



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

April 2022

Issue 24

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

Office Bearers

President: Mark Wilson
Secretary: Russell Clark
Treasurer: Shane Rollins
Welfare: Dave Cantley
Webmaster: Glen Hay
Editor: Russell Clark
Contact: rclark-7@hotmail.com

Honorary Life Members: Wayne Cubitt, Russell Clark

Sub-Committee Members

Historian: John Lennox
Veterans: Vacant
Membership: Mark Wilson
Apprentices: Vacant
Merchandise: Mick Moran
Social: Paul Grey
Website: tas.raeme.org.au

From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome to the 24th edition of the RAT Newsletter. It's hard to believe that our RAEME birthday and Christmas has been and gone and Anzac Day is nearly upon us.

The RAEME birthday was a sell-out, 59 members and partners attended on the day, which also saw Peter (Phantom) McDonough get presented with his "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Corp. A full story on the celebrations is included further in the newsletter.



From the Editors Desk Cont.

Hopefully this year will give us a chance to march on Anzac Day, members will be advised of events closer to the day, we will also include calendar events for the remainder of the year, which can also be accessed on our website. Please take the time to visit the website to view photos of the RAEME Birthday.

I hope you enjoy edition 24, I would appreciate feedback on our newsletters, both good and bad.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

To the RAT Membership,

Welcome once again to the Presidents Report for the first quarter of 2022! When I received Shirl's request to prepare reports I thought; Again! Didn't I only just do that!!! Don't get me wrong I enjoy jotting down some notes to share with you all, my comment is more a reflection of our lifestyles and how busy we can all be.



I hope that you are all well and fighting fit, both Shirl and I have been hit by Covid in recent days and in discussion we have both agreed that the correct verbal usage when describing the symptoms of Covid is "It Sucks". Fortunately, we have all (Including our partners and family living with us) come out the other side ok. On a plus side I have been looking at introducing the Committee to Microsoft Teams for some time now and as Shirl and I were both in isolation this was tried this week and I feel that it was quite successful! The biggest thing for me that now as a member your geographical location is no longer a barrier to being on the committee! So, consider that next time we are calling for volunteers or as our ever-reliable Treasurer puts in "Voluntold", thanks Shane.

We have two major activities on in the coming months, firstly Anzac Day is back on the streets with us all marching in our finest! I'll test out my new hips and knees to see if they work any better after a few ales on the march up to the Cenotaph, Shirl will have full details later in the Newsletter, however; I urge you all to take whatever precautions you deem necessary to avoid catching Covid if participating in the March and or if you are watching, remember "It Sucks"!

The second activity which we are still firming up is a mid-year function, we are looking at the 3rd July 2022 but once again I'll save the details until they are firmed up and we will let you all know, in the meantime place a date saver on or in your calendars and I'll see you all there!

Once again there are some great articles in this quarters Newsletter so grab your drink of choice, sit back, put your feet up and enjoy!

Stay safe and I hope to see you all soon.



Presidents Report Cont.



Your Committee during their first TEAMs meeting

From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

Greetings fellow RATs,

It goes without saying that the last couple of years have been challenging, but hopefully in 2022 we will be able to celebrate our RAEME heritage relatively unhindered by restrictions. I am very much looking forward to being able to march on Anzac Day again and to have our other get togethers during the year without the risk of cancellation. Who knows – we may even get past the mask mandate at some point!

Arte et Marte and all the best.

Andrew Herbert
RAEME COL COMDT TAS/SA



From the Head of Corps – BRIG James Allen

Hello Spanners, we still find ourselves in various degrees of Covid response but there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel as the States and Federal Governments map out our “freedoms” as we reach vaccination milestones. Within Defence we are still poised to respond to civilian requests for assistance and the key messages from our hierarchy are that we need to be the more vigilant than, and set an example for, the public. I encourage you all to stay safe and continue to be cautious as more liberties are made available to us by the tiers of government.



From the Head of Corps Cont.

