



# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**April 2021**

**Issue 22**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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## **From the Editors desk – Russell Clark**

Welcome to Edition 22, I hope all members and your families had a great Christmas and new year in these difficult times. Well, that pandemic continues to hinder us, and at this stage we are unsure of what is happening ANZAC day; rest assured we will advise members once a decision has been made.



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## From the Editor's Desk cont.

Your Committee was elected unopposed and continues to work hard in these difficult times and a calendar for 2021 is included FYI. Please make every attempt to attend our functions, if last year's RAEME birthday was anything to go on, we will survive as an Association for some years yet!

On another matter I would like to receive more old photos from down memory lane, to include in future editions. All you need to do is scan your photos and email to me including details of the photo/s.

Please, enjoy reading this edition, let's hope we can meet at this year's ANZAC day to remember and reflect on our fallen comrades.

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## Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Well, I can't believe it's been three months!! I hope our members have had a great Christmas break, spent it well with family and friends and most importantly kept safe. We often refer to Australia as the lucky country and given the worldwide events of the last 12 months I think we can wear that badge with pride. Say what you like of our political leaders, I don't care; what I do find difficulty in comprehending is that India has reported in excess of 40,000 cases of Covid 19 per day each and every day for the past week! Having travelled to India on a couple of occasions my only comment is that I would strongly suggest that the actual number of cases would far exceed these reported numbers! Europe is reporting a double covid strain and France has gone back into lockdown.



As I write this today, I am hearing rumours of one new case in Queensland and if proven true will be National news and broadcast through every medium, both within Australia and undoubtedly throughout New Zealand; did I say one case!!

You may be wondering to yourself why is Mark rabbiting on about Covid? Well to put it simply we are about to go into two key risk events in the very near future,

Event 1 – Easter, traditionally a time of wider family gatherings and much travel throughout our beloved country,

Event 2 – ANZAC Day.

I am not suggesting that these be cancelled or postponed, however I do urge all of members to give consideration to the risks that events pose. For Easter a key risk is the potential for border closures and quarantine at your own expense in the event of an outbreak. For ANZAC day the key risk is an outbreak at one of the major march centres which would have the potential to harm many of our older veterans; by the way I fit into that category and don't consider myself old!! Whilst we are still attempting to have all the details for the Hobart ANZAC Day services, on behalf of the committee I just want you all to know that we will support you in whatever decision you make, whether that is to march, if it proceeds, or stay at home or do some other form of remembrance, it is an individual choice based on your individual circumstances. For the record I will not be partaking in the march, this has nothing to do with Covid but rather to recovering from my second hip replacement.

Anyway, enough from me, sit down, relax, grab a glass of your favourite beverage and enjoy the read.

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## Presidents Report cont.

**STOP PRESS** – I have just received notification that the new RAEME National Network Co-ordinator is Ross L Grant, on behalf our association I welcome Ross to this appointment with the knowledge that we are in good hands. I would also like to thanks Alex Smithers for his work in this role over the last two years under some very trying circumstances, you have done some great work mate, thanks!

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### From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

You may not be aware that there has been a significant turnover in the RAEME Head of Corps at the end on 2020. The result is that for 2021 we have a new HOC, two new Deputy HOC and a new Corps RSM. As you might imagine they are currently getting up to speed with their roles, but are committed to enabling the COL Commandants and Regional RAEME reps to provide up to date information to all on Corps matters to the regions. The flow of information (both ways) has possibly not been as good as it might have been, and HOC is keen to improve that, as am I.



If you, as RAEME members, have any queries, issues or concerns that you think I may be able to assist with, I am only as far away as an email ([andrew.herbert@defence.gov.au](mailto:andrew.herbert@defence.gov.au)) or a phone call (number in the green tree), so please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Andrew Herbert**  
**RAEME COL COMDT SATAS**

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### Introducing our new HEAD OF CORPS – Brig James Allen

Brigadier Allen was born in Adelaide in 1970. After completing an Honours Degree in Electrical Engineering at Adelaide University in 1993 he was commissioned and appointed to the RAEME. He was initially posted to a range of logistic appointments including Adelaide Logistic Battalion, 101st Field Workshop and Aviation Support Group Workshop. He also completed a six-month detachment with the 4th Regiment Army Air Corps, England, as part of the Officer's Long Aeronautical Engineering Course.



