



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

October 2021

Issue 23

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome to Edition 23 of the RAT Newsletter, I hope this finds you well. It's hard to believe that another year is coming to an end and we are approaching Christmas which means another RAEME Birthday.

I have just returned from our annual grey nomad trip in our van to the north island and, as expected, Covid 19 played many tricks during our travels resulting in the need to store our van and vehicle in Brisbane and fly home. Hopefully we can return later in the year and make our way back and make plans for further grey nomad trips, and continue enjoying our retirement years.



From the Editors desk cont.

It did, however give me a chance to see the latest fleet of Defence vehicles, in particular the new MAN wrecker following a convoy on the Stuart Hwy. It's huge, I'm sure our toe rags would drool over it!!!!

I had the pleasure of attending the ANZAC Day parade in St Helens this year along with a few other RAT members. Rest assured a good day was had by all. Well done to Wayne Cubitt (Bruv) for making the day a huge success.

Please, enjoy reading this edition, don't be shy in going through some of your old photos and email copies to me, for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Well, I can't believe it's that time of year again where I sit and reflect on the last 12 months and it's been another extraordinary year!! Let's start with one of the biggest events of the year that will affect many of our brethren both here within Tasmania and throughout the rest of Australia. That is the end of the Afghanistan War. I, like many, was shocked at how quickly Kabul fell into the hands of the Taliban, my thoughts went immediately to all those who served in the Afghanistan War over the nearly 20 years, I wish to reassure each and every one of you that your service there was not in vain, you contributed in every minute of every day that you were in country. The mere fact that casualties were so low in the mass evacuation is a testament to this. If you are feeling the shadows of the black dog approaching, please reach out and talk to someone.



Covid19 has continued into 2021, southern Tasmania has recently undergone its second lockdown, Governments are talking about living with Covid or the "New Norm", whilst I am eagerly awaiting more details for the state of Tasmania to be released. Your Committee has started planning for our RAEME Birthday / Christmas function to be held at the Griffins Lair, Dowsing's Point on 5 December 2021. Stay tuned to all our media means as more is announced on this event. I hope to see you all there.

Whilst I'm talking about Covid another undesirable activity that has increased is Cyber-attacks and computer fraud. We had an unusual transaction hit our Bank account, fortunately our Treasurer Shane Rollins was onto it and disputed the transaction with the bank. This dispute was upheld and all funds returned to our bank account, so please take care in your day to day lives, we have all worked too hard to have anything stolen by these terrible people.

For all those that may still be working through claims I would also like to bring to your attention to changes that have been made to "*Request for records and change to proof of identity requirements*", the details are included in full later in this newsletter. I can't help but feel that part of this change is due to the increased Cybersecurity risks that we are all facing.

As we are coming out of Covid and a very, very wet spring, another activity that you may not be aware of is "Operation Grain Harvest" it's a call out to any ex ADF member who may be in a position to help farmers get their crops harvested this year. Normally there is a large Backpacker and Pacific Islander community to help our farmers and these numbers are very low this year due to Covid so if you can help out, once again I'll put a link to the ABC report in the report.

Presidents report cont.

The 2021 RAEME Port closed on 1 NOV 21, so hopefully all those that wanted to order some got their orders in. If you missed out you may be lucky as your committee has secured a few bottles.

The last plug I have for this edition is our Badges, for all the Ex Appies, if you want to secure your Intake get hold of Shane ASAP, badges will be available on 5 Dec function.

From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

As everyone will appreciate it has again been a little quiet on the National RAEME front since very little travel has been possible again this year. There is some good news on the horizon however, with the proposed funding for the RAEME HOC Cell for FY 22/23 seeing far greater scope for the HOC and Corps RSM to visit the regions, and for regional representatives to get across their regions and to attend the Corps Conference. The end result should mean that RAEME Associations see and hear more from the HOC Cell.



It was my great privilege to be asked by RAT legend Bruv to give an ANZAC Day address at the Dawn Service and parade at St Helens this year. There was a great turn out by the locals as well as a goodly number of RATs who made the trip up the coast. Well done Bruv and the team from the St Helens RSL.

