	S-Qld	**RAQ Monthly Meeting** Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 11th	Victoria	**Spanner Club** Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 12th	SA	**RAEME mixed ANZAC Reunion** Coopers Ale House, 560 Main North Rd, Blair Athol **RSVP to** Don Harvy before Tuesday 8th April 2025 via 0412-021-411 or via email raeme.sa.association@gmail.com with names of those attending
	Sun 13th	Victoria	**Members Lunch** Clayton RSL
	Thurs 24th	WA	**RAEME Vigil** Kings Park Sandakan memorial

Month	Date	State/Territory	Event
	Fri 25th	Nationwide	**ANZAC Day.** Initial details above. Complete details to follow.
May	Fri 2nd	ACT	**Mixed Lunch** Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 30 Apr via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Wed 7th	S-Qld	**RAQ Monthly Meeting** Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 9th	Victoria	**Spanner Club** Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 17th	Tasmania	**Spanner Club / Lunch** 1200 for 1230h South Arm RSL
	Sun 18th	S-Qld	**RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon** City Golf Club
	Tues 27th	ACT	**Mixed Drinks** Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club. Otherwise, no RSVP is necessary; just turn up and look for the team
June	Wed 4th	SA	**Committee of Management Meeting** Plympton-Glenelg RSL
		S-Qld	**RAQ Monthly Meeting** Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 6th	ACT	**Spanner Club** RMC Golf Club For catering purposes and to assist RMC Staff planning, please RSVP NLT 03 Jun via the event link or via email.
	Fri 13th	Victoria	**Spanner Club** Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 14th	Tasmania	**Spanner Club** Lenah Valley RSL 1800 for 1830h
	Tues 24th	ACT	**Mixed Drinks** Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club. Otherwise, no RSVP is necessary; just turn up and look for the team
July	Wed 2nd	S-Qld	**RAQ Monthly Meeting** Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 4th	ACT	**Mixed Lunch** Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 01 Jul via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Fri 11th	Victoria	**Spanner Club** Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Tues 29th	ACT	**Mixed Drinks** Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h RSVP via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club. Otherwise, no RSVP is necessary; just turn up and look for the team

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME ACT

Spanner Club and Monthly Drinks

The end-of-month drinks at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club this month was very well attended with a number of serving and retired members gathering to share a drink and the company of fellow Spanners.

It was great to see and when coupled with the equally as impressive turn out at our initial Spanner Club held at RMC Golf Club on Fri 07 Feb, we appear to have a growing community. Come along to our next event; Lunch at Ainslie Football Club from 1230h on Fri 07 Mar 2025!

Veteran Support Centre Activities

Last Post Ceremony

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

Details: https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony

Federation Star Recipient – WO1 Anthony Sever

On 7 Feb 2025 WO1 Anthony Sever received his Federation Star (Fifth Clast to the Defence Long Service Medal) at Army HQ in Canberra. He was also awarded his Fourth Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal as well as the National Emergency Medal for Bushfire Assist 2019-2020.

Anthony joined the Australian Defence Force as a 37th Class Army Apprentice on the 12 Jan 1982. His first posting was to the Army Apprentice School in Balcombe as a 37th Class Army Apprentice. Other postings included: 2 Base Wksp Bn, 102 Fd Wksp, HQ 18 TPT, 17 Construction Sqn, 3 BASB, 10 FSB, Force Logistics Sqn – East Timor, 1 CSU, Land Systems Division, HQ 4 Bde and 4 CSSB.

Anthony's operational history includes Operation Tanager (East Timor) in 2000, Operation VICFIRE Assist in 2009, Op Bali Assist 2004 and Operation Bushfire Assist 2020.

On hand for the presentations was MAJ Shad Marsh, a fellow 37th Class Army Apprentice, also working at AHQ.

Above: MAJ Shad Marsh with WO1 Anthony Sever at the award ceremony.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SE-QLD – *https://qld.raeme.org.au*

Memorial service for Raymond G. Norman OAM – Maroochydore

On 3 February 2025, family, friends, and members of the RAEME community were invited by Raymond Norman's family, to honour and celebrate his life and service, at the Maroochy RSL. Raymond's over five decades long association with the Corps and the veteran community was acknowledged throughout the service, highlighting his contributions both in uniform and in retirement.

The service was attended by Defence personnel, members of the RAEME Association Queensland, veterans young and old and those who had served with Raymond during his career. As a former RAEME Corps RSM and long-serving Chair of the RAEME Association Queensland, Ray played a key role in strengthening the veteran network and supporting serving and former members of the Corps. He was also a driving force behind initiatives such as Operation Spanner Pack, which provided care packages to deployed RAEME personnel.

During the memorial, it was announced that the RAQ Chairman's Award would be renamed the 'Raymond G. Norman OAM Chairman's Award' in recognition of his efforts. The award will continue to acknowledge those who demonstrate commitment to the Corps and the association, reflecting Ray's focus on supporting RAEME members and their families.

As the ceremony concluded, attendees shared their memories of Ray's time in the Army and his involvement in the RAEME community. His contributions to the Corps and its members were widely recognised, and his efforts will continue to be felt in the years ahead.

Arte et Marte

Rest in Peace

Great mates, Ian 'Ernie' Hartshorn and Raymond Norman ANZAC Day Brisbane 2007

Raymond recognised with a Chairman's Award by Jeff Maurice 2018. HOC Commendation presented by Bryce Titcume Col Comdt Qld 201

Darling Downs Luncheon

The first RAQ Darling Downs function of 2025 was a fantastic afternoon of catching up with mates, and celebrating our great Corps. Held at the City Golf Club in Toowoomba, the event was attended by around 25 members and guests come together for a relaxed and enjoyable gathering.

A highlight of the afternoon was welcoming 85 year old 12th Intake Apprentice Dave Maddock to his first Darling Downs function, along with Jason Leech. It was great to see new faces joining in and connecting with the broader RAQ community.

Adding to the day's excitement were the RAQ Lucky Door Prizes, with Pete Woolley, Jason Leech, and Dennis Dowling walking away as the lucky winners.

RAQ Chairman Pete Matthews provided an informative update on the latest happenings within the Corps and RAQ, keeping attendees well-informed on key developments and upcoming initiatives.

We look forward to kicking off the year with a strong turnout at the first function. Let's make these days a great way to reconnect, share stories, and strengthen our Corps community.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME VICTORIA – *https://vic.raeme.org.au*

Support Our Veterans: "Meet You at the Top" 112km Challenge

AKA Crazy bald guy goes for a 112km run to raise money for the Wodonga RSL!!!