In 1998, Brigadier Allen was promoted to Captain and posted to the 162nd Recce Sqn as the TST Commander. During this period Brigadier Allen was detached to the 171st Op Spt Sqn and deployed to Bougainville. In 2000, he was posted, on exchange, to the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky as the Ops Offr of the 8th Maintenance Battalion. During his tenure Brigadier Allen deployed to Kosovo where he performed the role of Task Force Maintenance Officer. In recognition of this service, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

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## HEAD OF CORPS – cont.

In 2002, Brigadier Allen was posted to the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Project as the Integrated Logistic Support Manager. After studying French at the Australian Defence School of Languages in 2004 he was posted to the Australian Embassy in France as the Technical Liaison Officer and Assistant Defence Attaché.

Brigadier Allen graduated from Australian Command and Staff College in 2007 and was posted to the Land 17 Artillery Replacement Project as a Systems Engineer. In late 2008 he deployed to Darfur as a Logistics Operations Officer and Deputy Commander Australian Contingent. Post deployment he returned to the Directorate of Technical Airworthiness as a Deputy Director. In 2011 Brigadier Allen deployed to Kandahar as an embedded J5 within Regional Command (South).

In 2012 Brigadier Allen was posted as the Program Manager for the Multi Role Helicopter Project. He was promoted to Colonel in 2015 and assumed the role of Project Director within the same project. In 2017 he was posted as the Director Cargo Helicopter and Unmanned Surveillance Program Office in Brisbane.

Brigadier Allen was posted on promotion as the Director General Army Aviation Systems on 31 Mar 20 and assumed the role of HOC RAEME in October 2020. Brigadier Allen holds an MBA from Latrobe University. He also holds chartered status as a Certified Practising Project Director and was recognised as an Engineer Executive by Engineers Australia in 2016. Brigadier Allen is married to Siriporn, and his interests include travelling, jogging and Australian Rules Football.

### Introductory Message from HOC RAEME.

I am extremely honoured to be appointed as your Head of Corps and look forward to representing you and the Corps effectively during my tenure. Whilst I only assumed the role at the end of last year, I have had an initial meeting with the HOC Cell, and we reviewed the key Corps activities for the year. Obviously, 2020 was an abnormal year due to Covid and most Corps activities were postponed or discarded. I am keen to restore some normality to the Corps functions and activities during 2021.

We will run a Corps Conference later in the year and initial planning has commenced for that and the Craftsman Magazine and, of course, the Corps Port. I note the appointment of the Master Artificers at the end of 2019 and I intend to re-energise this initiative. The COL COMDTs are meeting with me in March 2021 and we will focus on how we foster and strengthen relations across the broader RAEME network of regular Army units and organisations, Army Reserve units and organisations, the various RAEME Associations forming the RAEME National Network, and the HOC cell.

I will provide a more detailed update in the next Spanner News. I hope to conduct some travel with the Corps RSM and visit regional areas during the course of the year. I look forward to hearing any ideas or thoughts you have on the future of the Corps and RAEME matters in general.

**Arte et Marte**  
**J. B. Allen**  
**BRIG**  
**HOC RAEME**

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### Welcome and Farewell to Head of Corps from RAT President – Mark Wilson

On behalf of the members of the RAEME Association of Tasmania, I would like to welcome the new Head of Corps, Brigadier James Allen. His bio describes an accomplished career. I am sure that with his experience and from his initial message that the Corps will be in good hands. We hope to see you and the Corps RSM down our way soon.

I would also like to thank Brigadier Todd Ashurst for his tenure as HOC, I think Todd has the right to claim that he has led the Corps through one of the most unusual periods in history. I have known Todd since the early 90's when we served in 1 Sig Regt, he is dedicated, loyal and tenacious and I'm sure that we will all hear more of him in the future, Todd thanks for your efforts as HOC and it's my shout next time we catch up.