Arte et Marte

Andrew Herbert

RAEME COL COMDT TAS/SA

Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 25 October 2021:

Bank Balance:	\$1,716.14
Cash on Hand:	Nil
Stock on Hand:	\$250.00
Net Position:	\$1,996.14



Vale

It is deep regret that we advise the following:

- **Young Alan (Flash)** Passed peacefully away on 3 June 2021 after a short illness. Flash saw service in the ARES with 6 EME PI and FRG 301 Fd Wksp. Flash is survived by his wife Cheryl and son Michael.



Welfare

- **Godfrey** Trevor has been unwell for some time fighting his illness and his treatment continues. Trevor has a positive attitude and appears to be making slow progress.
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Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

We currently have 12 navy blue RAEME masks in stock at \$15.00 per mask. Once they are sold, we will look at getting more into stock but they may take time to get. With the south of the state requiring masks to be worn, wear a RAEME mask is a good idea. Also, if you are travelling to the big island you may need a mask.



The November/December special is the Hobart Workshop Reunion Tricolour Caps. They are on special at \$10.00 per cap. We have only a few remaining at this price and once gone will be made on order at the old price.

We also have two bottles of the 2020 RAEME port and four copies of the RAEME book 'With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942 – 2014' available in stock.

The Tricolour Stubbie cooler with a bottom is now available and there is a new RAEME cap in stock.



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



RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

Bluebird Bluebell – courtesy “Horses Mouth”

Early in 1963 Donald Campbell selected Lake Eyre as a suitable site for his attempt on the world land speed record in his car 'BLUEBIRD'. A RAEME team was deployed to April 1963 to maintain the fleet of Land Rovers used by the SA Police Force, who assisted in the project, and to help Campbell whenever possible.



One of these tasks was recovery. A 4-ton recovery vehicle was stationed at each end of the prepared track during all speed trials, their task being recovery of 'BLUEBIRD' if required. When the Recovery vehicles were driven on to the Lake dual front wheels were fitted.

Rain delayed the speed attempt and after the Lake became flooded the attempt was temporarily suspended. All the Army equipment, together with the 'BLUEBIRD' project equipment, needed to be recovered to the bank of the Lake, as it was feared that the vehicles used for the recovery might break through the salt crust on the Lake, they were moved out in extended line, loaded, and returned to shore in the same manner.

A track was cut along the bank of the Lake, 'BLUEBIRD' was loaded on to a timber jinker whose prime mover was a 'no goer', and the whole load was towed by a 4-ton Recovery Vehicle to higher ground.

It became a race between the convoy arriving at the ford and the floodwaters arriving there. The convoy eventually arrived safely at the base camp at Muloorina station with only one hour to spare before the ford became flooded.

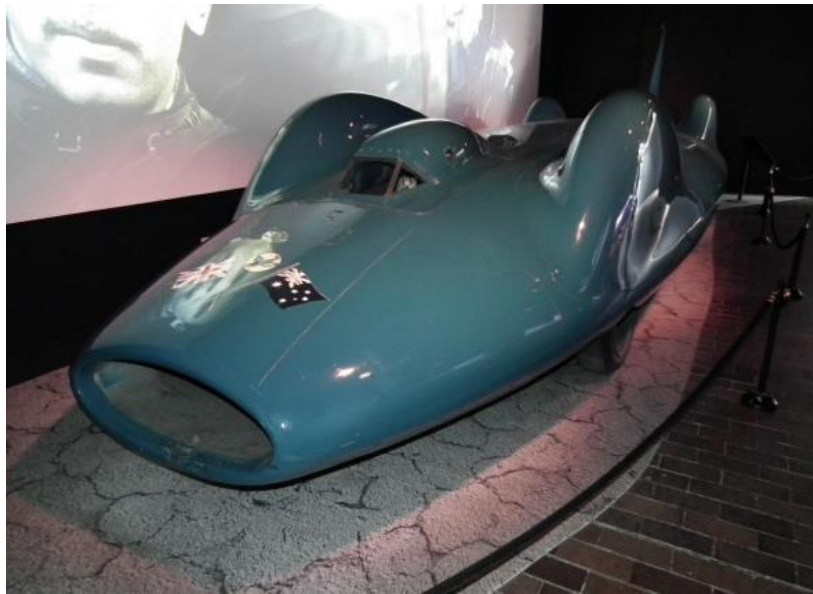
Campbell returned to Lake Eyre in June 1964 but found that the prepared surface of the Lake was now useless. A new track was prepared, on which 'BLUEBIRD' finally attained a speed of 403 mph on 17 July 1964 (well below its theoretical 450 mph theoretical top speed), and thus the world land speed record.

