

RAEME in ACTION

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



Edition: 32

August 2025



THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Legend

 Spanner Club

 Mixed Lunch

 Informal Drinks

 Significant Event

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

OCTOBER						
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HONOURING PRIVATE RICHARD NORDEN VC

A Legacy of Gallantry, Duty, and Mateship

On 14 May 1968, amid the chaos of the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral in Vietnam, a 19-year-old soldier from Gundagai, New South Wales, performed acts of extraordinary courage that would echo across generations. Private Richard Leslie Norden's bravery that day—marked by selflessness and fierce loyalty to his mates—was formally recognised 57

years later, when on 15 July 2025, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia.

The medal was presented to Private Norden's widow, Robynn Freeman, by the Governor General, Sam Mostyn.



Governor-General Sam Mostyn, presents a posthumous Victoria Cross for Australia to Robynn Freeman, the widow of the late Private Richard Norden VC. Photos: Paul Berry

Mateship in Action

Private Norden's actions were not driven by orders or glory—they were driven by mateship. In the Australian military, mateship is more than camaraderie; it's a sacred bond of loyalty, trust, and self-sacrifice.

As Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston noted:

"He did so because he saw two of his mates isolated and wounded... his choice to risk his own life to save an injured man and ensure a fallen soldier could be returned home to his own loved ones."

Even after exhausting his own ammunition and sustaining serious wounds, Private Norden pressed forward three times under enemy fire to rescue his comrades. His courage ensured the survival of his section and the recovery of a fallen mate—an act that speaks to the very heart of the ANZAC spirit.

Citation for the Victoria Cross for Australia

"For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in the presence of the enemy in the 'AO Surfers' Area of Operations in the Bien Hoa province, Vietnam, on 14 May 1968 during the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral.

During Operation Toan Thang, 5th Platoon, B Company were ambushed and came under heavy fire from an estimated squad of seven to ten North Vietnamese Army regular soldiers.

Private Norden, a member of the leading section, ran forward under heavy enemy fire to the Section Commander and forward scout who were wounded during the initial contact.

Private Norden killed one North Vietnamese Army soldier whilst moving forward and, having expended his ammunition, recovered that enemy's automatic weapon which he used against further North Vietnamese Army soldiers.

He then half-carried, half-dragged the severely wounded Section Commander back to the section.

Private Norden, seriously wounded, again advanced to the forward scout. He pressed forward under enemy fire and reached the scout, killing the North Vietnamese Army soldier who had been using the scout as a shield.

Having determined that the scout was dead, Private Norden returned to the section to collect grenades and moved forward for a third time. He cleared the area to enable the body of the scout to be recovered.

Private Norden showed a complete disregard for his own personal safety, and his courage and selfless acts resulted in the enemy position being secured and likely saved the lives of other members of the platoon."

A Life of Service

After returning from Vietnam, Private Norden was presented with a Distinguished Conduct Medal by the NSW Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, VC who commented to him:

"Mate, what does it take to get a Victoria Cross?"



Sir Roden Cutler after the presentation of the DCM to Private Richard Norden

On retiring from the Army, Private Norton continued his commitment to public service by joining the Australian Capital Territory Police as a motorcycle officer in 1970.



Tragically, Private Norden's life was cut short in 1972 when he died in a motorcycle accident whilst on duty in Canberra. He was just 24 years old.

The Families Who Remember

At the investiture ceremony in Rockhampton, Private Norden's widow, Mrs Robynn Freeman, received the Victoria Cross on his behalf. Flanked by her sons, she expressed quiet dignity and gratitude:

"We are honoured that His Majesty has approved the Victoria Cross for Australia for Richard, recognising his gallantry actions whilst serving in Vietnam. We would like to keep this special occasion private."

Their eldest son, Shane Norden Freeman, added:

"It didn't seem like this day would come. It's been years of his Army mates and police mates fighting for this — they've never given up."

Also present was the widow of the forward scout whom Norden had tried to rescue. Her quiet tears and embrace with Mrs Freeman captured the emotional gravity of the moment.

One veteran described her reaction:

"She was overwhelmed. To know that Richard risked everything to bring her husband home meant the world to her. It was mateship in its purest form—one soldier ensuring another would not be left behind."

Dignitaries and National Tribute

The ceremony was attended by a host of dignitaries, including:

- Governor-General Sam Mostyn
- Deputy PM and Minister for Defence Richard Marles
- Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh
- Chief of Defence Force Admiral David Johnston
- Members of Parliament representing Norden's hometown of Gundagai and the ACT

Most notably, Mr Keith Payne VC AM, Australia's oldest living Victoria Cross recipient and fellow Vietnam veteran, was present. His attendance was a powerful symbol of continuity and reverence. Mr Payne, who received his VC in 1969 for rescuing men under fire, stood in quiet tribute to a fellow soldier whose courage mirrored his own.

Australian Federal Police Acknowledgement

The AFP acknowledged and paid tribute to Richard Leslie Norden, for the posthumous awarded of the Victoria Cross for Australia.

The Victoria Cross, Australia's highest military honour for gallantry, was awarded to Private Norden for his actions in the battle of Coral-Balmoral in the Vietnam War.

On Monday, 14 July, during a private ceremony with friends, including some of his police recruit classmates, Private Norden was posthumously awarded the [National Medal](#) and the [AFP Service Medal](#), for recognition of his policing career and dedication to the community.

Private Norden's name is now etched on the [National Police Memorial](#) Wall in the ACT, where his legacy resonates with current and former service personnel who walk the same path of duty and sacrifice.



Private Richard Norden VC's legacy is not just one of battlefield heroism—it is a story of enduring service, of mates who never forgot, and of a nation that finally said: We will remember. Lest we forget.

RAEME MEMBERS RECOGNISED WITH KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The service of the following member was recently recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List. Reporting of this remarkable achievement was unfortunately overlooked in the July edition of *RAEME in ACTION*.

Lieutenant Colonel Liam Cunningham – Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

For outstanding achievement as the UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter acquisition Project Manager.

Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham applied outstanding leadership, project management and stakeholder engagement to deliver an initial UH-60M Black Hawk capability on an unprecedented schedule. He enabled rapid approvals of the project and ensured a robust support system for aircraft operations. Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham established essential relationships within the United States Army and Security Assistance and Australian Defence Industry. His efforts have directly enhanced Army Aviation and utility helicopter response options for Australia.



PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE NATIONAL CORPS NEWSLETTER

Over the last few weeks, the various RAEME Associations and Head of Corps Cell have been discussing the possible development of a single Corps Newsletter for all Associations and HOC combined.

If we can get this off the ground, it will be a combination of all association newsletters as well as Head of Corps updates. The intent will be to share news of relevance to the entire Corps, including both serving and retired members. This will not only allow all Corps members to see what is happening in their own region but also the Corps as a whole. Having an editorial team drawn from around the Nation will also take a lot of the workload from all Associations as we will be able to share the effort.

The concept hasn't been accepted by all Associations as of yet but initial indications are looking promising for development this year and release of Edition 1 in early-2026.

In case you are curious about what the new Newsletter will be called, so are we! The editorial team may put the call out for suggestions so start thinking now.

What would you like to see a single National Newsletter called?



CORPS STATUS UPDATE

Source: Adapted from the Corps RSM's monthly report dated 15 Jul 2025. A complete version of this update may be downloaded from the Defence network at: <https://objcdc9/id:BQ80077231/document/versions/published>

Promotions

Now that posting orders have been released, please join me in formally acknowledging and congratulating the following members on their promotions.

<u>To WO1</u>	WO2 Cheyne Truelove
	WO2 Andrew Makin
	WO2 David Raey
	WO2 Jason Jelf
<u>To SGT</u>	SGT Jack Peters
	CPL Paul Birchell
	CPL Jack McLean

Well done, gentlemen. Good luck in your next appointment and all future postings. This isn't an exhaustive list and I apologise to any I have missed.

World Skills Competition

Ref: [Skills Explained - WorldSkills Australia](#)

Every two years more than 500 Regional Competitions are held across 34 regions within Australia. The cycle for the events is the odd years hold the Regional Competitions, with the even years the National Competition.

The competitions cover all trades (except Aviation (currently under review (seeking support through Australian Aviation))). If you want to prove your skills are amongst the best in your Region and Country, then please review the above link for the criteria.