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### Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 30 March 2021:

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Bank Balance: | \$1662.44 |
| Cash on Hand: | Nil       |
| Merchandise:  | \$450.00  |

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Net Position:</b> | <b>\$2112.44</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|



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### Vale

It is deep regret that we advise the following:

**Clarke**, Lawrie (Claka) Passed peacefully away on 25 February 2021 after a long illness. Lawrie was an avid CMF member with 44 TPT SQN Wksp and 6 EME PI. Lawrie is survived by his wife Kaye, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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### Welfare

**Godfrey**, Trevor has been unwell for some time suffering from cancer. His treatment continues. Trevor has a positive attitude and appears to be making slow progress

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## Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

### RAT's Merchandise New Stock

We have currently a small number of RAEME Face Masks available at a special price of \$15.00. Once sold we may get more if we get more orders, but we may need to increase the price if there has been a price rise. These masks are available and would be great to wear on ANZAC Day. Below is the sample of the mask.



The other new item now are the RAT Stickers and we currently have a limited number in stock. They are available in three sizes, 3" (cost \$4), 4" (\$5.00) and 6" (\$7.00). These are great for the car, boat or caravan. Other designs are available as they are produced by an Army Apprentice from the big island.



RAT merchandise can ordered on the Associations website, download order form from the following link [Shop \(raeme.org.au\)](http://Shop(raeme.org.au)) and follow instructions from there.

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## RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

### DOWSINGS POINT - Part 2

This is a continuation of the history commenced in Newsletter No. 21

In 1948 AEME was redesignated RAEME and the workshop became Tasmania Command Workshop.

In 1957 the Carpenters and Paint Shop were constructed.



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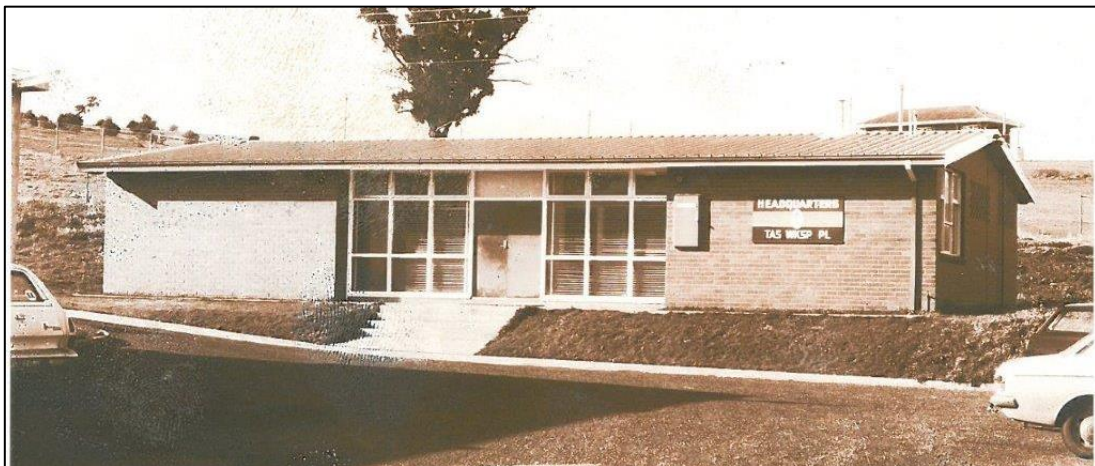
**DOWSINGS POINT - Part 2 Cont.**

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In 1960, T Command was redesignated HQ Royal Tasmania Regiment (RTR) and became a formation under Southern Command (Victoria). T Command Ordnance Depot came under the control of ADOS Southern Command. Tas. Comd. Wksp. was redesignated Tasmania Workshop RAEME (S. Comd.)