A RAEME team supported this attempt as well. Immediately after his attempt Campbell took his Bluebird Boat to Lake Dumbleyung in WA where he achieved his seventh water speed record on 31 December 1964, at a speed of 276 mph. He had become the first, and so far, only, person to set both land and water speed records in the same year.



Diamond T Wreckers and Ford Blitz towing Bluebell

Bluebird Bluebell cont.



Replica of Bluebird

2021-RAEME Commemorative Port

The 2021 RAEME Commemorative Port, is in honour of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers:1959-2021.

The port is a 2018 Vintage Fortified (ages in the bottle), from Stanton & Killen Wines in Rutherglen, Victoria. A fitting selection to compliment the 1986 RAEME Port (also from Stanton & Killen Wines) which commemorated the presentation of The Prince Philip Banner by HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.



This cost of the Port is \$50.55 per bottle and can be ordered through the trybooking link below. Bookings closed on **1 Nov 21**. All details are on the trybooking site.

[2021 - RAEME COMMEMORATIVE PORT Tickets | TryBooking Australia](#)

Queen's Birthday Awards

The RAT membership congratulates the following recipients of awards in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours:

Lieutenant Colonel Ross William THOMAS – CSC. For outstanding devotion to duty as the Staff Officer Grade One – Program Sustainment, in Logistics Branch, Army Headquarters. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas' exceptional skill and unwavering commitment has resulted in the development of financial and management strategies that maximise capability and sustainment outcomes for Army, whilst assuring depth and resilience in our land capability. His reform of the Army Sustainment Budget Cycle has significantly enhanced the sustainment of our Land Force capability in a period of transformational change.



Warrant Officer Class One Andrew Jay BEAMAN – OAM. For meritorious devotion to duty as the Artificer Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Brigade and 1st Armoured Regiment. Warrant Officer Beaman's outstanding performance and devotion to duty have enhanced materiel readiness and combat capability across the 1st and 3rd Brigades. His leadership and enduring meritorious service have been instrumental to the successful implementation of the Armoured Cavalry Regiment and Combat Brigade constructs. His technical mastery and extensive trade experience have provided an invaluable contribution to land force capability within Forces Command.



Corporal Pierce Jordan HALLIDAY – CSM. For meritorious achievement as the Landing Craft Maintenance Section Commander at 35 Water Transport Squadron, 10th Force Support Battalion. Corporal Halliday has enhanced the Australian Army's watercraft capability through superior technical acumen and innovative maintenance procedures. His creative application of maintenance skill and ability to coordinate complex logistic and maintenance effects, has improved watercraft inter-operability between the Navy and Army. His leadership, innovation and devotion to duty have led to exceptional results which uphold the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.



Mr Gregory Ian RUSSELL OAM. For service to veterans, at the Kedron-Wavell Service Club, where he was recognised for his efforts including the following:

- Board Member, Club Committee, since 2006 and Minutes Secretary.
- Member, General Committee, and current Life Member, 2013.
- RSL Delegate, Sub-Branch Annual Conference.
- Senior Vice-President, Sub-Branch Committee, eight years, Pensions Officer and member since 1994.



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 or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

Defence Force Welfare Association

No report from the Welfare Officer this edition.

The Defence Force Welfare Association can be found at www.dfwa.org.au/



Request for Records and change to proof of identity Requirements

Please be advised that the Department of Defence has announced a new electronic version of the form [AE824 'Request for Records'](#) for our ex-ADF members after collation of feedback and research. This form will replace the current version to assist customers with a more interactive flow in an attempt to enhance their experience.

What is it and how does it fit?

- The new electronic form 'Request for Records' is used to request the records (Personal and Health) of ex-ADF members who have served in Defence.

What has changed?

- To ensure the protection of the information of our ex-ADF members. Proof of Identity (POI) requirements has been updated. Requestors will now have to provide two certified copies of identity documents. Further information can be found on the Department of Defence [website](#).

What are the benefits?

- This web form will provide a more streamlined experience for our customers through one single interaction.
- A consistent approach and service delivery for ex-members.

Request for records and change to proof of identity requirements cont.