The 48th World Skills International Competition will be held in Shanghai, China over the period 22-27 Sep 26. The opportunity to compete international in something you are passionate about, surely with all our superior technicians, we can get at least one who can get to the international level

Corps Painting

Before anyone gets upset and says I am taking away the corps history, read below.

I have sent a series of images to Mr Barry Spicer to put together a concept for us (the Corps) to review prior to any formal voting and acceptance. For awareness I have sent images of M88, M2A2, Boxer, Self-Propelled Gun, Water Craft (others also included). As well as a copy of our current painting (AFV in the Light Green).

The reasoning behind my request: those of you that have been on this journey (Corps RSM) with me, have understood that I love everything about our corps, but we have some items that are well in the past. It is extremely important to hold onto those (and not lose sight on our past), but also provide relevance to those that currently serve.

I am not (actually don't have the power to anyways) removing our past, nor replacing our current corps painting, only offering the corps to have another painting that pays respect the current painting but also stands alone.

Expression of Interest – Master Artificers

This year we (the Corps) will see a huge turnover in Master Artificers (MA). All of the MAs have achieved so much on behalf of the Corps; examples include: St Eligius Competition (bring Brigade teams to one locations for a technical and military skills competition), recognition of individual technicians within their respective ECNs & providing the SME knowledge to our Corps Specific Career Courses (just to name a few).

On behalf of the Head of Corps I would like to announce the following MA positions will be available next year and would like all Warrant Officers Class One in their respective ECNs to consider taking on the role. The incumbent MAs are contactable for information on their roles and responsibilities and what it means to be an MA in our Corps.

The following MA positions are available:

- ECN 146 – incumbent – WO1 Michael Nolan
- ECN – 235 - incumbent – WO1 Grant O'Leary
- ECN 411 - incumbent – WO1 Peter Chambers
- ECN 421 - incumbent – WO1 Ben Munro

If you feel you can assist in driving the Corps forward and want to take on a challenging, yet rewarding Extra Regimental Appointment (think PAR) then this is for you. If so, I can send the Expression of Interest form to you for consideration and completion.

SO2 Corps

MAJ Craig McLeod has been appointed the SO2 Corps. Sir, welcome and we hope to continue the amazing work of all those before you.

Corps Shop

The hoodies that have been a huge success in the past are available through [RAEME Clothing](#). Purchases can be actioned through the [Corps Shop](#).

Corps Subscriptions

I have become more aware that people are finding it difficult to find the Corps Fund Subscription Form, the outdated Corps Instruction (PDF) has the incorrect information and pricing. To request a copy of the current form, please email: RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.

Employment Category Managers

RAEME Aviation trades are actively seeking members who may be interested in trade transferring into an aviation trade (Aircraft Technician or Avionics Technician).

Successful applicants would retain their current rank and pay group until the completion of Initial trade Training at the RAAF School of Technical Training, after which they would revert to CFN and be placed into the Aviation trades pay structure, which is extremely competitive with skill grade two CFN earning in excess of \$100,000 per year.

For more information, [click here](#) (Defence network only)

Matt Stone Racing

We are very fortunate to be in a position to offer two positions to technicians every V8 Supercar race held within Australia, the support each Unit, Regiment, Battalion or Brigade has provided has been paramount in making the collaboration work. MSR are extremely happy with the members we have been attaching for race weekends.

The race weekend in Tasmania was supported by SERCAT 5 members, what an amazing opportunity and shows our ability to work within the Total Workforce Model to ensure everyone is given equal and many opportunities.

The Townsville race was supported well by SERCAT 7 members working in and around EX TS25, their commitment to seeing through the attachment was fantastic to see on the ground. We tried something new and different as the welcome to Townsville this year.



Arte et Marte

Jon

Warrant Officer Class One Jon Tynan
Corps Regimental Sergeant Major

THE RAEME CRAFTSMAN – 2024 EDITION

Our latest Corps Magazine, *The RAEME Craftsman*, has been released!!

It is a little challenging to summarise what you will find in these 105 pages of RAEME goodness so you will be better off downloading a copy and checking it out yourself. You can get your copy from the [RNN website](#) or the [Defence Network](#) for those with access. We are trying to get a few hard copies for the collectors amongst us. Ask after them at our next function.

Most importantly, the editors need stories for the 2025 edition. The sooner you get your stories submitted, the sooner they will be able to get the 2025 edition complete!



**Royal Australian
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**



RAEME

CRAFTSMAN

Edition 75 2024

Serving the Nation

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME QLD

The RAQ recently released their latest edition of *Spanner News*.

As usual, this is a bumper edition which includes quite a bit of really interesting content. It starts with announcement of those recognised for well-deserved awards presented in this year's King's Birthday Honours list as well as broader recognition of achievements across the Corps. It is clear that many members are doing the Corps proud with their professional approach to their duties.

This edition also includes a feature article on the newest unit in Army's establishment, the 16th Aviation Support Battalion (16 ASB). This article explains the history, function and establishment of the Battalion as well as our Corps connection to it.

The current status of Operation Spanner Pack is also covered in this edition. Beyond operational deployments, Spanner Packs are now being sent to any RAEME member who is away from home for any RAEME maintenance, training/mentoring detachments, individual embeds, or generally any training activity longer than two or three months. Recent Spanner Pack recipients have been located in Fiji, PNG, NZ and the Torres Straight Islands. Well Done, Operation Spanner Pack!!

You can download a copy of this great publication from the RAQ website by [clicking here](#) or you can view it online as a flipbook at: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/b36773ac3f.html>



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RAEME APPRENTICES

In a big week for newsletter releases, the Australian Army Apprentice Association recently released their latest newsletter, *The Apprentice About*.

The world of Apprentices is clearly alive and well, as evidenced by this content-rich edition.



Articles of interest in this edition include an announcement that the Association have changed the membership structure, which now allows for members to pay a "Perpetual" fee to cover them without having to renew every 1, 3 or 5 years.

This year, representatives from the Association visited Balcombe Grammar School for their annual ANZAC service. The 26th annual Reunion in Brisbane attracted about 80 Army Apprentices.

There is still an opportunity to register for the Reunion in Albury Wodonga on 24-26 October. You can access the registration form by [clicking here](#).

Motor/Vehicle Mechanics may be interested in the story about Barry Green, 23rd Intake Apprentice VM, who left Balcombe early to venture into motor racing in Australia, England and America, including Formula 3, Formula One, Can-Am (6 wins), Indy Cars (47 wins), Formula Atlantic, and winning the Indy 500 (2 wins) and CART Title (1995) with Jacques Villeneuve and others. He launched racing Team Kool Green and Team Green.

Finally, readers will be interested in the first of two chapters of a story from a British Army Apprentice, Colin Blackburn, who served in numerous theatres from the early 1960s.

Apprentice or not, this edition is well worth a look. Download your copy from: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>

COMING EVENTS IN THE ACT

Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle

The first Association event planned for this month is the bi-monthly Spanner Club. This will run at RMC Golf Club from **1600h on Fri 01 Aug**.

The sausage sizzle will be back this month!

If you can, please register likely attendance so we can ensure we have enough snags ready to go. Details and an RSVP link are online.

[Click here](#) for details.

RMC Lanyard Presentation

The next major event will be the Head of Corps' presentation of Lanyards to the Corps newest LTs. This is always a great opportunity to meet the newest leaders in our Corps and ensure they are well positioned to commence their careers.

Where: The Royal Military College – Duntroon Golf Club

When: 13 Aug 25 1700 – 1900h

RSVP: NLT 06 Aug 25 to CAPT Matthew Duchatel.

Matthew.duchatel@defence.gov.au or 0407 899 989

OPERATION SPANNER PACK – KEEPING THE CORPS CONNECTED



As the RAEME National Network Spanner Pack Coordinator, it's been a rewarding role, with a range of requests coming in for Bluebell detachments on operations throughout Northern Australia. These include a detachment from 6 ESR currently supporting AACAP 2025 in the Torres Strait Islands, with personnel based on Warraber and Erub Islands, which are remote communities right in the middle of the Coral Sea. Spanner Packs were despatched to the team to remind them that the Corps supports them, no matter how isolated the location.