On the 29th of March 2025, WO2 Jesse "Sutho" Sutherland, Wing Sergeant Major of Armament and Construction Wing at Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, will be running 112km around Albury-Wodonga in an event he has called "Meet You at the Top."

This run will start and finish at Monument Hill with the journey taking Sutho across Nail Can Hill, Red Light Hill, Maher's Hill, Mount Baranduda, Huon Hill, and Federation Hill.

At the top of each hill, Sutho will meet with a veteran to hear their stories of service, resilience, and sacrifice. These interviews will be captured and shared as short clips leading up to ANZAC Day, raising awareness and appreciation for the incredible individuals who have served our country.

This challenge isn't just about running – it's about giving back. Sutho is aiming to raise $5,000 for the Wodonga RSL to support their crucial work with veterans and their families.

The Run Timeline

When	*What*	*Leg*	*Total*
0000h	Depart Monument Hill		
0200h	Arrive Red Light Hill	17km	17km
0245h	Depart Red Light Hill		
0615h	Arrive Maher's Hill	30.5km	47.5km
0700h	Depart Maher's Hill		
0915h	Arrive Mount Baranduda	22.5km	70km
1000h	Depart Mount Baranduda		
1200h	Arrive Huon Hill	16.5km	86.5km
1245h	Depart Huon Hill		
1405h	Arrive Federation Hill	11km	97.5km
1450h	Depart Federation Hill		
1700h	Arrive Monument Hill	15.5km	112km

How You Can Get Involved

You can:

- Donate to help Sutho reach his goal and support the veteran community.
- Spread the word by sharing this campaign and encouraging others to contribute.
- Join in! Community organisations and individuals are welcome to participate in the run or host their own fundraising efforts.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference and show our veterans the respect and support they deserve. Every donation brings us closer to our goal and honours the sacrifices of those who've served.

Thank you for your generosity and support. Let's make this ANZAC Day truly special for our veteran community.

Donate today and help Sutho reach the top!!

Run sponsors include:

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME VICTORIA – Continued

RAEME Association of Vic held their RAEME day of remembrance at the Melbourne Shrine on the morning of Sunday 16th Feb 25 in the Sanctuary for an 1100h service and afterwards at the RAEME tree. A reasonable turnout, however it would be great to get a few more along next year. In the words of President Rod (Blades) Gillett, "A time to remember and reflect on those whom are no longer with us and also those that are broken and struggling and are still with us". It was good to catch up with a couple of old MEA chaps that I hadn't seen for almost 30 years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SA – *https://sa.raeme.org.au*

What's on in the Region

Our brethren in South Australia recently released their Feb 2025 newsletter which covers all planned events for the year, some of which are listed above on Pages 12 and 13, but also a lot of what is happening in SA.

One of the big local events recorded included the recent promotion of the SA Association President, John Prince to WO1. A huge achievement, indeed. Congratulations John!

WO1 John Prince with his wife, Ellen

The newsletter also gives a great report on the presentation of RAEME Soldier of the Year awards to deserving ARA and Reserve recipients in SA units.

Another significant event captured in the newsletter was the presentation of Honorary Life Membership of the SA Association to Corps legend, Doug Pammenter in recognition of Doug's outstanding contribution to the Corps and the SA Association over a period of fifty years.

John Prince presenting Doug Pammenter with his Honorary Life Membership of the SA Association

The newsletter also provides details about events in SA-based units. Make sure you find a few moments to take a look at what is happening in South Australian EME. Download it from: https://sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters?folder=2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RAEME APPRENTICES – *https://austarmyapprentice.org/*

The Army Apprentice Association recently released one of their most comprehensive newsletters, *The Apprentice About*. This edition really was a whopper with news from around the nation.

The lead story recounts the recognition of 32nd intake Electronics Tradesman, Robert "Sawby" Sawford's exceptional service of over 45 years with the presentation of two Federation Stars. The presentation was made by the Chief of Army with RSM-S in support. BRIG Ed Smeaton represented our Head of Corps. Several other notable RAEME members were also present.

Another RAEME member recognised by the Chief of the Army was WO1 Brad Bargenquast, OAM with his appointment as the Command Sergeant Major of Aviation Command; a Tier C Appointment and fitting recognition of Brad's service to the Army. Brad received his formal appointment in the present of his wife, Cindy, his children and RSM-A.

The Newsletter also provides a very detailed report from the "Back to Bandiana" reunion for over 100 40th Intake apprentices which was held in Wodonga over 10-11 January. With partners included, total attendance exceeded 160 individuals!

Other Apprentice events being planned include:

- **ACT Region Quarterly Lunch**, Ainslie FC, Wed, 5 March 2025. Please let Jeff Heron know if you intend to be there: news@austarmyapprentice.org.
- **35th Intake 45-year Anniversary**, Mudgee NSW, 28-30 March 2025, contact Dave (Clemo) Clements, 35th Intake Motor Mechanic, clemacdc1@gmail.com or Bill Burns, 35th Intake Motor Mechanic, willyb1963@gmail.com or visit 35th Intake Army Apprentices Facebook Group.
- **20th Intake 60th Reunion**, Pinjarra WA, RSL etc, 4-6 April 2025, contacts Fred Santich or Bob Bandy via Facebook

The next big event being planned will be for the AGM and Formal Dinner in Albury on 25 Oct 2025. This will recognise the formal cessation of the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme in 1995. Further details will be provided as they are developed.

From a bit of local news, the Newsletter provides a view into plans to re-establish the Canberra Services Club near Manuka Oval following the destruction of the original facility in the devastating fires of 2011.

For more details about the development, review the Newsletter story or visit the club website at: https://www.canberraclub.com.au/LATEST-NEWS.aspx

If you have a little time to spare, make sure you check out the newsletter at: https://austarmyapprentice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/TAA-Vol-6-Iss-6-Feb-2025-v1.0.pdf or at: https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/

The apprentices are always looking for articles for future Newsletters, especially from Bonegilla, the 80's and 90's, or more Corps-specific items. If you have any comments on or contributions to the Newsletter, please let Jeff Heron know at: news@austarmyapprentice.org. They are particularly keen to hear about other Corps Associations and their programs of upcoming events.