**Construction of the new Administration Building circa 1960**



**Admin Building Tas. Wksp. PI circa 1973**

In this year, the RAAOC unit was redesignated 611 Supply Company. Two years later in 1975 the collapse of the Tasman Bridge led to the Commonwealth Government ceding a portion of Dowsing's Point to the State Government for the purpose of initially a temporary Bailey Bridge and car parking. This led to the Ammunition Depot being removed to Fort Direction.

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**Dowsing Point - Part 2 cont.**

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On 1 December 1988 RAEME and RAAOC Units merged to become Hobart Logistics Company.

Subsequently the Bowen bridge was built (1980- 1985) and a Techno Park created for niche businesses on the southern side of the Point. Many of the Married Quarters became private housing and the former Sergeants Mess ( J.J. Dwyer Club) which closed in 1986, became a community centre.

In 1993 the Commonwealth Government began a process to commercialize much of the logistics in defense by tendering out much of this work right across Australia.

Sadly, the Hobart Workshop Platoon was removed from the Order of Battle and the only RAEME unit in Tasmania is 6 EME PI. (ARES). The workshop site has largely been demolished and only a few buildings remain including the GE section ARMCO which was identified as having heritage values.



**Entrance to RAEME Workshop**



**View over Back yard of Workshop and RAAOC stores buildings circa 1968**



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**Dowsing Point - Part 2 cont.**

**Bowen and Bailey Bridges 1985**

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**News from the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME)  
formerly RAEME Training Centre**

**Introduction from new CO ASEME - Lieutenant Colonel Troy Wilson.**

Firstly, I would like to thank the RAEME Association of Tasmania for this opportunity to introduce myself to current and past members of the Corps. Secondly, I would like to convey how humbled I am for my selection to be CO/CI ASEME.

By way of background, I graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2001 and the Royal Military College in 2002. My regimental appointments included Administration Officer of the Aviation Support Group Workshop, Vehicle Platoon Commander at the 101st Workshop Company, Technical Support Platoon Commander at the 5th/7th Battalion (Royal Australian Regiment), Second-in-Command of 17th Construction Squadron and Officer Commanding Headquarters Squadron 1st Combat Signals Regiment. I have also completed staff postings at Headquarters Training Command – Army, Headquarters Forces Command, Headquarters 17th Sustainment Brigade, Directorate of Officer Career Management – Army as Career Advisor RAEME-A, and Headquarters Joint Operations Command as the SO1 Global Logistics Plans Officer. I am currently the SO1 Technical Workforce Review Team in the Directorate of Logistics Plans – Army, AHQ.

My operational experience includes deployments as the Technical Support Platoon Commander for Al Muthana Task Group II in 2005/06 and in 2011, I was detached to the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, as the S4 for the 7 RAR Task Group.

I am thoroughly looking forward to my role next year and consider it an enormous privilege to command the school, and fulfil the duties of Deputy Head of Corps (Ground).

**Arte et Marte**

**Troy Wilson**

**LTCOL**

**CO ASEME DESIGNATE**

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## News from ASEME cont.

### Recovery Training During COVID.

Recovery Platoon within Career and Advanced Training Wing (CATW) at ASEME is responsible for the Initial Employment Training (IET) of Recovery Mechanics (ECN 226). The Basic Recovery Course (BRC) is a 147-day course introducing trainees to the Army recovery system. The course consists of many exciting aspects ranging from obtaining a Military Driver Licence to vehicle extraction in complex bogging and rollover scenarios. The BRC culminates in a 10-day field activity in the Yackandandah State Forrest (YSF), where all training learnt during BRC is assessed.



The necessary restrictions imposed to combat the risks of COVID-19 have been challenging to the population of Victoria, with ASEME being no exception. The need for social distancing, limitations on the number of people in enclosed spaces and mandatory use of face masks has altered everyday life at a fundamental level. The BRC adapted to these challenges and continued to provide the highest level of training possible to the next generation of Recovery Mechanics within Army.