Left: CPL Michael Miller CFN Jordan Stevens gifted their Spanner Packs from WO2 David Shepherd Workshop Logistic Advisor DCP

We also recently supported EX CORAL SUSTAINER 2025, where RAEME instructors from 106 Field Workshop, 7 CSSB conducted a Protected Mobility Vehicle Maintenance Course. Led by LT Bec Rasmussen, the contingent delivered essential training and proudly represented the Corps. Meanwhile, Spanner Packs were sent to CPL Michael Miller and CFN Jordan Stevens of 3rd Battalion, RAR, who supported MTT-A training activities in Papua New Guinea. These contributions reflect the wide range of missions our people are supporting, whether maintenance focused, technical mentoring, or recovery operations.

To ensure we continue this level of support, if all ASMs, Workshop Commanders and RAEME S4s can provide visibility of deployments. The RAEME Associations are committed to sending Spanner Packs globally, be it a UN mission, overseas exercise, or operational deployment. We rely on you to let us know when your people are out there. A short email to the Association is all it takes to trigger a care package that carries the appreciation of the entire Corps. Let's keep the connection strong, no matter how far from home our Crafties serve.

Tom Cross

Spanner Pack Coordinator – Spannerpack@qld.raeme.org.au

ADF NEWS – RAEME OFFICER AIMING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

Lessons taught in the classrooms of the Royal Military College and in the field are being put to good use during Exercise Talisman Sabre 25, as Army's newest junior leaders step up for their first advanced Collective Training experience.

One of these officers is Lieutenant Eloise Taylor from 9th Force Support Battalion, who has joined the simulated fray as part of the Force Support Group FSG is keeping Australian personnel on the front line in the fight through the provision of essential supplies and life support.



Australian Army Lieutenant Eloise Taylor from 9th Force Support Battalion during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025

“During my 12 months at Royal Military College I was drilled on military skills including offensive, defensive and stability operations. This included the conduct of platoon level attacks and ambushes,” Lieutenant Taylor said.

“On Talisman Sabre, I’ve moved behind the scenes and am learning how to plan and execute critical logistics operations, including a FSG transition from the rear area into Shoalwater Bay.”

As a member of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Lieutenant Taylor is committed to a career-long journey of training and further professional military education under the Army’s Land Domain Training System (LDTs).

“This past year I have really been focusing on operations, but next year I will be a Platoon Leader, which will further develop my command potential,” Lieutenant Taylor said.

“Then in a couple of years, I will tackle the All Corps Captain’s Course and the Intermediate Logistic Officer’s Course, which will further enhance my specialist knowledge.”



“At every stage of my career, I will be exposed to some form of training, which ensures I am always improving and increasing my military knowledge,” she said.

Talisman Sabre is the ultimate test of Army’s integrated training and readiness, and through the support of LDTs is delivering critical learning experiences that reflect the real-world operating environment.

Source: ADF News

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN SERVICE IN THE KOREAN WAR - CANBERRA

To mark the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Korean War, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, held a National Commemorative Service at the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra on 25 June 2025. More than 18,000 Australians served during the Korean War and post-armistice ceasefire monitoring. 340 Australians lost their lives, more than 1,200 were wounded, and 30 were taken prisoner. Of those who lost their lives, 42 have no known grave. Another 16 Australians died serving in South Korea with the ceasefire monitoring force in 1953-57, and 11 died serving in Japan with base units of British Commonwealth Forces Korea. This anniversary provides the opportunity to honour and remember the service of all Australian men and women who served in the Korean War, and the sacrifice of their families.



Image and information courtesy of Defence

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN RAEME NQLD

RAQ-NQ members enjoy gathering - Townsville

The Avenues Hotel in Townsville turned on perfect winter weather for the latest Association gathering on Saturday 21 June 2025. The relaxed afternoon brought together a great mix of members and mates, with plenty of banter and the usual dose of RAEME camaraderie.

Highlights of the afternoon included the ever-popular raffles and lucky draws. Bert Greenfield walked away with the \$100 member draw, while Bear Mitchell scored the \$80 meat tray, always a crowd favourite. Phil Javens was the lucky winner of the sought after bottle of RAEME rum.



The next RAQ-NQ gathering is locked in for Saturday 20 September 2025. All current and former RAEME members, along with supporters and friends, are encouraged to come along and be part of the fun. These casual events are a great way to stay connected and share stories. All the pics are available on our [photo gallery](#).

CPL GREG MARTIN HONOURED FOR 45 YEARS IN UNIFORM

In a proud moment of recognition, Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO, DSC, presented Corporal Greg Martin with the sixth clasp to the Reserve Forces Medal, marking an extraordinary 45 years of dedicated service to the Australian Army Reserve. The award, also known as the Second Federation Star, acknowledges Greg's decades-long commitment to service, not only in uniform but also within his community. Alongside his military career, CPL Martin has served almost 35 years with the NSW Police, eight years with the NSW Rural Fire Service, and 14 years in local government with Cobar Shire Council, where he held roles including Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor.

Greg began his Army Reserve journey in Sydney while completing an apprenticeship with the NSW Railways. Since then, he has served at multiple units including 3 Transport Squadron Workshops, 1/15 Royal NSW Lancers, 2 Training Group, and the School of Military Engineering. Now a Driver Training Instructor at the University of NSW Regiment, CPL Martin trained both Regular and Reserve soldiers on

Mercedes G-Wagons and is rolling out training on the new MAN vehicles. Earlier in his career, he qualified as a recovery mechanic, operating heavy recovery vehicles, a role he described as the most enjoyable of his long and varied service.

UNSWR acknowledges and deeply values the experience and dedication CPL Martin brings to the team, and looks forward to his continued contribution.

Images and information courtesy of Defence

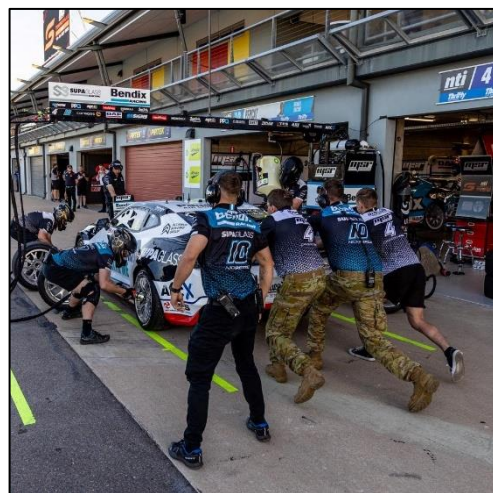


MATT STONE RACING UPDATE

The 2025 NTI Townsville 500 last weekend once again saw the powerful partnership between Matt Stone Racing (MSR) and the Australian Army (RAEME) take centre stage. Continuing a proud tradition of collaboration, MSR's Supercars highlighted the work of Army technicians who keep the force moving. Personnel from the 16th Aviation Support Battalion (16 ASB), based in Townsville, were involved in this year's event.



This high-profile collaboration not only celebrates Army's mechanical expertise but also supports recruitment by showing the diversity of trade and engineering careers available in uniform. With roaring engines and community spirit, Townsville 2025 was a standout motorsport weekend for fans and service personnel alike.



Images and information courtesy of Matt Stone Racing and Defence

Craftsman Ivan Bedelph (TX13568) [Left] and Val McGuinness (TX12841) [right] of the 281st Light Aid Detachment (L.A.D.)

Australian Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (AEME) checking the generator and regulator on a CMP F15A Blitz, 39 Mile Peg, Northern Territory Australia in 1944.

Lest We Forget. Copyright (From the private collection of William Jones).

*Note pencil filter manually coloured



INVICTUS AUSTRALIA

Here are some exciting updates and activities that Invictus Australia has planned for the remainder of July and August. There's something for everyone, and we can't wait for you to join in!

First up, we have the **Yoga Queanbeyan Program**. This is a weekly yoga session with Jayson that takes place every Tuesday from 10:00 – 11:00 am at the Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub, located at 251 Crawford Street. Don't worry about bringing a mat – they're provided! Just wear some comfy clothing and bring a water bottle. These sessions are open to adults of all abilities, so don't think you need to be super bendy to join in. The best part? These classes are absolutely FREE, thanks to RSL Lifecare. You can register [here](#):

Next, we have the **Yoga Gungahlin Program**. This weekly program features Felicity, David, and Jayson and takes place every Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at Burgmann Anglican School, The Valley Avenue. Just like the Queanbeyan



Australian Institute of Sports
Afternoon Tour (ACT)

Join us where we will go behind the scenes on an award-winning 90 minute AIS Tour. With Interactive sports exhibits, sports history and great company. Sure to be a great afternoon out for the whole family.