RAEME'S FIRST YEAR

Below is the Army newspaper from 01 Mar 1943, being the first year since RAEME's establishment. This can be reviewed at: https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3352054

ARMY NEWS

TERRIFIC AIR BLITZ ON EUROPE

Heavy Raids Day And Night

RUSSIANS FORCE AHEAD

NAZIS THRUSTS IN TUNISIA

STALIN TALKS AND IS ALSO TALKED ABOUT

OLD TEAM IN NEW JOB

The Algiers correspondent of London Daily Express yesterday reported that General Alexander, Deputy C.-in-C. Allied Forces, has been in the field for some days with Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Anderson and General Sir Bernard Montgomery, commanders of the British First' and Eighth Armies.

Air Chief-Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Air C.-in-C. Mediterranean, and Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Andrew Cunningham, Naval C.-in-C. Mediterranean, are working together much as they did in the Nile Delta.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham, air officer commanding Middle East, is up forward among the Algerian hills directing the British and

U.S. Air Forces. "It is all very largely the old, tried team handling a brand-new army in a brand new situation," the correspondent says.

GANDHI

Mahatma Gandhi, who has completed 19 of his 21 days' self-imposed fast at Poona, was reported last night to be alert but weak.

S. W. Pacific – GROUND TROOPS IN ACTION AT MUBO

Allied patrols have again clashed with the Japanese on the Wapali trail, in the Wau Mubo area of New Guinea. Our troops threw the enemy back and many of his dead were left behind. A.B.C. representative, John Hine, reported that the Japanese suffered heavy casualties and it is believed that the enemy has been driven right back to Mubo. Some of the Japanese have re treated still closer to Salamaua, 12 miles away, added Hine.

Enemy Dead At Buna. Details of additional Japanese losses in Papua, since the end of the campaign, were announced in yesterday's communique from G.H.Q. "A total of 660 JTapanese have been- killed and 73 taken prisoner in the Buna area, during February. as an aftermath of the Papuan campaign," stated the communique.

Raid On Lae. Allied medium units bombed and heavily strafed the Lae area of New Guinea on Saturday, from medium altitude. Many fires were started and machine-gun posts silenced. Anti-aircraft fire was negligible and there was no attempt at interception by enemy fighters. The raid on Lae was the only offensive air action on Saturday. Aerial activity over New Britain, the Solomons and in the North-western sector was confined to reconnaissance.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE UPDATE

Determination – 11 Feb 2025

The following Determination has been signed and is effective on 13 February 2025.

Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment Determination (No. 1) 2025.

This Determination has the following purposes.

- **Navy specialist aviation officer placement**. Amend increment placement provisions relating to Navy specialist aviation officers to remove the requirement for members to have 12 months experience on the aircraft following operational flying training before being placed within the Officer Aviation Pay Structure.
- **Continuation bonuses**. Amend continuation bonus provisions to clarify how effective service is treated when determining a member's eligibility for a bonus.
  - **PACMAN Guide**: https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/continuation-bonus
- **Marital status language**. Contemporise the language used to describe when a member marries, or has their partnership with a person recognised.
  - **PACMAN 6.5.66.1b & 6.5.70**: https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-6/part-5/div-8
- **Close family definition**. Expand the definition of close family member to include grandchildren for remote location leave travel and to clarify how a member's travel benefits are reduced when travelling between certain locations.
  - **PACMAN 9.3.4-8**: https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-9/part-3/div-1
- **Readability improvements**. Remove tables in Chapters 1 to 5 of the Defence Determination to reflect contemporary drafting standards and improve readability.
- **RAAF Flight Engineer salary**. Extend the salary non-reduction period for RAAF Flight Engineers from 5 to 8 years.
- **Higher duties allowance period change**. Amend the minimum number of consecutive days that an ADF member needs to perform higher duties for in order to be eligible for higher duties allowance.
  - **PACMAN 4.1.5.2a**: https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-4/part-1/division-2
- **Technical amendments**. Make a range of technical amendments that include updating section headings, updating cross reference, fixing typographical errors and making minor amendments to promote consistency in the way terms are references throughout the Principal Determination.

Determination – 20 Feb 2025

The following Determination has been signed and is effective.

Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment (Continuation bonus) Determination 2025 (No. 2).

The purpose of this Determination is to create the continuation bonus to promote the retention of ADF personnel at the highest ADF workforce separation points and increase the average length of ADF service. The bonus provides a payment to members who agree at specific career decision points, to continue to serve for an additional 3 years in the Permanent Forces.

The continuation bonus was announced as part of a suite of initiatives under the Defence Workforce Plan 2024 to address recruitment and retention of the workforce, and build on extant reforms the Government introduced to stabilise the ADF workforce.

This amendment replaces the continuation bonus pilot that ends on 30 June 2025. Rules relating to the continuation bonus pilot will continue to apply to members who have accepted an offer under the pilot.

Simplified outline for this Part

This Part provides a bonus to members who have reached particular career milestones to encourage them to remain in the ADF as a member of the Permanent Forces for an additional 3 years.

An offer of a continuation bonus may be made to a member up to 2 times. Generally, an offer of continuation bonus offer 1 is made after 4 years of service (Division 2) and an offer of continuation bonus offer 2 is made after 7 years of service (Division 3). Each offer has specific conditions.

To receive a continuation bonus, an offer is generally required to be accepted by the member. Specific rules apply to who is eligible and when an offer can be accepted (Division 4).

If a member accepts an offer of a continuation bonus, they may elect to receive the continuation bonus in one payment or in 2 separate payments (Section 3.4.21).

Associated with receiving the continuation bonus is a requirement to complete an agreed period of service (Section 3.4.2, definition). This is 1095 days of effective service in the Permanent Forces, which is the equivalent of 3 years.

DVA NEWS – DVA launches Services Guide

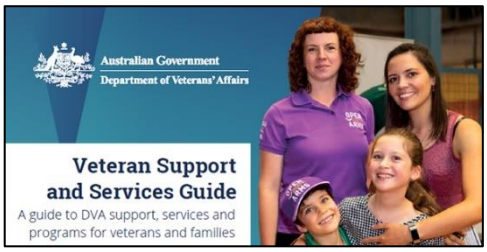
Source: https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/dva-launches-services-guide,

DVA has just released a comprehensive guide to the wide variety of services and support they offer members of the Defence and veteran community.

The 60-page Veteran Support and Services Guide provides an overview of the assistance DVA can provide from the moment you join the ADF, during your transition and throughout civilian life.

The Guide can help you understand how DVA can assist you and your family to live well and age well, with information about how to access DVA services and support or how to find out more information. Whatever your circumstances, it helps to know the services and support available to you and your family that DVA provide.

DVA provides a range of transition services from education and training, assistance finding a job after leaving the military, to establishing social connections.



The publication of the guide reflects DVA's commitment to improving the way they communicate with veterans and families.