- Will save time and effort, as the form does not have to be printed and completed manually.
- Department of Defence will now provide records held at the National Archives of Australia (NAA) to ex-ADF members or their spouses requesting their own records.
- Customers can now call 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) to check on the progress of their requests.

If you require assistance or have any questions on this matter, please contact the Defence Service Centre at **1800 333 362**.

6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson

To begin this edition of the 6LSC Workshop Jottings I would like to say farewell to CFN Jimmy Sewell, who unfortunately had to leave us earlier this year and join the ranks of the veteran community. To you Jimmy I say good luck on the outside and I hope to see you on a RAEME Birthday sometime soon. Where one leaves another will take his place however, as just recently the workshop has welcomed CFN Christian Furness into our ranks as a new fitter armourer. And with CFN Cameron Bell having completed his recruit training, the workshop is in pretty good shape. Now that we have our hellos and goodbyes out of the way I can get on with what I'm here for, letting you lot all know what we've been up to for the six (or more) months since the last jottings.



In April the workshop engaged in a number of activities around the state, notably several members from the workshop conducted themselves well under scrutiny of the public when they mounted the catafalque party during the ANZAC day commemorations at the Cygnet war memorial and RSL. Also, a routine drive to put some kilometres on our vehicles and maintain the skills of some of our newer driver qualified members was conducted through the back roads around Collins Vale to New Norfolk.



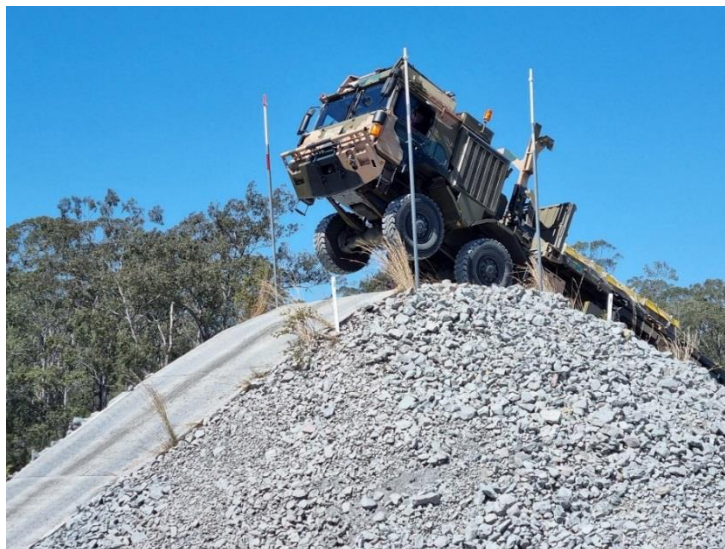
LCPL S McCarthy Catafalque duty at Cygnet

6 LSC Jottings cont.

In May members from the workshop participated in an exercise at the Buckland training area involving a mixture of cross country and convoy driving along with some basic soldier skills training where they conducted an observation post. The driving portion of the exercise gave the members involved some much-needed refresher driving on difficult terrain. Another weekend in May saw the workshop conducting winch maintenance on the HRV with the assistance of WO2 Peter Barrett from JLU-V. May also saw one of our newest NCOs completing the first phase of their promotion courses for CPL away on the mainland.

With June and July being a rather slow period for those in Tasmania the tempo picked up again at the end of August and into September with some quality convoy driving practice driving through the central highlands to link up with elements from the Devonport depot at Penstock Lagoon after passing through Victoria Falls. The high tempo continued through September with members attending the courses camp conducted by 12/40 RTR to renew their competence on Army First Aid and Tactical Care Combat Casualty. September culminated with a resilience training activity held by 2FSB where members from the unit travelled to the north of the state to test their endurance with some mountain biking around Derby followed up with a highly competitive paintball session at Latrobe in the worst weather conditions that the paintball operators had seen in their five years of operation.

Also, of note was LCPL Matthew Jordan who completed his Land 121 40M and HX77 conversion course and will now be able to drive the new fleet in preparation for Land 121 recovery vehicle training.



HX77 Performing manoeuvres during Land 121 conversion course



6 LSC Jottings cont.



Conducting crane drills on Land 121 conversion course.



Army Apprentice's Report

The latest Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter can be accessed at

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/>



Our Committee position representing Apprentices is vacant and is looking for an ex-apprentice to fill the role. Contact ChiefRAT if you are interested

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

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

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

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

Soldier On

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

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

Other Happenings



ANZAC Day 2021

This year once again a decision was made by the Committee not to march in Hobart, giving members a chance to attend their respective RSL services.