When: 23 August 2025
Time: 2:30pm AEST
Where: Australian Institute of Sport, Levernier Street, Bruce, ACT
Provided: Entry ticket for 90 minute Tour & Tour Guide

Register via the QR code



Enhancing Veteran and Family Social Connections, Health and Wellbeing

sessions, mats are provided, so just come in comfy clothing and bring a water bottle. No prior yoga experience is necessary. These classes are also FREE, and you can register [here](#):

For our fitness enthusiasts, the **2025 Veteran Indoor Rowing Competition** is back! The

Defence Community Indoor

Rowing Competition will return on August 9th for in-person entries and from August 3rd for online entries. All events will be run under the standard age and gender categories for Indoor Rowing Events. This is a FREE event, so don't miss out! [Click here](#) for more details and to register -

Last but not least, we are thrilled to offer an amazing opportunity to go behind the scenes on **August 23rd** with an award-winning **90-minute AIS Tour**, in partnership with Veteran Gaming Australia. This tour is packed with interactive sports exhibits, sports history, and great company. It's a fun day out that you won't want to miss. This FREE event has no age limits; everyone is welcome! Simply scan the QR Code in the poster to register.



2025 ACT VETERANS INDOOR ROWING COMPETITION

ACT INDOOR ROWING VETERANS AND FAMILIES

Compete in person or online

SUN 2ND AUG TO SAT 9TH AUG

2000M FOR THE BRAVE
4 MINUTE FOR THE FUN
1 MINUTE FOR THE SPEED
RELAY FOR THE TEAM!

Scan the QR Code for more info



RESTORING A CLASSIC - AEP ENGINEERING INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE ACCO 6X6 RESTORATION PROJECT

AEP Engineering is proud to announce a unique and hands-on initiative that brings together the past, present, and future of military engineering. The Townsville-based company has acquired a 1970 6x6 International ACCO ex-military vehicle and is inviting North Queensland's veteran and RAEME communities to support its in-house restoration, culminating in a planned appearance in the ANZAC Day Parade in 2026.

This ambitious project is more than just nuts and bolts, it's about mentorship, tradition, and giving back. At its heart is a vision to engage AEP's apprentices in meaningful, skills-based learning, while also offering a relaxed and rewarding environment for retired and experienced veterans. The RAEME "Old and Bold" to lend their knowledge, share a yarn, and enjoy a BBQ or two.



A hands-on tribute

Originally built for the Australian Defence Force, the rugged International ACCO has spent recent years working as a haulage vehicle on a rural property. Now, it's getting a second life, restored to full working order and parade-ready condition by the next generation of tradespeople.

The restoration will be carried out at AEP's Townsville workshop through a series of informal, Saturday morning sessions commencing in Q3 2025. AEP will provide all tools, parts, PPE, and facilities, along with breakfast BBQs and refreshments to keep spirits high.

But it's not just about the work. It's about creating a space for meaningful connection: an unofficial RAEME Men's Shed where experience meets enthusiasm, and every contribution counts.

Call for mentors, mateship, and memories

AEP is extending an open invitation to RAEME Association members and wider veteran community. If you've got knowledge to pass on, a soft spot for military vehicles, or just want to be part of something rewarding, this is your chance.

The goals of the project include:

- Provide apprentices with a practical learning platform to develop foundational trade skills in a structured yet informal environment.
- Foster intergenerational knowledge-sharing by inviting participation from retired Corps members ("Old and Bold") to support mentoring.
- Strengthen community ties through a project that honours Australia's military history.
- Showcase AEP Engineering's commitment to technical excellence, veteran engagement, and support for the next generation of tradespeople.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05188.016

Project timeline:

- Start - Q3 2025
- Workshop Sessions - Fortnightly, Saturday mornings (3–4 hours)
- Target Completion - April 2026 – for the ANZAC Day Parade

Whether you're a spanner-wielding veteran, a lover of old-school Army kit, or someone who values the spirit of RAEME, this project is for you. Your knowledge, humour, and support could make all the difference for the vehicle, and the young tradies learning their craft.

Arte et Marte

To get involved or learn more, please contact:

Mick McMillan

AEP Engineering – Townsville

michael.mcmillan@aepengineering.com.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME SA

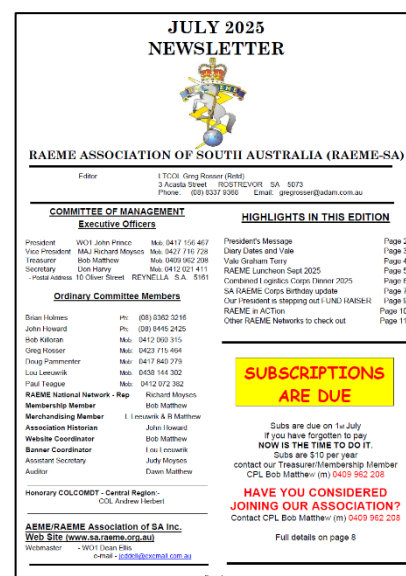
The South Australian RAEME Association recently released their Association Newsletter.

The newsletter commences with a great summary of happenings in SA which is quite helpful given how active the Association is. The SA team maintain some strong links between serving and retired members which is great to see.

The Association President notes in his message, "Take pride in everything you do along your journey". The Association has clearly adopted this outlook. This was evident in photos from their last "Harry the Horse Luncheon". The next luncheon will be on 02 Sept. It is likely to be just as good so if you are in Adelaide on that date, make sure you check it out.

After that, the SA team have their regional "Combined Logistics and Health Services" dinner. This will fall on Fri 31 Oct.

To find out more about these events and everything else the SA Association is up to, please visit: <https://sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletters>



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME S-QLD

RAEME Sunshine Coast Get-Together – Alex Surf Club

After a bleak and wet night, the weather cleared to deliver a perfect winter's day on the Sunshine Coast. While only a few keen swimmers and surfers braved the pristine beach, the shimmering ocean provided a stunning backdrop for our second RAEME get-together at the Alex Surf Club.



Over 50 RAEME mates and their spouses attended what turned out to be an ideal luncheon in a truly picturesque setting. While many familiar faces from our April gathering were present, it was especially pleasing to welcome a number of new attendees, a reminder of what makes these gatherings so special. They offer an opportunity to reconnect with old mates and forge new friendships.



Following a hearty lunch and plenty of good conversation in the Bistro area, many retired to the adjacent games room, where stories and memories of times gone by continued.

All in all, another fantastic afternoon enjoyed by everyone.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAEME VICTORIA

The Royal Thai Army Military Technical Training School (MTTS) dropped in at Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering earlier this month in the spirit of connection and shared learning.

The schools began a re-establishment of a once close relationship dating back to the Vietnam War era, which saw Australian Instructors teaching at (MTTS), Thai trainees learning in Australia and the ADF donating tooling to the MTTS.

The visit was a fruitful one, with visions to share knowledge and trade training processes.



Images and information courtesy of Defence

DVA NEWS

Rockingham WA location announced for Veterans' and Families' Hub

A dedicated Veterans' and Families Hub to service the Southwest Perth region is one step closer – with its new location confirmed at 65 Dixon Road, Rockingham, WA 6168.

More than 8,000 veterans and families live across the region, which is also home to Australia's largest naval base – HMAS Stirling – with more than 4,100 employees.

The Rockingham Hub will be close to public transport and conveniently near several community facilities and services including a hospital, recreation centre, library, and education centres, making it easier for veterans and families to access the support they need, close to home.



In December 2023, the Australian Government provided a \$5 million grant for RSL WA to lead the development of a new Hub.

RSL WA has a long and proud history of supporting veterans and families across Perth and will now be working closely with the local community to design a Hub that meets their specific needs.

Hubs provide a welcoming space where veterans' services and advocacy organisations work together to deliver integrated, holistic, wrap-around support – this can include mental and physical health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and social connection.