This is the first edition of the Guide, which will be updated regularly with the latest information.

To download a digital copy of the Guide, head to the Services Guide page on the DVA website. DVA will distribute it widely to their Veterans' Access Network shopfronts, Open Arms offices and Veterans' and Families' Hubs.

Editor's note: The table of contents from this publication includes the following sections/topics:

Support for current members of the ADF

- Submitting your claims early
- Support for reservists
- Support for cadets

Transitioning from the ADF

- Beginning your transition journey
- ADF resources to help during transition
- Veteran Support Officers (VSOs)
- Support for transitioning members and families
- Managing your health and wellbeing
- Securing civilian employment

Submitting a claim

- Processing times
- How to submit a claim
- Access to information
- Nominating a representative

Healthcare, treatment and rehabilitation services

- Veteran Cards
- Looking after your health
- False or misleading representations
- DVA's rehabilitation services
- Mental health support
- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling
- Free mental health services
- Psychiatric assistance dogs
- Client Support Program

Financial and other support

- Getting to know your entitlements
- Support for veterans
- Support for families
- Support for the whole veteran community

Staying connected

- Social health programs
- Work and social life programs
- Veterans' and Families' Hubs
- Ex-service organisations
- Discounts and concessions
- Accessing other support services

Care at home

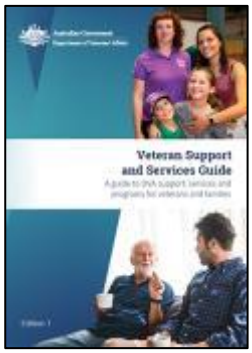
- Veterans' Home Care Program
- Community Nursing Program
- Rehabilitation Appliances Program
- Household services
- Attendant care

Residential aged care

- Moving into residential aged care
- Planning ahead

Recognition

- Certificates of appreciation
- Records and military history



FESTIVAL OF VETERANS ARTS COMING TO MELBOURNE IN MARCH

A message from the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) has unveiled the official program for the second annual Festival Of Veterans Arts (FOVA25).

Following a successful debut in 2024, FOVA will offer an even wider selection of veteran and public events under this year's theme, "TOGETHER", highlighting creativity as a unifying force for veterans, families, and the community.

FOVA will run from 21 to 30 March 2025, in Melbourne's Southbank and Arts Precinct.

In 2024, FOVA's inaugural year welcomed 600 attendees and featured 109 veteran artists and contributors across 25 events. FOVA25 builds on that foundation, offering a broader, more inclusive program with a focus on fostering connection and sharing veterans' creative journeys with the public.

Key public events taking place include:

- **FOVA Family Colour Parade** – Instead of watching parades from the sidelines, the FOVA Family Colour Parade invites the community in full colour to be the parade led by a marching band.
- **Live music & Last Post Service** – Honouring those who served, with music and reflection.
- **Art exhibitions** – Including March to Art, Victoria Barracks art exhibition, Home Front and Veterans Public Arts Trail.
- **Variety performance and live music** – Showcasing the talent and creativity of veterans through their own captivating stage performances and live music.

As well as events only for the veteran community:

- **Summit** – Insightful panels and discussion on the arts and the veteran community.
- **Creative workshops** – Opportunities to engage in visual arts, music, writing, and more, led by veteran artists and open exclusively to current and ex-ADF veterans and families.
- **Open house at Waller House** – A private opportunity to explore the iconic home of Napier and Christian Waller, Victorian artists who created cultural landmarks across Melbourne.

ANVAM invites veterans, families and the public to connect with and celebrate the powerful stories of Veteran Artists.

For event registration and the full program, visit www.fova.org.au

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL NEWS

New in the Second World War Galleries

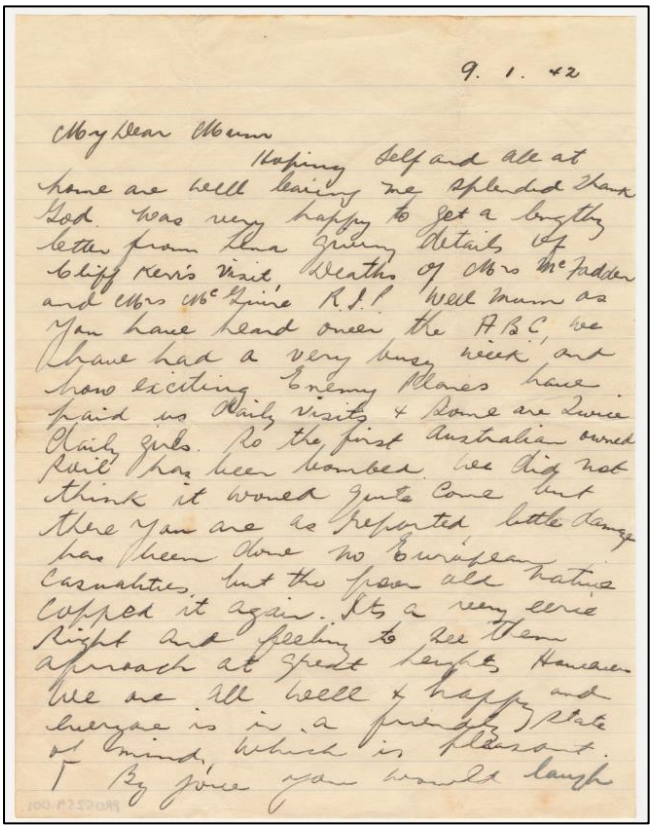
Author: Bryce Abraham, 13 January 2025

Twenty new and unique objects from the Research Centre's collections have been placed on display in the Second World War Galleries. These original items include letters from prisoners of war, a flyer on the Anderson air raid shelter, a Changi concert program, ration tickets, propaganda leaflets, a camp newsletter made by German internees in Australia, membership cards for Italian fascist groups in Adelaide and Sydney, and instruments for the Japanese surrender.

These rare and original objects have replaced others that are due to be rested to ensure their long-term preservation, as exposure to light can cause fading over time.

Below are two highlights from the latest objects now on display.