Covid aside, it is a very busy and exciting time within the Department. The recent announcement of AUKUS and the future submarine program has obviously dominated the news, along with the need for Australia to invest more into Defence than in preceding decades. New equipment is being acquired and new technologies exploited which creates challenges for our Corps and our trades. In response, here's a summary of some trade innovations about to be introduced:

- **ECN 034** – Technician Assistant. A new trade created for Gap Year students looking for a STEM focused option.
- **ECN 222** – Marine Technician. Trade being expanded to be the maintainers for the new fleet of landing craft, amphibious vessels and large watercraft.
- **ECN 235** – Material Technician. Metalsmith upskilled in machining and advanced manufacturing (i.e., metal 3D printing).
- **ECN 444** – Aerial Delivery Technician. Combination of the Air Dispatcher and Parachute Rigger trades.
- **ECN 013** – Artificer Land. Consolidation of artificer ECNs to increase system agility.
- **ECN 146** – Weapons Technician. Evolution of Fitter Armament to focus on advanced weapon systems being introduced.
- **ECN 226** – Recovery Technician. Broader initial training to enable platform skilling through in unit experience.
- **ECN 229** – Vehicle Technician. Current Vehicle Mechanic trade being upskilled in preparation for Hybrid/Electric Motors.
- **ECN 401** – Ammunition Technician. Alignment of Army capability with Joint EO professionalism.
- **ECN 418** – Energy Technician. Current Technician Electrical upskilled in alternate energy generation (i.e., solar, wind, hydrogen), with some reduction in auto-electrician training.
- **ECN 421** – Electronics Technician. Postured to support Robotic Autonomous Systems

Finally, I recently signed off on a Warning Order for two RAEME Corps Updates to be conducted on 11 and 12 November respectively. This is in lieu of a Corps Conference as Covid restrictions are preventative. This update will be delivered over the Defence Protected Network using Skype technology. As far as I am aware this is the first time, we will be conducting a Corps 'gathering' using virtual technologies, another sign of the times. Unfortunately, we have had to limit numbers to ensure the technology can cope (primarily COs, OCs, ASMs and RSMs). I am certain those in attendance will pass on the key points. I look forward to returning to a more traditional Corps Conference next year when we can return to face-to-face attendance.

Arte et Marte

James Allen BRIG HOC

RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE Message from the National Chair/Coordinator – Ross Grant.

I have now been the Coordinator of the RAEME National Network (RNN) for some eight months. I have concentrated on supporting the various associations executives around Australia and maintaining the flow of communications to and from them. I am pleased to see all associations are all busy; most have regular newsletters with interesting articles and keep their membership informed; and a lot of effort goes into organising a wide range of events and functions for their local membership. May I offer my congratulations to all Associations for their hard work.



I have been using the RNN IT communications system provided by the RAEME National (Network) Support Team (RNST). I encourage all associations to use it to best effect. Help is available from the RNST, we plan to improve its accessibility, functionality and use. I want to thank the RNST - Alex Smithers and his team of webmasters in most state locations for their great work. I also want to assure the team that we will look at funding needs, so we maintain the communication system's functionality. Other activities, which we will steadily address in the coming months, include the following:

- **Spanner Packs.** The future of Spanner Pack has yet to be resolved. Clearly the number of RAEME personnel serving overseas has diminished significantly – Ray Norman, Spanner Pack Convenor, was not able to review the future of Spanner Packs as previously advised, due to illness in the family, but he will get to it shortly.
- **Heritage Initiatives.** You may have seen the coverage on an interesting initiative to produce a book of RAEME humour – our humour is clearly an important part of our Corps culture, heritage and reputation and needs to be preserved. Two members of the Corps, Ian Cook and Peter Shefford "Sheff", have recently moved very fast to gather stories, edit and sort them, and put them together into a book for publication. I commend their initiative and energy and look forward to seeing the book "on 12 Edition 3-21 Spanner News RAEME Association Queensland Inc 12 the streets". Other similar books are in prospect, and I encourage you to buy a copy of the book.
- **Roles of the RAEME Associations.** I can clearly see across Australia that the associations in their own ways take their responsibilities very seriously to promote the Corps' identity and reputation, to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps, and provide a focal point for Corps activities. I commend the associations and encourage their membership to support all local activities.
- **Membership and Membership Transference.** I routinely receive enquiries about applying for membership, transferring membership and folks seeking lost friends. Most of these come through the "contact" button on the RNN website and through RAEME Facebook. Therefore, the RNN has an important role to maintain contact with our wider Corps members who are all potential members of the RNN across the nation – and overseas! Many of those contacts are seeking to join their local state association, so I encourage readers to facilitate increased membership of all Associations. It is the only way we will grow.
- **RAEME Craftsman Magazine.** MAJ Steven Howells, the SO2 Corps and now Editor of the "Craftsman", is very keen to take contributions from ALL State-based RAEME Associations. That request has gone out to the executive committees of all Associations, in the hope they or their members will provide articles on any subject related to RAEME – he especially wants

RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE Cont.

to know what is happening in your neck of the woods. This will also encourage local RAEME people to seek membership of their local associations.

- **Funding Support.** From the many enquiries I have had recently, my advice on the availability of funding for some Corps events and activities has been well received. Just a reminder to Associations and unit members that the Corps Committee may subsidise some important Corps events, IAW Corps Instruction No 3 "RAEME Corps Fund Charter" – it is worth a read.

- **Appointment of a new COL in CHIEF** – we still await the advice on a replacement COL in CHIEF RAEME with the passing of Prince Phillip. If you have any ideas to improve membership, or connectivity of our various association, please feel free to get in touch with me at the address below.

Arte et Marte

Ross L G Grant AM CHAIR RNN

Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 4 April 2021

Bank Balance:	\$2395.41
Cash on Hand:	Nil
Stock on Hand:	\$300.00
Net Position:	\$2695.41



Vale

It is deep regret that we advise the following:

- **Seys**, Hank (Dennis) passed away on 23 Jul 21. Hank served his country for 38 years in many roles over the period 1958 to 1996. Funeral service was held 30 Jul 21.
- **Golder**, Warren. On behalf of his wife Davina and my fellow 25th Intake Apprentice members, it is my sad duty to advise you of the passing of Warren at 4:05 PM on Friday 14th January 2022 after a long battle with prostate cancer. Warren was a compassionate and jovial man who enjoyed life to the fullest. Throughout his Army career, serving at 2Base Wksp, 1 FER, Hobart Wksp Coy and Wallangarra, his genuine, sincerity, humour and great character touched all who came into contact with him. His wife Davina has informed me that Warren left instructions that he did not want a service, but wanted people to remember him the way he was.
- **Kent**, Barry passed away on 3 March 2022. Barry died peacefully at home of a suspected heart attack. For those of you who knew Barry, he did not like a fuss.



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

Hi all, we are in the process of getting more merchandise, once we get the stock, we can arrange to get photos on to the web site with pricing.

Unfortunately, we have had a price increase for some items due to the shirts and embroidery price increase. There is a major delay on some shirts not held in stock by the suppliers caused by the current climate here in Australia and overseas.

We have available from Garry Siepen one Men's Tri Colour Polo with RAEME Badge Size 2XZL for sale. Garry has not used the shirt, so if you are interested in it let me or Garry know.

Also, we should have more face masks available for Anzac Day for purchase with other items as well.

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

THE 543 WRECKER - "Tunza Gutz"

The United States Army 543 Wrecker was introduced into Australian Service in 1962 and initially was primarily issued to Workshop Units. It had winches both front and rear and a Gar Wood slew crane with a 9-ton lift capacity on the rear. Its role was recovering disabled vehicles and to assist with repair of motor vehicles especially with engine lifts.