All current and former serving Australian Defence Force members, including reservists, and families can access support at any Hub.

Ten Hubs are already operating across the country in Adelaide, Burnie, Townsville, Caboolture, Darwin, Nowra, Perth, Queanbeyan, and Wodonga.

The Southwest Perth Hub is part of the Australian Government's \$46.7 million commitment to establish eight new Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country to ensure even more veterans and families can access support close to home.

Additional Hubs are being established in Hobart and Launceston (TAS), Hawkesbury, Hunter and Tweed/North Coast, (NSW), Ipswich (QLD), and Surf Coast/Geelong (VIC).

All new Hubs are expected to be operational by mid-2026, with some services available becoming available at interim locations before then.

To learn more or see the opening hours for a Hub near you, visit [Veterans' and Families' Hubs | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).

New resources for veterans living in aged care

The veteran's guide to living in an aged care home is designed to assist and support veterans and families living in an aged care home.

The guide and related resources describe the support available for clients and their families through DVA, ex-service organisations and other advocacy services to enable them to live well when living in an aged care home.

The focus is on recognition, the importance of lifestyle, accessing clinically needed supports and remaining connected to friends, family and community when living in an aged care facility.

The guide and related resources include:

- information on developing care plans with your aged care provider
- accessing DVA supports and services that meet the client's needs
- resources to help aged care staff gain a better understanding of the veteran's or war widow(er)'s life experience
- a set of recognition products with a poppy motif that DVA clients can choose to display in their residential aged care home.

Designed in collaboration with aged care providers, peak bodies and those with lived experience, the guide is easy to read, informative and tailored specifically for the use of veterans, families and their carers.

In addition to the veteran's guide, DVA has also published resources to help residential aged care providers, and their teams better understand the unique needs of DVA clients, and the additional support that may be available to them.

The veterans guide will be mailed out to DVA Veteran Gold Card and Veteran White Card Holders living in residential aged care, along with a letter from the Repatriation Commissioner.

[Download 'The veteran's guide to living in an aged care home'](#) today and explore the full range of resources on the [DVA website](#).



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REME UK

Birthday Celebrations for REME foundation member

On 26 Jul, members of the REME Welfare and Charity were in Cheltenham, UK, presenting a commemorative 100th Birthday card to a REME founder member, Mr. John 'Jack' Anderton-Seed.

On behalf of the Corps, WO2 Rossiter extended warm felicitations to Mr. Anderton-Seed, acknowledging his remarkable service history. Having enlisted in the Army in 1939, Mr. Anderton-Seed played a pivotal role in the formation of REME in 1942, serving with distinction in Europe.

The Corps is delighted to learn that Mr. Anderton-Seed conveys his sincerest regards to the entire REME family, expressing gratitude for the thoughtful gifts received. This gesture underscores the enduring bonds within the REME community and highlights the esteem in which Mr. Anderton-Seed is held.



On behalf of the ACT RAEME Association, Happy Birthday, Jack!

Promotions to Corporal

Whilst RAEME and REME share many similar attributes, there are some clear differences in scale. This was recently made abundantly clear when on 23 Jul, REME celebrated the promotion of 419 REME members to the rank of Corporal! Well done to all new junior leaders in REME!

The Craftsman Magazine

REME recently released their latest monthly Corps magazine, *The Craftsman*. This includes multiple interesting stories but again, even more evidence as to the differences in scale with RAEME, particularly with the sporting opportunities open to REME.

[Click here](#) to download this edition to learn more.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RCME CANADA

Operation FAUST – 80th Anniversary of Liberation of the Netherlands

In May 2025, over 80 soldiers from the RCME Corps, Royal Canadian Logistics Service, and Royal Canadian Artillery participated in Operation FAUST, a Battlefield Staff Ride and professional development opportunity commemorating Canada's role in liberating the Netherlands in WWII.

Highlights included:

- Marching in the Wageningen Parade on 5 May, where Canadian troops accepted Germany's surrender in 1945
- Ceremonies at Holten and Groesbeek War Cemeteries, honouring the fallen alongside Canadian Veterans, Dutch citizens, and dignitaries
- Educational visits to battlefield sites, museums, and historic landmarks such as the Airborne Museum, Xanten Gates, and Hotel de Wereld
- PD sessions exploring Canada's efforts during the "Hunger Winter" and the origins of Operation FAUST, which delivered vital food to millions in May 1945



This unforgettable experience deepened our understanding of Combat Service Support in operations and reminded us of the enduring friendship between Canada and the Netherlands. Lest we forget.

LEGENDS OF THE NEPEAN

JOHN FENTON



John Fenton



BY NOEL ROWSELL

JOHN Fenton is a Vice President at the City of Penrith sub-Branch, a volunteer Advocate with Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc at Springwood, a member of the Regional Implementation Group, over-viewing volunteer Advocates in NSW/ACT/WA, and a volunteer Advocate and Regional Mentor for service and ex-service personnel, who consider training as volunteer Advocates to assist their fellow veterans.

John said, "In 2023, I was humbled by being recognised by the City of Penrith Council with a Community 'Making a Difference' Award and, in 2024, I was honoured with Life Membership of the RSL Australia."

John joined the Australian Army in 1954 and served for twenty-five years, graduating into the Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers.

During his early service, he was posted to workshop units in both

NSW and Victoria, along with a short term with the Radiation Detection Unit, which was based at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment in Maralinga (SA) during minor nuclear trials.

As a Lieutenant, John was posted to the Territory of Papua New Guinea (TPNG) for two years, to train Pacific Island soldiers. It was not known how long it would be to establish that nation's independence and John has two highlights from his deployment, the first being the satisfaction in playing a small role in bringing that nation to independence, and the second the opportunity to walk the historic Kokoda Track on three occasions, the last to search for three Australian soldiers who were serving in TPNG and had become disoriented whilst traversing the track from Kokoda to Owers Corner, as an adventure during the holiday period.

Upon his return to Australia, he commanded 18 Field Squadron Workshop, in support of the Field Engineers, for twelve months prior to deployment to Vietnam.

Deployed to Vietnam, he commanded 17 Construction Squadron Workshop, supporting the Construction Squadron in its role of undertaking the Task Force



John with granddaughter Ashlee and her husband Jake.



Reading to Great granddaughter Ava watched by Santa.



John Fenton was nominated as a Legend of the Nepean by Anthony Eddie. If you know a local legend, send us a nomination at nepeannews@aol.com

As a result of commanding soldiers in both peace and war, John has always believed it is his continuing role to be responsible for the well-being of ADF members, both serving and ex-serving, both men and women.

Because of that perceived responsibility, since retiring from the workforce, John has undertaken applicable training courses to provide ongoing support as a volunteer Advocate to the Defence Community in the greater Penrith area.

Commander's objectives, especially land and mine clearing using armoured protected bulldozers, and civic action tasks, such as building civilian hospitals and housing, aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the local Vietnamese. John is a current member of the management committee of 17 Construction Squadron Workshop, Vietnam Veterans Association.

John returned to Australia and commanded North Queensland Area Workshop, Townsville, then was posted to 5 Aviation Workshop, initially at RAAF Base Amberley, and then to the Army Aviation Centre, Oakley.

He was later posted on exchange to the British Army with the REME Support Group, located at Woolwich

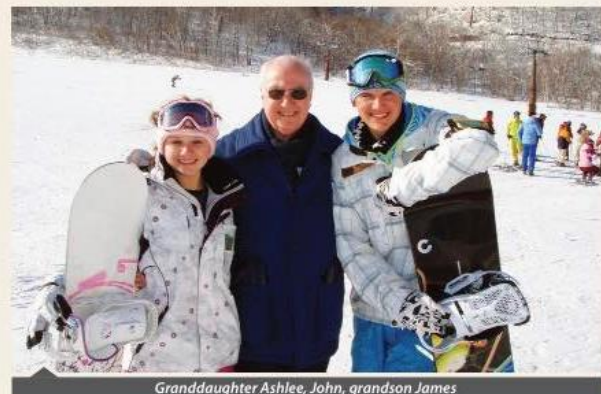
UK for just over two years. Upon his return to Australia, John was posted to HQ Logistic Command in Melbourne, in an administrative role.