Thomas Walsh on the bombing of Rabaul



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My Dear Mum

Hoping self and all at home are well leaving me splendid thank God. Was very happy to get a lengthy letter from Lina giving details of Cliff Kerr's visit. Deaths of Mrs McFadden and Mrs McGuire R.I.P. Well mum as you have heard over the A.B.C. we have had a very busy week and how exciting. Enemy planes have paid us daily visits & some are twice daily girls. So the first Australian owned field has been bombed. We did not think it would quite come but there you are as reported little damage has been done no European casualties, but the poor old native copped it again. Its a very eerie sight and feeling to see them approach at great heights. However we are all well & happy and everyone is in a fighting state of mind, which is pleasant. I by jove you would laugh

Thomas Walsh describes the aerial attacks on Rabaul to "My Dear Mum", PR05259

Thomas Walsh was a telephone technician with the Postmaster General's Department in Rabaul, a coastal township on the island of New Britain, when Japan entered the Second World War and began its rapid southward advance. With New Britain coming under an increasing threat of attack, the 40-year-old Walsh joined the reservist New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and helped prepare Rabaul's defences. In a letter to "My Dear Mum" in January 1942, Walsh remarked, "I am [well] thank God … we are building some rather swanky dug outs with all mod cons".

Air raids on Rabaul had started on 4 January. "Enemy planes have paid us daily visits & some are twice daily girls", Walsh wrote to his mother Catherine a couple of days later, "It's a very eerie sight and feeling to see them approach at great heights." As almost an afterthought, in an attempt to allay her fears, he added that "little damage has been done" and there are "no European casualties". Catherine was likely already aware, however, that all Australian women and children had been evacuated from New Britain, and that the rail network in Rabaul had been bombed.

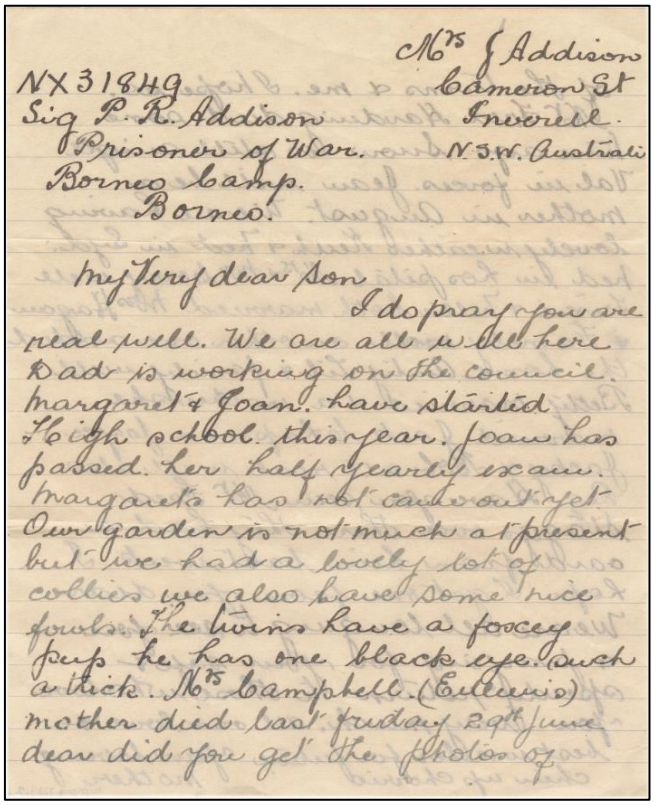
Walsh remained stoic and made light of the situation in a letter to his "Dear Mum" a week later. After a couple of days of relative quiet, he informed her that "the peace was broken at noon today when a flock of Japs came over, and dropped a few eggs". The bombs caused "no damage and no casualties", he was quick to add. Walsh ended the letter with "Prayers love and best wishes to all". This letter, dated 16 January 1942, was the last Catherine received from her son.

Japanese forces invaded Rabaul on 23 January 1942. Within a fortnight, the Australian garrison on New Britain had fallen and all remaining soldiers and civilians (including Walsh) became prisoners of the Japanese. Four months later, Walsh embarked aboard the ship Montevideo Maru for transport to the Chinese island of Hainan. The ship was mistaken for a Japanese troop ship and sunk off the coast of Luzon on 1 July 1942 by the submarine USS Sturgeon. Walsh was one of 209 civilians, and 1,052 prisoners, who died when the ship sank. As the majority of the prisoners were Australian, the sinking of the Montevideo Maru remains the deadliest maritime disaster in Australia's history.

The starboard side of the troopship Montevideo Maru, c. 1941

Catherine Walsh did not receive formal confirmation of her son's death until October 1945. Walsh's penultimate letter, dated 9 January 1942, is on display with a partial nominal roll of the civilians embarked aboard Montevideo Maru compiled by investigators in 1945.

Letter from Millicent Addison to her prisoner-of-war son, Percy



Mrs J Addison
Cameron St
Inverell.
N.S.W. Australia

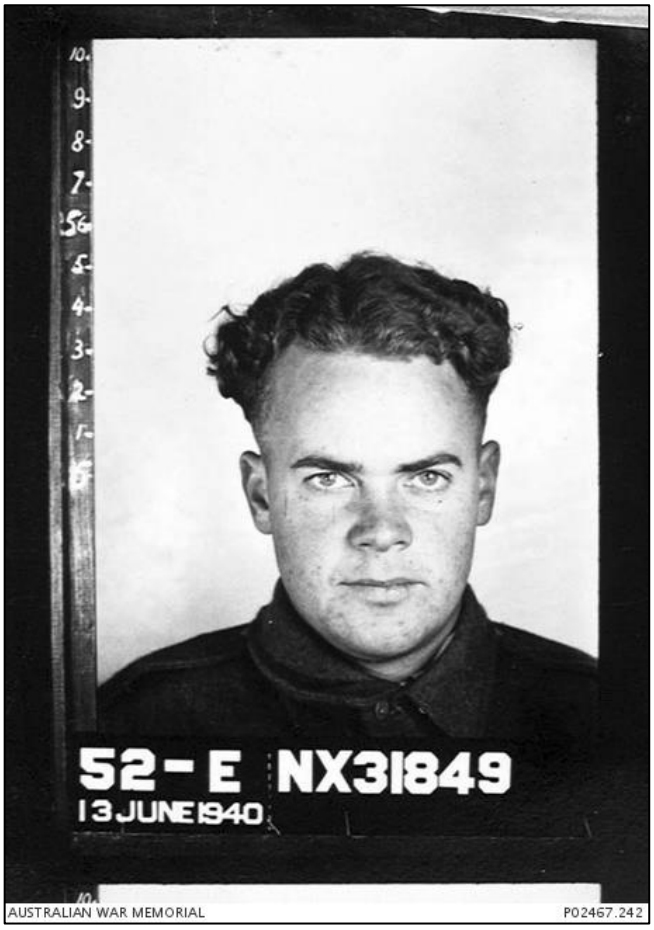
NX31849
Sig P. R. Addison
Prisoner of War.
Borneo Camp.
Borneo.