At least 7 were initially sent to Viet Nam although this was later increased to 12 with another in store at the 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot. The nature of the conflict in SVN led to the vehicles being fitted with an M60 MG on the right side of the cabin as the vehicle was left hand drive, however others were fitted to the back of the cabin. The mounts were manufactured in country. This changed in 1969 when the mounts were standardized. The canvas roof over the cabin was replaced with a metal roof with an observation hatch from an F1 truck. The M60 was then attached to a pintle mount forward of the hatch. IT appears only two vehicles were modified in this manner and the remainder left as they were.

One of the 543 Wreckers became well known and carried the nom de plume "TUNZA GUTZ" painted on the vehicle. This vehicle was on the strength of 1 Div. Sup. and Tpt. Workshop. It has become an icon of RAEME and is currently housed in the Australian Army Museum, Bandiana.

The vehicle was operated in 1968 by Corp. Dave McCallum and Cfn. Ian Rowe and was supporting convoys to Fire Support Base "Coral" on the 13th and 14th of May 1968 before returning to Long Binh.



RAEME (Army) History Cont.

On the 15th May it was ordered back to the FSB to assist with an engine change of a disabled M113A1 APC. After the change it remained overnight at the FSB.

The following morning the FSB was attacked, and incoming mortar rounds just missed the vehicle however it was damaged. The front tyres were flat, oil was leaking out of the sump and the radiator too was holed. The windscreen and lights were smashed, and the driver's door penetrated by shrapnel. Other parts of the vehicle were also damaged or destroyed.

The crew put their minds to restoring the vehicle to operational status. The hole in the sump was plugged with a piece of wood and Araldited in using part of Rowe's shirt. It was left to set for 24 hours and held for nearly 6 months until a replacement sump arrived in country. The radiator core was opened, and the fractured tubes re-soldered, the severed main airline was repaired using a 9mm cartridge and the damaged front wheels replaced with the spare one of the rear outer wheels. Then it was back to work replacing the M113 engine, positioning pallet loads of ammunition that was helicoptered in and towing a damaged US Chinook helicopter inside the perimeter fence of the FSB.

Tunza Gutz was returned to Australia on 14 September 1968, and is currently on display in the Army Museum Bandiana.



Tunza Gutz undertaking Recovery task in South Vietnam



Website

The website now has an online membership application form which doubles as a means to keep our records of your details up to date. Simply click the 'Membership' link on the home page and scroll down to the Apply button. Please also use this to notify any change of contact details.

The latest copies of the RATS Newsletter, RAEME Craftsman Magazine and the Head of Corps Newsletters are always available from the Publications link.

The most recent additions to the Photo Gallery are the pics from the December Birthday Lunch. Any photos on the gallery can be easily downloaded by clicking the small download icon at the top right of the photo. If anyone has any photos of people, places or exercises that may be of interest to members hit the Contact Us link on the home page to get in touch and we can arrange to get them.

<https://tas.raeme.org.au/> or enter raeme tas into your favourite search engine

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/

Army Apprentice's Report

The latest Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter can be accessed at

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/>



Army Apprentice's Report Cont.

Editor's note: There will be a reunion of ex-apprentices at Wodonga from 21 – 23 October 2022, being organised by AAA. Details of the event can be sourced from the link above.

6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson

G'day RATS, happy new year from the crew at 6LSC workshops. We've had a pretty quiet start to 2022 after work on the cage fabrication project completed towards the end of 2021. Despite this, the general engineering section will still have some work to do fabricating dummy mortar tubes for an upcoming exercise and upgrading the weapon mounts on our trucks. The electronics section also finally has some work to do, don't be too shocked, it's just fitting some radio harnesses into our fleet of Rheinmetall MAN 40M cargo trucks to provide communications capability while on the move.



This year our recovery section received a boost in manning with CPL Alex Warsing arriving in Devonport to provide recovery support to our northern members. In February two of our newest crafties, CFN Bell and CFN Furness, were inducted into the RAEME fellowship after completing their RAEME induction course, unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions their induction courses were conducted online and they didn't get the chance to soak in any of the RAEME history in person.