**Extraction of a Mack at YSF**



**Current fleet of the new MRV/HRV**

Recovery Mechanics (ECN 226) is currently a priority position, due to the high demand from within all units. This situation places a big responsibility on the BRC staff to ensure recovery course graduates attained high levels of competency, on completion of the three courses conducted in calendar year 2020. Within nine months, members are trained from the basics to being able to solve intricate recovery tasks before they commence their On the Job Training (OJT) – this is achieved while posted to one of the Combat Service Support Battalions (CSSB) where their emerging competencies can be properly supervised.

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**News from ASEME cont.****Operating an MRV/HRV Multi Function Controller (MFC)**

Under COVID-19 restrictions, and upon arrival in the Albury-Wodonga Military Area (AWMA), new Kapooka graduates are required to isolate within the barracks environment for a period of 14 days. Every precaution is taken to ensure compliance with Government and Defence regulations throughout the courses affected by the pandemic.

All course work is scheduled to allow trainees to hit the ground running as soon as this period of isolation is completed. Prior to beginning their recovery specific training, all Recovery Mechanics are required to be qualified Military Drivers and are trained to operate the 40M and HX77 recovery vehicles at the Army School of Transport, Puckapunyal. This requirement adds an additional layer of complexity as trainees are required to move between locations to complete their training.

Within the day-to-day conduct of BRC, members are required to remain 1.5m apart, a significant challenge given the collaborative nature of many recovery tasks. Additionally, precautions are taken to certify a hygienic workplace before and after completion of any work.

**Social distancing while under instruction**

Within the Recov PI Training Area at ASEME, there is a large outdoor area, affectionately known as the “Dust Bowl”, which acts as the practice stage for trainee’s rollover scenarios. The Dust Bowl allows trainees to understand the fundamentals of more complex tasks before they conclude their training at the YSF.

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**News from ASEME cont.****Operating in the “Dust Bowl”**

Fortunately, the vast majority of outside recovery training and assessments was able to continue through these uncertain times – in line with Victorian Government COVID regulations. With the BRC running smoothly, Recov PI offered the perfect testing ground for the Land 121 Fleet of Recovery Vehicles, such as the 42M and 45M. Trials prior to roll-out to the wider Army have been incorporated into the training continuum to afford trainees invaluable experience using the brand new Rheinmetall Recovery Variants. This adds an exciting and new aspect to the, already loaded, training package.

**Christopher Jones**

**Lieutenant Recovery COMD, CATW, ASEME**

**Support to OP COVID ASSIST.**

In keeping with a year of firsts, ASEME was called on to provide both, staff members and trainees to deploy on OP COVID ASSIST. The School members were predominately committed to Task Force JTU629.1.3.1, on the NSW / VIC border, right on ASEME's doorstep. ASEME helped make up possibly the most diverse call sign in the Army's history as it consisted of SNCOs with years of operational experience and trainees so fresh out of Kapooka they were yet to march into their initial trade training. Additionally, all Corps were represented, as were the other Services.

Some of the first “boots on the ground” were ASEME personnel, who packed their kit and boarded the bus with less than 2 hrs notice, and began manning checkpoints within 24 hrs. The Task Force was initially responsible for three checkpoints, including the two busiest on the border. The checkpoints processed approximately 20,000 vehicles of all types per day with the busiest being, “The Causeway”, peaking at 14,000 vehicles over a 24-hr period. As the ARes commitment drew down, the ALTC component inherited an additional three checkpoints increasing its Area of Operations (AO) to approximately 150km along the state border.



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**News from ASEME cont.**

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**RAEME Vehicle Mechanic, CPL Michael Hook, manning a checkpoint with his section and members of the NSW Police Force**

Manning checkpoints in our “own backyard” allowed us to receive live feedback from the community providing immediate opportunities to adjust and re-adjust our procedures. This allowed us to minimise the negative impacts associated with imposing delays on the movement of the locals. This also served to build on our already established good reputation.

The general consensus from the community was that the public were comfortable with being stopped by a member of Defence because of the professionalism showed by ADF members.

The community spirit was also evident as members of the public selflessly donated food, firewood and coffee during the cold and wet weather periods, helping to maintain and boost our morale.