My Very dear Son
I do pray you are
real well. We are all well here
Dad is working on the council.
Margaret & Joan. have started
High school this year. Joan has
passed her half yearly exam.
Margaret's has not come out yet
Our garden is not much at present
but we had a lovely lot of
collies we also have some nice
fowls. The twins have a forcey
pup he has one black eye. such
a thick. Mrs Campbell (Eulenis)
mother died last friday 29th June
dear did you get the photos of

Millicent Addison's letter to her "Very dear Son", Percy, [AWM2018.223.1.2]

By July 1945, Millicent Addison had not seen her son, Percy, in four years. Writing to "My Very dear Son", Millicent provided Percy with updates on all of the latest news from home. She asked, "Have you seen Mr Fred Staggs over there?" Staggs's family, she informed Percy, "had a card from him last week. I hope I get one from you dear", Millicent added almost pleadingly. "We are all longing to see you," she continued, "& praying for your safe & speedy return to those who love you very much." "Chin up", she reminded him. Percy never received the letter.

Private Percy Addison had been a prisoner of war since February 1942. As part of the 2/30th Battalion, Addison embarked from Sydney in July 1941 for garrison duties in Malaya. The quiet, and often boredom, of the next four months was shattered when the Japanese invaded Malaya in December. Addison saw action around Gemas and Johore on the Malay Peninsula, before being evacuated sick. Shortly after, he became a prisoner of war with the fall of Singapore, alongside some 130,000 other British and Dominion soldiers.



Paybook photograph of NX31849 Private Percy Romer Addison

In July 1942, Addison was transported to Borneo as part of B Force and imprisoned at the infamous Sandakan prisoner of war camp. The prisoners at Sandakan were used to build an airfield, which from 1944 came under increasing attack from Allied bombers. The Japanese ultimately decided to abandon Sandakan. In January 1945, in the first of three forced marches from the camp, Addison and 469 others departed Sandakan. With minimal food or provisions, the prisoners were marched through 260 kilometres of dense jungle to Ranau;157 did not survive the journey and many more died in the following weeks. Addison made it to Ranau, but collapsed and died from illness on 15 May – six weeks before Millicent wrote her letter. No one was able to inform Millicent of her son's death until November 1945, almost three months after the war had ended. She had continued to write to Addison in the meantime, hopeful that he would return home.

Millicent's letter is displayed in the Sandakan gallery, alongside photographs of Addison and the 1,786 other Australians who died as a result of the death marches.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

For more details about what is happening in the Australian War Memorial visit: https://www.awm.gov.au/

LOOKING BACK

This month, we have included an interesting article as published in *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, Edition 4 of May 1980; why a young legend of the Corps, then CAPT John Trevivian thought of working with SASR.

ME? MAD? — FAR FROM IT!

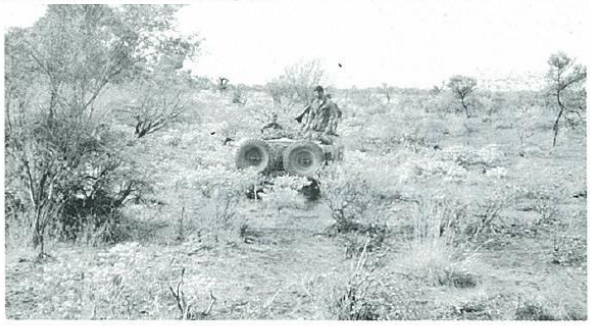
by Capt J. Trevivian

Exclamations of, "Join the Special Air Service Regiment?! You must be mad!!" from several fellow members of the Corps left me with feelings of trepidation and wondering if, after all, I had made the correct decision in applying for an Officer Selection Course.

My interest in serving with the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) was first aroused when the Royal Military College took part in Exercise "Indian Pacific", during December/January of 1977-78.

At the time we were impressed by the warm, and yet professional, attitude with which we were greeted and the assistance given during our three days of pre-exercise preparation.

During this period much valuable information was passed on to the RMC members and our vehicle mechanic, Cfn Mick Thompson. Particular areas of SASR expertise included vehicle maintenance and repair improvisation whilst operating in outback areas, hundreds of kilometres from a maintenance base, and bush survival techniques.



Patrolling through a Northwest Cape area.

Eventually I took the selection course, and whilst doing so, realised that any well motivated, reasonably fit soldier with a fair grasp of navigation and fieldcraft could pass the selection requirements.

As RAEME Craftsmen and Officers you may well ask, "Why should we apply in the first place?"

Well, like any unit which is dependent of a vast range of specialist equipment, SASR requires maintenance specialists, too. Also, a certain amount of involvement in the unit's activities is necessary to gain a better understanding of the equipments' operating conditions. The RAEME establishment for SASR calls for a variety of trades including armourers, vehicle mechanics and marine mechanics.

Currently, apart from myself, RAEME with SASR is represented by WO2 Phil Pitchers, Sgts Bill Campbell and Les Lidbury, Cpls Ray Argaet, Dave Druett, Doug Fleetwood, and Geoff Webby and Cfn Barrie Englishby, Dick Fenton, Ray Forsyth, Glen "Porky" Hibbert, Bob Kirby and Brien "Dogs" Sutherland.

First you . . . now you don't. A camouflaged long-range vehicle.

Craftsman and NCOs applying for service with SASR do not have to undergo selection courses, although they are encouraged to do so. After arrival, members can opt to attend a Basic Selection Course which is followed by a Basic Parachute Course at Williamtown, NSW and Basic Patrol Skill courses with SASR. Successful completion of the training earns successful candidates the award of the prized sandy berets and the right to SASR allowances.

Equipment holdings in SASR are as varied as the activities. The list includes Shark Cat safety boats, diving equipment, canoes and inflatible boats, special weapons, specialist vehicles and many minor equipments.

Major squadron exercises in the NW Cape area of West Australia last year provided a good example of a typical range of SASR activities. Troop skills practised and tested included freefall techniques, water operations and long range vehicle operations. For the most part, my involvement was with the long range vehicle mounted troops. The considerably modified 2A Landrovers used have canopies, windscreens and doors removed and long range fuel tanks, special gun mounts, winches and de-bogging equipment fitted.

SASR qualified RAEME members generally accompany the vehicle mounted troops, particularly when operating at a distance from their administrative base. Frequently, RAEME members are placed in situations which fully test their ressourcefulness and initiative. Generally, there is no external support available and improvisations, under trying conditions, are necessary. Distances of up to 1200 kilometres may be covered between fuel resupply points and over most types of terrain.