A number of members attended the St Helens RSL services marching alongside RSL members at both the Dawn and 11.00am services. The RSL President (Buv) was MC for the day and did an impressive job. Our COL COMDT COL Andrew Herbert delivered the address at the 11.00am service, and it was one of the best addresses I've heard in years, being well received by all attending the service.

ANZAC Day 2021 cont.

The crux of Col Herbert's address stemmed around local soldiers who served in WW1. Rest assured a great day was had by all "standing to" well before dawn and "standing down" well, let's say well after dark.

It also gave us a chance to carry the RAEME flag donated to the Association by Jim (JR) Ross. JR spent most of his life in the St Helens area and it was seen as an appropriate time to let the flag fly for its first time at St Helens. JR is now enjoying retirement in Hervey Bay QLD.



President St Helens RSL & MC Wayne (Buv) Cubitt



RAT members on parade



JRs RAEME flag

ANZAC Day 2021 cont.

In addition, a dawn service was held at Rolli's shed at Margate. Both Rolly and our President Mark put in a massive day, as you would expect, and is customary at "the shed".



Camming up at Rolli's shed



Cheers

Finally, we received a photo from the McShane's in QLD, ANZAC day 2021



Cheers from Nobby and Marge

June BBQ at the Lair

On Sunday 6 June saw members from as far as Launceston, St Helens and Swansea assemble for the Associations mid-year BBQ at the Lair. Once again, our President Mark Wilson put on a mammoth lunch, well done mate, we truly appreciate the time and effort you put into preparing a fantastic lunch.

It was pleasant to see an increase of members partners attending recent BBQs, they play an important part in our Association and we encourage you to bring your partner, including siblings along to future functions.

We ran two raffles, the main prizes of 2020 RAEME port were well received. Thank you for your continued support, these raffles are our main means of continued funding of our Association.



Our President preparing lunch



Would you like a raffle ticket?

June BBQ at the Lair cont.



Chewing the fat



Welcome to the BBQ

Operation Grain Harvest Assist calls on former ADF personnel to help farmers get their crops in

Read the ABC News article [here](#)

Read the RAEME National Network response [here](#)

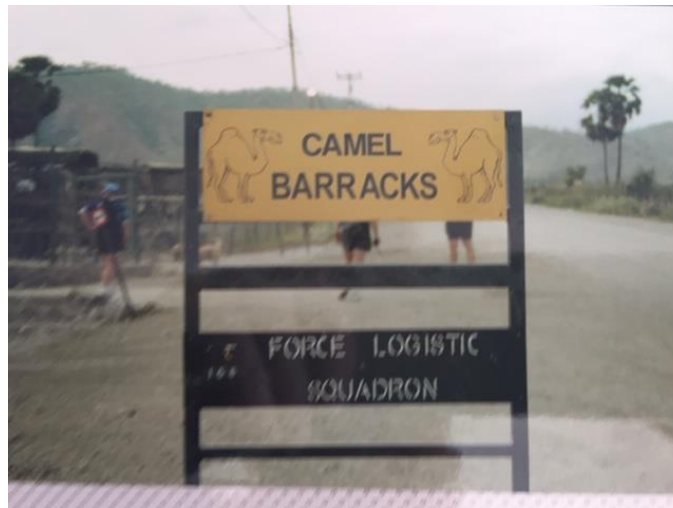


Photos from the past

I am running out of photos and need your help, please, take some time to go through your old photos and forward to me with a brief description of the photo.



LSF Wksp OFFR/WO/SNCO at 6 TRG GP SGTs Mess 1994



Camel Barracks Eat Timor 2001



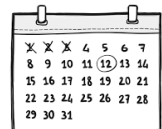
FLS 2 Wksp East Timor Christmas day 2000

Photos from the past cont.


FLS 2 Wksp East Timor

Calendar of Events until December 2021

All proposed events at this stage have been cancelled with the exception of the RAEME birthday, which is tentative at this stage



Date	Timings	Remarks
5 December 21	1130-1500	RAEME Birthday at the Lair

Conclusion

On a final note, please stay healthy and stay safe, and see you on the 5th.

If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 30 March 2022.