The two command priorities for the taskforce were reputation and force preservation, respectively. In order to meet these priorities, tight restrictions were imposed on the task force members, such as no entry into Victoria, no alcohol and limited reasons to leave the hotel. Even though many of our homes were almost walking distance, no one was permitted back to see their loved ones.

In fact, there were members that could see their family homes from their accommodation windows. With the deployment length of approximately six weeks, the ADF Personnel from all three services enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to work with, and learn from, other Corps, Services and government agencies.

Each member was given a rare, but invaluable insight into what it's like to serve in the ADF and experience joint effort working toward a common goal on behalf of the Nation.

**Lukas Kuiper****Lieutenant****PL COMD, Vehicle Technology Wing**

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## Mates4Mates

### “The Power of Mateship”.

Mates4Mates is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing holistic welfare and treatment programs that give direct support to current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have suffered physical or psychological wounds, injuries and illnesses as a result of their service, either in Australia, or overseas. Integral to supporting our brave mates is the provision of support to their families.



Mates4Mates provides a wide range of services including psychological counselling, career coaching programs, wellbeing workshops, family support meetings, physical rehabilitation and conditioning programs including individual recovery plans and physical training sessions for adventure challenges.

For help or to support our wounded, injured and ill ADF mates;

visit [mates4mates.org](https://mates4mates.org) or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

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## Defence Force Welfare Association

### ADF Family Transition Seminars.

Due to COVID, attendance at Transition Seminars were cancelled till end of year. In meantime, the ADF trialled a “Virtual” Seminar in September. While the experience was a bit patchy, it at least addressed some of the issues in a coordinated way. Whether the future will see attendance at seminars, or virtual seminars, or perhaps both, is yet to be decided.



### Joint Transition Authority (JTA).

Following the recent Productivity Commission Report, the budget made provision for the establishment of a JTA, (run by Defence) with the aim of addressing numerous issues concerning transition to civilian life. JTA has an ongoing responsibility extending two years post discharge. Positions for Transition Mentors have been created in all three services to assist in the transition process. Most of these are former Regular personnel now serving on the Reserve. JTA will be responsible for coordinating effort across defence as well as other key players, e.g., DVA and CSC.

### Defence Force Welfare Association cont.

The bulk of personnel discharging each year (approx. 6000) came from personnel with 8-12 years' service. Of concern, this group has a suicide rate over twice that of the similar male age cohort.

DFWA has expressed concern to MAJGEN Natalie Fox, Head of Defence Peoples Group, that there has been zero consultation with ESO on these issues, yet it is the ESO who have the experience of picking up problems where ADF, Defence, and DVA have failed in the past. We are monitoring the situation closely, and welcome any input from people experiencing transition issues.

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**Defence Force Welfare Association cont.****Budget.**

The budget provided some relief to TPI by removing their DVA payments from Asset/Income tests for Rent Assistance. There were also provisions for extra mental health support for Veterans and families, employment and other transition areas, as well as implementation of several Productivity Commission recommendations. It rejected the PC recommendation of removing DVA Gold Card eligibility to war widow(er)s. Full details are on the DVA website.



<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/reporting/budgets/budget-2020-21>

**Taxation of DFRDB and MSBS Invalidation Benefits.**

The ATO appeal against the AAT decision in favour of the three Veterans was heard by a Full Bench of the Federal Court on 12-13 November barring further delaying tactics by the ATO. It will be done in a “virtual” courtroom. A decision should then be given in the first half of 2021. At last count, there are about five QCs representing veterans, and a huge legal team on the ATO side. DFWA expect an appeal to the High Court regardless of whoever wins the next round. See the DFWA website for updates.