However, as with all facets of SASR training, there is a constance evolution and development of techniques and equipments. This gives considerable scope for technical input from RAEME members no matter what rank they hold.

Apart from providing Craftsmen and NCOs with a rewarding posting the new "all Corps" policy allows officers from any Corps the opportunity of serving with SASR, in a non-Corps capacity.

Officers are required to attend an Officer Selection Course followed by a Basic Parachuting Course while all ranks have the opportunity to take other courses to broaden their knowledge of SASR skills.

Some of the courses available are patrolling, signals, small craft handling and diving, free-fall parachuting, assault swimming, T109 driving, roping and rapelling, vehicle emergency repair and astro-navigation. Normal career courses are still available to RAEME members.

At times it is a difficult and frustrating working environment which requires a considerable level of motivation and initiative. However, working with a body of men which upholds a high level of professional expertise and participating in a wide variety of interesting activities is reward enough — and I'm not mad, believe me!

Patrols meet at a non-tactical RV.

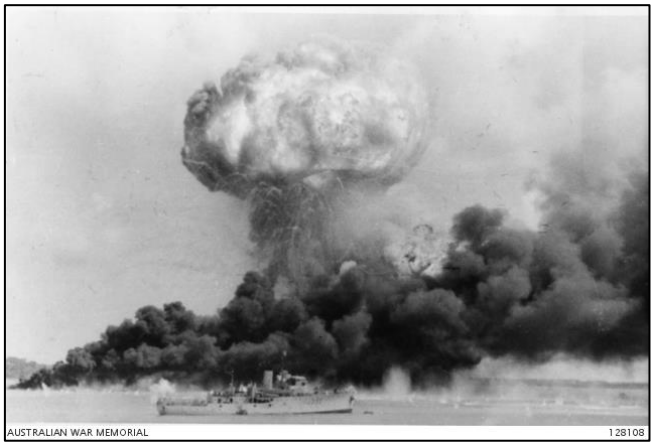
HISTORIC EVENTS THIS MONTH

19 Feb 1942 – Bombing of Darwin Day – https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/days/bombing-of-darwin

Bombing of Darwin Day

We observe Bombing of Darwin Day on the anniversary of the day in 1942 when Darwin, in northern Australia, was first bombed by Japanese warplanes. The people of Darwin suffered terribly during this time and many civilians were evacuated. To this day, this action remains the largest and most devastating modern attack by a foreign power on mainland Australia. Bombing of Darwin Day is a time for us to recognise and remember the allied service personnel and civilians who suffered through that experience.

Significance of the date



In World War II, HMAS Deloraine escaped damage from the first Japanese air attack on Darwin, 19 February 1942. The above-ground oil tanks on Stokes Hill, in the background, were bombed by enemy aircraft.

Since the 1930s, Darwin had been a strategic trading port at the top end of Australia. During World War II, the Allies used Darwin as a military base and transit point for the defence of the Netherlands East Indies. With Australian and allied troops stationed there, Darwin's population had more than doubled by 1942.

At 9:58 am on 19 February 1942, 27 bombers accompanied by fighter escorts began the first Japanese air raid on the Australian mainland. Closely followed by aircraft, their goal was to destroy the Allies' military base in Darwin. From Darwin, the Allies could contest the Japanese invasion of nearby islands, Timor and Java.

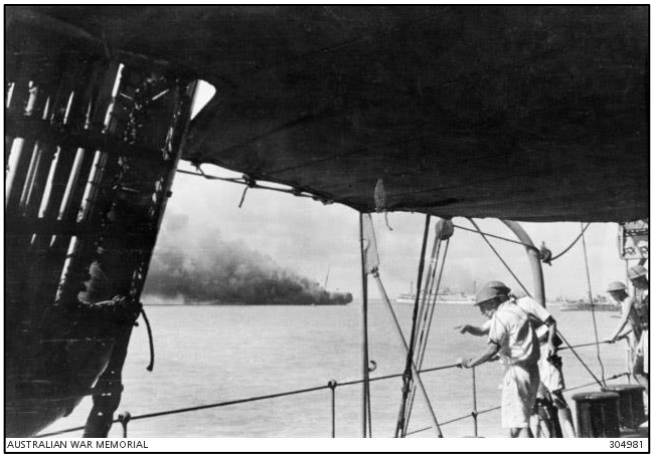
The Japanese mounted 2 air attacks that day.

The first attack focused on the town centre and the harbour. Many buildings and ships were destroyed, including public buildings like the Darwin Post Office, the police barracks and the office of the Administrator of the Northern Territory.

People survey the bombed Post Office and postmaster's residence where 9 people died after the first Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942. AWM P00480.001

Of the 47 ships in Darwin's harbour that day, 8 were sunk, one was beached and lost, and 11 were damaged. One bomb fell through the several decks of the hospital ship HMAS Manunda before exploding.

> The ship disintegrated in a burst of flame which appeared to grow out and reach a height of 100 feet [30 m]. She finally pointed her nose to the sky and disappeared in a pall of black oily smoke, the gun on her fo'c's'le firing to the bitter end.
>
> [Unnamed observer, in Peter and Sheila Forrest, Federation Frontline, Darwin, 2001, p 48]



Crew members of the depot ship HMAS Platypus survey the harbour after the first Japanese air raid on Darwin, 19 February 1942. In the centre, the transport ship HMAT Zealandia is burning, and the hospital ship HMAS Manunda is to its right. AWM 304981

At 11:58 am the same day, the second air attack began.

The Japanese bombed the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin in an attack that lasted 25 minutes. Two hangars and a central store were destroyed, and blocks of the airmen's quarters and a hospital were severely damaged.

Australian servicemen in Darwin repairing a bombed building after the second air raid by Japanese warplanes on 19 February 1942. These were possibly huts at the RAAF base. AWM NWA0447

Continued attacks

Between 19 February 1942 and 12 November 1943, the Japanese mounted 97 air attacks on towns and military bases across northern Australia. Broome was attacked on 3 March. More air raids were made on Wyndham, Port Hedland and Derby in Western Australia, Darwin and Katherine in the Northern Territory, Townsville and Mossman in Queensland, and Horn Island in the Torres Strait.

On 31 May 1942, the war came to the east coast of Australia, when 3 Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour. In June 1942, a submarine lightly shelled coastal suburbs of Sydney and Newcastle.

Japanese submarines also attacked coastal ships, causing the loss of around 29,000 tons of shipping.

Commemoration of those who died

More than 250 people, both allied service personnel and civilians, died in Darwin on 19 February 1942.