His final appointment, before resigning his Commission, was Logistics representative with the Tri-Service/Multi National Joint Exercise Planning Staff, preparing for the "Kangaroo" exercise.

John was subsequently appointed in a Quality Assurance role at Jaguar Rover Australia (JRA), then became involved with Project Perentie, which provided 3,000 Land Rover vehicles to the Australian Army.

Upon leaving JRA, John joined the Small Arms Factory in Lithgow as Quality Manager, then was reappointed as Site Manager. The factory manufactured Steyr rifles

and Minimi machine guns for the Australian Defence Force (ADF), as well as modifying 50 calibre machine guns which were utilised in Gulf War 1, and modifying the Steyr rifle to mount the 40mm grenade launcher.



Granddaughter Ashlee, John, grandson James

Well done, John! You are a legend, for sure!

Courtesy of Nepean News

Below is the cover of the Army News from 01 Aug 1943, being the first year since RAEME's establishment. This can be reviewed in full at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/38337006/3352181>.

ARMY NEWS

Issued Free To All Services In The Northern Territory

Vol. 2—No. 553 DARWIN, SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1943 Phone: Larr. 48

REARIN' TO GO

There are 10,000 idle sewing machines in Australia today. The Federal Government has decided that they must be used in the war effort. It is hoped that the people will be brought to the machines.

Terrific Raids And Air Battles On Seventh Day Of Blitz

THE great air offensive against Germany and occupied Europe reached its seventh day on Friday with terrific raids on Nazi industry and blows against transport and airfields in northern France and Germany. At one time over Europe, there were 1000 planes in the air—Allied and Nazi—and air battles reached a new peak of fury.

The Nazis sent up every fighter they could command to try and smash up the bomber formations, but they failed. Targets were heavily bombed and great damage was done. Sixty-one Nazi fighters were destroyed.

American pilots out in Fortresses in daylight reported on their return that the Germans had used night fighters.

The BBC announced last night that the offensive shows no signs of slackening. Early yesterday, strong formations of bombers and fighters roared across the Channel towards Europe. Details of targets were not announced when Army News went to press.

On Friday, waves of Flying Fortresses penetrated deep into Germany to raid industry at Cassel. The main target was the vast Diesel engine works. In spite of fierce fighter interception and heavy flak, bombs landed squarely on their targets.

US air gunners did splendid work. They shot down 25 Axis fighters. Thunderbolts, which met the bombers on their way home, accounted for another eight fighters.

500 PLANES

While this raid was taking place, 500 of Britain's latest aircraft—Typhoons, Spitfires, and Venturas—attacked two airfields in Belgium, one in France, and a naval station near Rouen, in France.

It was the war's biggest day in the air, the Air Ministry announced. RAF planes, shot down another 28 German fighters.

On Friday night, RAF heavy bombers switched from Hamburg and raided Germany's largest machine-tool plants in the Ruhr. The raid was heavy and concentrated. Fifteen bombers are missing.

Bombers and Mustangs attacked transport in northern Europe.

"FRIGHTFUL NIGHT"

Broadcasting from Hamburg over Berlin Radio, Dr. Weinger, said: "We have just inspected the centre of the city after its heaviest raid. It was a most difficult job driving through streets piled with glass."

BURMA

RAF and US planes have again raided Japanese transport headquarters in Burma, causing fires and explosions and smashing buildings and barracks.

Tanks And Flames At Munda

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S communique yesterday revealed that the Americans are using tanks and flame-throwers in their attacks on the Japanese holding Munda airfield on the island of New Georgia, in the Solomons.

The Americans on Friday launched another strong attack and are now nearer the aerodrome.

The flame-throwers are being used to burn Japanese out of fox-holes and strong-points.

The troops were supported by dive-bomber attacks.

BARGES DESTROYED

Our patrol ships discovered formations of Japanese supply barges, heavily laden, in Vitiaz Strait, between New Britain and New Guinea, on Friday, destroying seven and damaging others.

Other barges were found off Hogen Bay and Cape Boelke, New Guinea, and five were destroyed, making a total of 12 for the day.

Our bombers attacked Japanese positions in the Salamaua area again, dropping 25 tons of high explosives.

Gasmata was also raided.

There is sharp fighting in the Komistum area of New Guinea.

ALLIED STRATEGY

United States Navy Secretary, C. Frank Knox, yesterday told his press conference that Allied strategy in advancing from island to island in the Pacific was in preparation for powerful and decisive thrusts against strategic strongpoints of the Japanese Empire.

ITALY REACHES BOILING POINT

A.L. reports from Italy last night indicated that the country is seething with unrest. All Fascists in Milan have been either killed or arrested. Count Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law, has resigned from his post as the Duce's ambassador to the Vatican.

Italy is apparently reaching boiling point—a stage when anything is likely to happen.

Britain, the United States, and Russia have warned neutral countries not to interfere in the Italian problem and not in any way to assist Mussolini and his fellow war criminals.

Rome Radio announced that Italian leaders were examining the Allied peace conditions.

"Italy is aware of the seriousness of the dilemma," the radio added. "Italian people are faced with a fearful reality."

Algiers Radio yesterday broadcast a warning to Marshal Badoglio that he had nothing to gain by playing for time.

MANY REPORTS

Among reports about events in Italy are the following:

About 100 Fascists in Milan have intruded themselves in a building. Yugoslavian airmen have entered Italian soil.

An Italian officer at a frontier town in the north blocked the road to prevent the entry of German soldiers. The Nazis went back because they did not want to make an "incident."

Thousands of Italian workers are striking for half an hour a day and are demanding that Italy make peace with the Allies.



RELENTLESS WAR ON U-BOATS. This photograph shows members of a U-boat crew on the deck of the 23-year-old destroyer, Vimy, which sank it in the Atlantic. Vimy fought in the last war.

BURGLAR BAFFLED (from Page 2)

Police in Meredith (Vic.), are searching for the man who attempted to rob the Post Office on Friday night, but was foiled by the postmaster's wife, Mrs. Elcock, who was in bed with her five-years-old daughter. Her husband was at a meeting when a man entered her bedroom at 10.15p.m. and said: "I want money." stating that he had a gun, and warning her not to call for help. The intruder got a shock when Mrs. Elcock grappled with him. He broke away and escaped through the Post Office. Subsequently, police made a search and fired shots at a man who escaped in the darkness.

CIVIL ALIENS CORPS (from Page 3)

With the call-up on Friday for interview and medical examination of a further batch of more than 100 aliens for work in the Civil Constructional Corps or Allied Works Councils, the Civil Alien Corps' total of aliens sent away for work on CCC projects left Melbourne last Sunday for northern areas. The biggest call-up was made six weeks ago, when more than 1000 men were medically examined and interviewed in a fortnight. Another small call-up will probably be made this coming week.

TERRIFIC RAIDS AND AIR BATTLES ON SEVENTH DAY OF BLITZ

The great air offensive against Germany and occupied Europe reached its seventh day on Friday with terrific raids on Nazi industry and blows against transport and airfields in northern France and Germany.

At one time over Europe, there were 1000 planes in the air—Allied and Nazi—and air battles reached a new peak of fury. The Nazis sent up every fighter they could command to try and smash up the bomber formations but they failed.