<https://dfwa.org.au/in-focus/veteran-invalidation-benefit-taxation/>

**National Commission for Prevention of Defence and Veteran Suicide.**

Legislation for this has been introduced into Parliament. An interim Commissioner (former BRIG Dr Bernadette Boss CSC – ACT Magistrate and Coroner) has been appointed to address the immediate requirement of inquiring into the 419 Veteran suicides and report in 18 months. (Do the maths!). The Attorney General Department called for public comment on the legislation. It has also been referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee by the Senate. DFWA made submissions to both the AGT and the FADT. See:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/sitecore/content/Home/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign\\_Affairs\\_Defence\\_and\\_Trade/NationalCommissioner2020/Submissionsremove](https://www.aph.gov.au/sitecore/content/Home/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/NationalCommissioner2020/Submissionsremove)

The Defence Force Welfare Association can be found at [www.dfw.org.au/](http://www.dfw.org.au/)

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**Army Apprentice's Report**

The latest Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter can be accessed online from this link

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/>



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## Links to Other Resources



### Veteran's Affairs

Veterans Affairs support those who serve or have served in defence of our nation, and their families.

[www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

### Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association

The Association provides for the comfort and assistance with welfare and entitlements for ADF Veterans and Peacekeepers, including their families.

[peacekeepers.asn.au](http://peacekeepers.asn.au)

### RSL (Tasmania Branch)

The RSL offers support to the wellbeing and betterment of our members, former and serving members of the ADF, and their dependants. Find your local Sub-Branch here;

[www.rsltas.org.au/sub-branch-directory](http://www.rsltas.org.au/sub-branch-directory)

### Australian Partners of Defence

The Australian Partners of Defence will provide discounts from 2.2 to 40% on production of the Veteran Card. More information on can be found at;

[www.APOD.com.au](http://www.APOD.com.au)

### Soldier On

Soldier On's mission is to enable veterans and their families to thrive.

[soldieron.org.au/about-us](http://soldieron.org.au/about-us)

### Craftsman Magazine

The latest 'Craftsmen' magazine can be found at:

<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/raeme-craftman-mag>

### Army News

[www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews)

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## Spanner Pack Update - Raymond Norman RNN Spanner Pack Coordinator



The final Spanner Pack delivery for 2020 occurred in November. The team compiled 42 packs which will hopefully be in the hands of the troops in various parts of the Middle East before Christmas. Thank you to the many folk who have generously donated to the RNN/RAQ Spanner Pack program – you should be aware how much the team appreciates your support, and we wish to re-assure you that COVID restrictions did not get in the way of our work.

For readers, who may wish to assist, please note we do need your help, so if you can donate items, or money, please visit the shop on the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Website at <http://www.qld.raeme.org.au/> where you will find a “make a donation” tag.

To RAEME ASSOCIATION QLD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your Care Package, it was greatly appreciated. My name is Dominik and I am currently serving on OP Accordion as a Boffin.

I was born in Namibia, Africa and migrated to Australia in 2004. I joined the Army in 2012 and have been posted to Adelaide and Brisbane. This deployment has been the highlight of my short but enjoyable career.

Christmas can always be a hard time, especially when you are away from friends and family. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and supporting deployed AF forces.

Regards,

Dominik

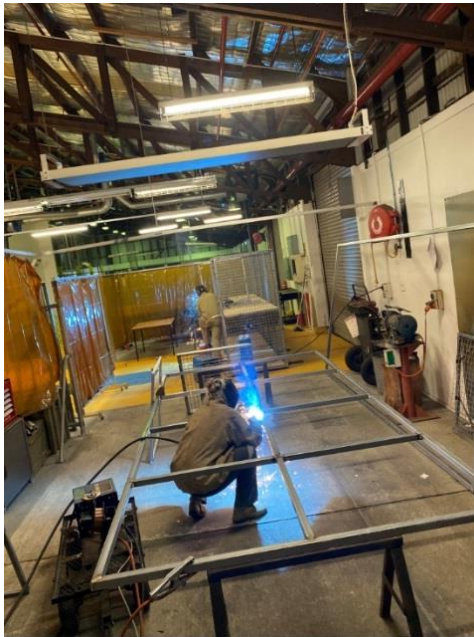
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## 6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton-Johnson

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During the closing months of 2020, a year that many would just as soon wish had never happened, the members of 6 LSC workshop platoon were kept quite busy. In addition to the regular weekly parades members of the workshop engaged in a number of other training exercises and tasks.