Members from all 3 Australian armed services were among those who died, ranging from wing commanders right through to cooks. Members of the United States Navy and Air Force were also among the casualties. A large number of lives lost included merchant seamen, postal workers and civilians. These were everyday Australians simply going about their daily lives.

The names of civilians who died are not recorded on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Instead, they are commemorated by name in Darwin, where many of them are buried.

The Darwin Cenotaph and memorial garden in Bicentennial Park overlook the harbour. This is where the first shots were fired in defence of Darwin by the 14th Anti-Aircraft Battery. The monument continues to be a place of commemoration for all those who died and suffered in the Bombing of Darwin.

Listen to firsthand accounts of the bombing on YouTube at: https://youtu.be/TWeZkeiRxV4

GENERAL NEWS

Wanting to catch up with Kevin Roy 'Morse' Hughes

In 1968–69, you served with the 102 Field Workshops, ALSC, Vung Tau, Vietnam. In your spare time, you voluntarily helped service vehicles of the Australian Medical Aid Team.

Contact: Bill Townsend, 0426-639-205, bill_townsend2003@yahoo.com

Seeking Roger D Thorpe

Seeking my mate Roger, whom I served with from 1969 to 1972.

He was best man at my wedding in 1971. Last I heard of him was at Bulimba workshop in 1974.

Contact: Les Hill, 0437-387-660, lynles@outlook.com

Seeking stories from wives of Vietnam Veterans

Stories needed for the sequel to my book Like Shadows in the Corner, which explores the experiences of wives/partners of soldiers who were deployed to the Vietnam War.

I am the wife of a Vietnam veteran, and my story is included in my first book, so I can relate to the stories I will receive. There are no restrictions on the length and content of your story. You can use your real name or an alias. Your story will be published just as you write it, with no editing. All contributors will receive a free copy of the book once published.

If you know the wife of a Vietnam veteran, please make them aware of the pending sequel to my book as they may wish to contribute. Hoping to receive lots of stories!

Contact: Helen Townsend-Austin, 0428-839-944, helhilt@bigpond.com

SYMBOLS OF COMMEMORATION

'Lest we forget' as a symbol of commemoration in Australia

Borrowed from a line in a well-known poem written in the 19th century, the phrase 'lest we forget' means 'it should not be forgotten'. We say or write 'lest we forget' in commemorations to remember always the service and sacrifice of people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

History of its symbolism

The phrase 'Lest we forget' is from a line in an 1897 Rudyard Kipling poem, Recessional:

> *God of our fathers, known of old,*
> *Lord of our far-flung battle line,*
> *Beneath whose awful hand we hold*
> *Dominion over palm and pine—*
> *Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,*
> *Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

'Lest' comes from the Old English 'thȳ lǣs the' , which translates to 'whereby less that'. Kipling drew inspiration from a biblical phrase in Deuteronomy 6:12, where 'lest' took the meaning 'for fear that'.

We often sing Kipling's poem as a hymn at Anzac Day services for Australians and New Zealanders.

The word 'lest' gained popularity around the time the poem was written. Then it became part of the phrase we use today, honouring the sacrifices of those who have served and died.

Use of the phrase 'lest we forget' became common across Australia and New Zealand after World War I. The phrase became linked with commemorative services on:

A card inscribed with '25-4-1944, Lest We Forget, Dad' pinned to the back of a chair holding a wreath on Anzac Day at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, 25 April 1944. AWM 140938

What it means to us today

You might see the words 'Lest we forget' on:

- Anzac wreaths
- honour boards and rolls
- war memorials

At a commemorative service, after the speaker recites the Ode of Remembrance, the audience repeats the last words, 'We will remember them' followed by a short pause and then 'Lest we forget'.

Terms of gratefulness, such as 'Thank you for your service' or hashtag #TYFYS, are used to recognise the service and sacrifice of veterans. However, these differ from 'Lest we forget', which is an expression of mourning for the fallen rather than a general expression of thanks.

Remembrance Day wreath at a war memorial with the words 'Lest we forget', South Perth, November 2019.

Engage more with this topic

Lest We Forget is a picture book that will help young children to learn about the significance of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. If you can't find a copy of this book in your local library, look for an online video of teachers reading this book at story-time.

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

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

Sleeping better

What: A program to help you manage disturbed sleep

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

Venue: Online

When: Two-day session (11&13 Mar 12:00pm–1:30pm SA Time)

More info: https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#sleeping-better

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.

Venue: Canberra (TBC)

When: Two-day program (20 - 21 March, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm)

More info: https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#recovery-from-trauma

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

When: Two-day program (26 & 29 March, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm)

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

Understanding Anxiety

What: A program that teaches you strategies and skills for managing anxiety

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

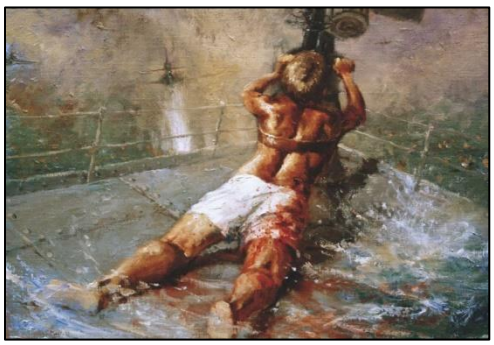
Venue: Canberra (TBC)

When: Two-day program (27 - 28 Mar, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm)

More info: https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops#understanding-anxiety

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

SOLDIER'S 5 QUIZ *Answers are at the bottom of this page*



1. **People**. Who was Australia's most recent recipient of the Victoria Cross? (his legend captured in a painting by Dale Marsh to the right)
2. **Places**. What is the name of the Army Barracks near Wagga Wagga? Bonus mark if you can give both names for the barracks
3. **Things**. What was the muzzle velocity of the SLR?
4. **Events**. The last bayonet charge by the Australian soldiers was in in which conflict?
5. **Trade**. What type of round was employed to fire a grenade from an SLR? *(pictured below) For the younger readers, yes, we used to shoot grenades to launch them. Anyone who has done that will remember the importance of keeping thumbs clear of the pistol grip.*

RAEME HUMOUR BOOK

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

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 at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au

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!

CLOSING COMMENTS

That's about it for this edition. If you would like to submit something for future editions, especially quiz questions, or it you would like to see something in particular 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.

Soldier's 5 Quiz Answers 1. Edward "Teddy" Shehan; 2. Blamey Barracks / Gabuga; 3. 823 m/s (2,700 ft/s); 4. Vietnam; 5. Ballistite-filled blank cartridge