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RAEME in ACTION – August 2025

18

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE UPDATE

The following Determination has been signed and is effective as follows:

Schedule 1	3 July 2025
Schedule 2	11 September 2025
Schedule 3	3 July 2025
Schedule 4	Immediately after the commencement of Defence Determination, Conditions of service (Living-in accommodation, housing contributions and allowances, and disturbance allowances) Determination (No. 7) 2025.
Schedules 5-9	3 July 2025
Schedule 10	11 September 2025
Schedule 11	3 July 2025

[Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment Determination 2025](#) (No. 10)

The purpose of this Determination is to do the following:

- Update salary non-reduction periods to include Navy Intelligence Officers and Naval Police Coxswain Officers and remove salary non-reduction periods that have expired and no longer apply.
- Implement premature birth leave. Premature birth leave provides a member who has given birth prematurely, or a member whose partner has given birth prematurely, with a period of paid leave to support them and to provide them with additional time to spend with their child. This period of leave is in addition to paid maternity leave and parental leave.
- Provide food allowance to members who occupy living-in accommodation at the Navy accommodation complex at Homebush, New South Wales and North Strathfield, New South Wales due to having no access to meals at these locations.
- Correct various typographical errors relating to the rent ceiling for Glenbrook, NSW and the contribution rate a member who is receiving temporary accommodation allowance must pay when occupying temporary accommodation. These amendments will take effect immediately after the amendments made by Defence Determination, Conditions of service (Living-in accommodation, housing contributions and allowances, and disturbance allowances) Determination (No. 7) 2025, therefore ensuring the identified errors have no effect on the members to which they would have applied.
- Update the following rates and allowances which apply to members domestically and while posted overseas:
 - Education assistance;
 - Child supplement allowance;
 - Early childhood education assistance; and
 - Location allowance.
- Amend the definition of 'allied health services' to reference the Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Allied Health Services) Determination 2024 and add new services for specialists, allied health services and related products that a member is eligible to be reimbursed costs for under the ADF Family Health Program.
- Amend domestic travel provisions for when a member's resident family needs to travel to access a registered medical or dental practitioner and to enable a Commanding Officer to certify that the travel is necessary when the resident family is unable to access a doctor or dentist if they are in certain remote locations.
- Insert a new section that allows travel for the following people when a member or their resident family are absent from the member's housing benefit location for medical reasons.
 - A support person.
 - A child who is accompanied resident family of a member if there is no alternative care available for the child in the housing benefit location.
- Remove directly conferred decision makers within the Principal Determination as the decision makers will be placed in an Instrument of Authorisation.
- Add new locations to the list of trial locations for the purpose of the Early Eligibility for Rent Allowance Trial.
- Update Annex 13.3.A which provides meal and incidentals rates for members who are travelling on short-term duty overseas to remove the currency provided for Croatia which no longer exists.
- Make a range of technical amendments that do not alter the underlying policies, or the benefits which are currently provided, including the creation of a new Division in Chapter 1 Part 2 of the Principal Determination for savings provisions required as a consequence of amending determinations.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE UPDATE continued

The following Determination has been signed and is effective as follows:

Sections 1-4	The day the instrument is registered	Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment Determination 2025 (No. 11)
Schedule 1	Immediately after the commencement of Schedule 2 of Defence Determination, Conditions of service Amendment Determination (No. 10) 2025	Schedule 1 deals with Premature birth leave amendments Schedule 2 deals with Miscellaneous amendments
Schedules 2-3	17 July 2025	Schedule 3 deals with Transitional provisions

The following Determination has been signed and is effective on 25 July 2025.

[Defence Determination, Conditions of Service Amendment Determination 2025 \(No. 12\).](#)

This Determination has the following purposes.

- To provide administrative rules for the new cyber warfare pay structure that was introduced into the DFRT Determination No. 2 of 2017, Salaries (the Salaries Determination), by DFRT Determination No. 7 of 2025, Salaries – Cyber warfare pay structure – amendment (the amending determination). [Joint Capabilities Group: Cyber Warfare Employment Categories | Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal](#)
- The Salaries Determination, as amended, permits the Principal Determination to make rules for these matters and deals with increment placement on entry into the new pay structure, increment advancement, pathway transfer and the deferral of increment advancement.

AWN NEWS – GREATER LOVE – Second World War Memorial Concert



A powerful commemorative concert to mark the declaration of peace in the Pacific 80 years ago.

This nationally significant cultural event will remember those who served abroad and those who supported the effort at home. Greater Love will commemorate this historic anniversary with an epic concert that will describe through music, paintings, poetry, images and narrations these defining events.

The concert will be narrated by Australia's greatest theatre actor, John Bell AO OBE FRSN, performed by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Defence Force's finest musicians with soloists William Barton, didgeridoo; Simon Tedeschi and Edward Neeman, piano; Alice Giles, harp; Dong Ma, erhu; Andrew Goodwin, tenor; Rachel Mink, soprano; Brisbane

Chamber Choir, Flowers of Peace Chorus and the Luminescence Children's Choir.

With a history of producing concerts that tell the story of the nation's conflicts from WWI onwards, the audience reaction says it all:

- 'powerful, emotional performance that I was awash with tears.'
- 'Absolutely superb. In tears for most of it. Scarcely able to speak when it was over'
- 'I've been fortunate enough to have been at many thousands of symphonic concerts since the 1950s, but this was the most moving concert I have ever attended'.
- 'the most beautiful and gripping tribute I have ever witnessed.'

Don't miss this special one night only performance.

Where: Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Canberra

When: Friday 15 August 2025, 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Cost: Adult - \$90; Concession - \$80

Tickets: [Click here](#) to book your seat.

Looking back into *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine, Edition 5 of December 1980, we found the Duke of Edinburgh, the late Prince Philip mentioned on at least two occasions; one being the presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award to Craftsman James David Davey and the second being in a short letter to the editor regarding the Prince's delight with the early *RAEME Craftsman* magazines. As an aside, Craftsman Davey's award was clearly warranted. He retired some time later as a Colonel.

GOLD AWARD TO CRAFTSMAN FROM COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The presentation of a Duke of Edinburgh Award in Australia by Field Marshall His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, KG, Kt, OM, GBE, patron and founder of the scheme, is always a newsworthy event.

However, when the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers presents the award it frequently escapes the attention of the national press until, that is, they realise that both titles belong to the same Royal personage – then it *is* news.

News it may be for the national press, but for RAEME it is a rather historic occasion when the highest award in the scheme is presented to one of the Colonel-in-Chief's own Corps members, by the Colonel-in-Chief himself.

Such was the value of the occasion when Craftsman James David Davey was presented with the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award by His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of RAEME, in a ceremony in Canberra during the recent visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Australia in May.

Craftsman Davey started working toward his gold award in 1974, while still at school in Goulburn, New South Wales and finally satisfied the qualifications in November 1978. It wasn't easy. But then, it was never intended it should be – for anyone.

Three stages of five sections each have to be completed before a gold award can be earned. Service to the community, expeditions, interests, physical activities and residential periods in a youth leadership role make up the five sections.

James Davey, as he was then, fulfilled his service to the community by serving twelve months with the NSW State Emergency Service, with the Mulwaree Bush Fire Brigade and with St Johns Ambulance Brigade – a total of three years community service.

In the four years he worked for the award, he hiked 80 kilometres through Tarlo Gorge, 48 kilometres through Shoalhaven Gorge and 50 kilometres through the Blue Mountains from Wentworth Falls to Springwood – to complete his expedition section; completed a six months photography course, earned a Grade 6 Australian Musical Examination's Board qualification for his practical ability on the piano and his theoretical knowledge of music and completed a six-month trail bike riding course with the NSW Police Department – to complete his interests section; passed general fitness tests, gained a variety of swimming and life saving awards and played tennis for the physical activity section and finally, spent two separate periods of five days and nights among mentally retarded children from a home in Sydney to satisfy the residential youth leadership section. On both occasions he accompanied the children and staff on holiday camps.

All that and he is yet only nineteen. A tremendous record of achievement. Now, after four years of consistent and dedicated activity this young man is Craftsman James David Davey, a student on the 4/79 ATMT (MM) Course at RAEME Training Centre, Bandiana. Craftsman Davey received his gold badge in January 1979 and fully expected to receive his certificate from the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, which, in itself, would have been an honour.



His Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of RAEME and founder of the Duke of Edinburgh Award congratulates Craftsman James David Davey for achieving the Gold Award.

Instead, the award was presented to him at a ceremony in the auditorium of the Priory of the Order of St John, Canberra, by His Royal Highness.

A momentous occasion for Craftsman Davey and an historic one for the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. We congratulate Craftsman Davey on his award and wish him an equally successful career in the Corps of his choice and ours.

Dear Brigadier,

Thank you for your letter of 1st December sending the first two issues of "The RAEME Craftsman" which The Duke of Edinburgh was very interested to see.

His Royal Highness has asked me to congratulate you on an excellent publication and to send his best wishes for its success.

Yours sincerely
Justin Fenwick
MAJOR

PLANNED GATHERINGS NATIONWIDE

Planned RAEME gatherings across Australia for the remainder of 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 the event title below contains a hyperlink, this will take you to the event entry on the Association website.