In the first weeks of November members conducted training in military self-defence by completing the Army Combative Program (ACP) levels 1 and 2 along with participating in a live fire range activity where some members of the workshop gained new qualifications to operate the MAG 58 general purpose machine gun.



Not only were the members of the unit busy with military skills training, but the unit metalsmiths were given the opportunity to sharpen their fabrication skills when 12/40 RTR put in a request for a series of steel storage cages. After a lengthy period of design changes and liaisons with 12/40 RTR to figure out exactly what they wanted, fabrication work began in earnest. 6LSC's skilled metalworkers began to build the cages giving up their time over many a weekend during the last months of the year. As of writing this article work is currently ongoing on this substantial engineering project.

After a well-earned break over the Christmas and new year period members began to return to work at 6LSC with members attending a G-Wagon driver's course run by 44 Transport Squadron during the middle of January and gained some excellent four-wheel driving experience. Australia day saw members from 6LSC including a workshop member assisting 6/13 BTY in the conduct of the 21-gun salute on the Cenotaph for the second year in a row and once again we put on a good showing for the public.

On the third weekend of February members from the workshop joined other 6LSC and 2FSB members at the Buckland training area in the conduct of Exercise Ready Griffin. Members on the exercise conducted live fire practices on both the EF-88 and MAG 58 on a warm summer's day marred only by the presence of a million march flies.

6LSC Workshops Platoon is looking forward to a busy year for the remainder of 2021 with the completion of our cage fabrication task and numerous other planned training activities.





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## ANZAC Day 2021

As Mark mentioned in his President report the key risk is an outbreak at one of the major march centres which would have the potential to harm many of our older veterans. Whilst we are still attempting to have all the details for the ANZAC Day services made available by email ASAP, on behalf of the committee I just want you all to know that we will support you in whatever decision you make.

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## RAEME Birthday 2021

Sunday 29 November 2020 saw 47 RAT members and partners attend the “Griffins Lair” to celebrate our Corp birthday. This was the first opportunity for members to finally meet since the Covid pandemic raised its ugly head in 2020, and what a turn out.



Members of 6LSC entertained and catered for us in the “Lair” in its new location at Derwent Barracks. Our President, Mark Wilson and his wife Jacquie catered for and prepared a fantastic BBQ lunch for everyone to enjoy.

Our Birthday cake was prepared by Amy Britten which saw the cutting of the cake by our oldest member Brian Parker and youngest member Cfn Jimmy Sewell.



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### RAEME Birthday 2021 cont.

On display was the new GMM and MAN fleet for old and ex members to ponder over and was the main topic of discussion by our old members, how the Defence fleet of vehicles have changed, hopefully we will see the new MRV here in Tasmania later this year.



The AGM was conducted during the course of the day and surprise, surprise, the current committee was elected unopposed!!!!!!





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RAEME Birthday 2021 cont.

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More photos of the Birthday can be viewed on our website.

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## Photos from the past



**FLS2 Wksp “Operation Tanager” East Timor Dec 2000-June 2001**



**WO2 Bob Keenan & WO1 Russell Clark, Maubisse East Timor 2001**

Photos from our past cont.



FRG 301 Fd Wksp undertaking repairs to a Unimog on Exercise K89

## Calendar of Events until December 2021

Listed below are the proposed for dates for 2021. To keep abreast of the dates, it is recommended that you access the calendar on our website:



[Events \(raeme.org.au\)](https://raeme.org.au)

| Date        | Timings     | Remarks                        |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 25 Apr 2021 | 0530 - Late | ANZAC Day TBA                  |
| 6 Jun 2021  | 1200 -1530  | BBQ at the Lair                |
| 28 Nov 2021 | 1200 -1530  | RAEME Birthday BBQ at the Lair |

## Conclusion

On a final note, please stay healthy and stay safe.

If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 20 October 2021.