For ACT Association members, each event also includes a link to allow you to add the event to your calendar. Please note that this will just add the event; you may still need to RSVP if one is required. Should any updates be required, please [email me](#).

Month	Date	Region	Event
August	Fri 1 st	ACT	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle RMC Golf Club from 1600h For catering purposes and to assist RMC Staff planning, please RSVP NLT 29 Jul via the event link or via email .
	Wed 6 th	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 8 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne From 1600-1900h POC: Bernard Russell on 0487-632-644 or Greg Hutton on 0408-784-673
	Wed 13 th	ACT	RMC Lanyard Presentation RMC Golf Club – 1700-1900h
	Sun 17 th	S-Qld	RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion Brisbane 2025 Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch from 1100-1600h RSVP: John Parfit NLT 10 August 2025, lparfitt@bigpond.net.au
		Tasmania	RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon – Vietnam Veteran's Day Toowoomba City Golf Club from 1200-1600h For more info or to RSVP, please contact Pete Pile, the RAQ-DD Representative on southwest@qld.raeme.org.au
	Sat 23 rd	S-Qld	RAQ Gold Coast Luncheon Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC from 1200-1630h
	Mon 25 th	NSW	Spanner Club Victoria Barracks, Sydney
September	Tues 26 th	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
	Tues 2 nd	SA	Harry the Horse Luncheon West Adelaide Football Club Contact Bob Killoran on 0412-060-315 by the Friday before the luncheon

Month	Date	Region	Event
September	Wed 3 rd	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
		SA	Committee of Management Meeting Plympton-Glenelg RSL
	Fri 5 th	ACT	Mixed Lunch Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 02 Sept via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Thurs 11 th	NSW	Committee Meeting and Casual Luncheon Ingleburn RSL Club All members welcome for luncheon from 1200h
	Fri 12 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sat 13 th	S-Qld	RAQ Sunshine Coast Luncheon Maroochydore RSL
	Weds 17 th	Wagga	Spanner Club 56 th anniversary of RAEME Aviation technical trade training at RAAF Wagga
	Tues 30 th	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
October	Wed 1 st	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Wed 8 th	Wagga	Spanner Club Wagga par 3 & driving range
	Fri 3 rd	ACT	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle RMC Golf Club For catering purposes and to assist RMC Staff planning, please RSVP NLT 30 Sept via the event link or via email .
	Fri 10 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Tues 28 th	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
	Fri 31 st	SA	RAEME and other Log Association's Combined Function Details TBC
November	Wed 5 th	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 7 th	ACT	End-of-Year Dinner Griffins Bar and Caffe Restaurant RSVP NLT 01 Sep 25 via our website or email if required.
	Sat 8 th	Tasmania	Spanner Club / Lunch Claremont RSL – 1200 for 1230h

Month	Date	Region	Event
November	Thurs 13 th	NSW	Committee Meeting and Casual Luncheon Ingleburn RSL Club All members welcome for luncheon from 1200h
	Fri 14 th	Victoria	Spanner Club Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
	Sun 16 th	S-Qld	RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon for RAEME Birthday City Golf Club
	Fri 21 st	NSW	Corps Birthday BBQ TBA
	Tues 25 th	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
	Fri 28 th	ACT	RAEME Birthday Spanner Club RMC Golf Club
	Fri 28 th	S-Qld	Women in RAEME Cocktails Gaythorne RSL from 1800-2000h
	Sat 29 th	SA	AGM and RAEME Birthday West Adelaide Football Club
		S-Qld	17 Const Sqn Wksp UNTAG Namibia Reunion Kedron-Wavell Services Club from 1130-1530h Tickets: https://www.trybooking.com/1440521 RSVP: Click here to indicate if you're coming.
	Sun 30 th	Tasmania	RAEME Birthday "The Lair" Derwent Barracks, Glenorchy, 1200 for 1230h RSVP NLT 26 Nov via email rclark-7@hotmail.com
December	TBC	ACT	RMC Lanyard Presentation RMC Golf Club Details to follow when received
	TBC	S-Qld	RAQ Sunshine Coast Gathering Maroochydore RSL
	Mon 1 st	Nationwide	RAEME's 83rd Birthday
	Wed 3 rd	S-Qld	RAQ Monthly Meeting Kedron Wavell Services Club
	Fri 5 th	ACT	Final Mixed Lunch for 2025 Ainslie Football Club from 1230h RSVP NLT 02 Dec via our website or via email if you need someone to sign you in to the Club
	Fri 5 th	Wagga	RAEME 83 Birthday Wagga Wagga Returned Service League Club
	Weekend 13-14 th	Tasmania	RATs Camping Weekend Rivers Edge Camping Ground, Lonnovale, Bookings essential RSVP NLT 10 Dec via email rclark-7@hotmail.com

OPEN ARMS NEWS – GROUP PROGRAMS

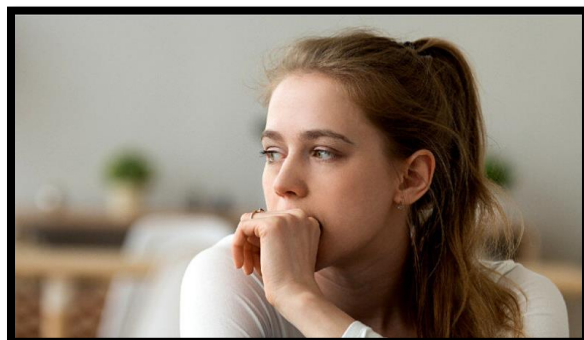
Managing pain

- What:** A program to help you learn about effective pain management strategies
- Who:** ADF members and their partners about to or recently in transition to civilian life.
- Venue:** Adelaide CBD
- When:** 13 & 14 August, 9:00am – 5:00 pm
- More info:** [Click here for more information](#)



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:** Online
- When:** 19 & 21 August, 9:30am - 11:00am
- More info:** [Click here for more information](#)



Sleeping better

- What:** A program to help you manage disturbed sleep
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.
- Venue:** Online
- When:** 26 & 28 August, 12:00pm - 1:30pm
- More info:** [Click here for more information](#)



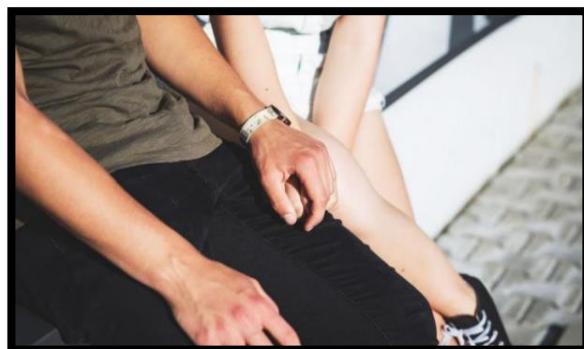
Relaxation and Stress Management

- What:** Learn strategies to alleviate a variety of conditions, including pain, stress and mild depression
- Who:** Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children
- Venue:** Hobart
- When:** 19 August, 9:30am – 4:00 pm
- More info:** [Click here for more information](#)



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:** Wodonga
- When:** 2 & 3 September, 9:30am – 4:30 pm
- More info:** [Click here for more information](#)



SOLDIER'S 5 QUIZ

Answers at bottom of page

1. **People.** What rank is the RSM of the Army?
2. **Things.** What was DNATS?
3. **Events.** Where were Australian soldiers the first to inflict a defeat on the Japanese Army in WW2?
4. **Trade.** Why is an "inert gas" used in Metal Inert Gas (MIG) Welding?
5. **Places.** What is the name of the Army Barracks that is the home of SASR?



SASR Support (Watercolour) by artist Ian Coates

CLOSING COMMENTS

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

Arte et Marte,

Ian Cook
Secretary, ACT RAEME Association



President: Andy Adams, President@act.raeme.org.au
Secretary: Ian Cook, Secretary@act.raeme.org.au
Website: <https://act.raeme.org.au>



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

Soldier's 5 Quiz Answers 1. The RSM-Army's rank is "Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army" as per the [Defence Act 1903](#); 2. The Defence National Automated Telephone System; 3. Milne Bay, PNG; 4. To prevent chemical reactions with other elements, hence to help produce a quality weld; 5. Campbell Barracks. "Swanbourne" is the suburb the barracks is in.