The beginning of the year also saw the reopening of The Griffin's Lair on Derwent Barracks. After a lengthy period of renovations, the new and improved boozer was opened for business at the conclusion of our first exercise for the year. The new facilities include comfortable seating, an improved sound system implemented by CFN Furness and several new TVs. Most importantly the bar fridge is in good working order and keeps beverages at a refreshing temperature all night long.



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

RAEME Birthday 2021

Sunday 22 December 2021 saw members assemble to celebrate our RAEME Birthday at the old "Griffins Lair" at 2 FSB Derwent Barracks.

Once again, our numbers are increasing at our events with 59 members and partners attending the birthday.



RATs on parade

During the course of the day the AGM was held and, as no surprise the current Committee was re-elected unopposed. Your list of Committee is highlighted on page 1 of the Newsletter FYI.

Once again, our President Mark Wilson put on a magnificent three course luncheon worthy of a King. Well done Mark, comments from members on the day highlights one of your better qualities as a caterer.



RAEME Birthday 2021 Cont.

The traditional cutting of the cake was undertaken by Brian Parker and Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson.



Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson & Brian Parker Cake created and donated by Jill Griggs

The highlight of the day was a presentation of “Recognition of Service” to Peter (Phantom) McDonough in recognition to his 41 years of dedicated service to RAEME.

Phantom enlisted the ARA On 20 Sep 1972, discharging from the GRES on 30 Mar 2013.

Phantom joined RAEME as a Clerk progressing through the ranks discharging as a Major. His highlight no doubt was being posted to 2 FSB as OC 6LSC.

Phantom is well liked and a respected member of RAEME. Let's not forget he was instrumental in the reforming of the RAEME Association Tasmania.



COL COMDT Andrew Herbert presenting Peter McDonough with Recognition of Service certificate.

Anzac Day 2022

Anzac Day 2022 will be back to normal this year and it is just around the corner. The following is the details for this year's parade:

Location: Macquarie Street – FUP near Victoria St.

Time: RATs need to be formed up and ready to step off at 1045h. Pre-Assembly Point will be at Customs House from 0930h

Order of March: TBA.

Assistance: Wheelchairs or a seat in a support vehicle in the march will be arranged upon request.

Wheelchairs: May be pushed at the front of the RAEME Association Contingent.

COVID-19:

- Physical distancing required for enlarged groups at FUP,
- Members are required to register on the day
- Normal requirements for spectators behind barrier
- Masks recommended, but not mandatory

We will endeavour to include timings/locations of other Parades throughout the state for our North/North Western Brethren.

Further information on the day will be forwarded to members closer to the event.

New Workshop update

Rolly reports that the new Wksp currently under construction is due for completion September/October 2022. Currently all the framed steelwork is completed, the roofing is underway and wall cladding will commence later this month. It is planned that the internal fit out will also commence this month.

Rolly is hopeful that he will be in a position to conduct a guided tour at the RAEME Birthday in December.



New Workshop update Cont.



The Man 42N Medium Recovery Vehicle

The new MAN 42 Medium Recovery Vehicle (MRV) arrived last week replacing the Mercedes MRV which will be off to Auction in the not too distance future. Members will have the option of viewing the new MRV at our next function at the Lair. Rolly has provided some specs for toe rags to ponder over: -

- Engine – D2066 LF44 10.52 Litre 324kW/440hp
- ZF transmission 12 forward gears 2 reverse gears

I'm sure 2FSB, in particular Speedy and Matt can hardly wait to get their hands on it!!!



Medium Recovery Vehicle Cont.



The old and the new



Photos from the past

Photos provided by WO1 Tony (Cuz) Rich



Cpl David Hardman on his retirement in 1998



SGT Warren Golder & SSGT Bob Gillow

Photos from the Past Cont.



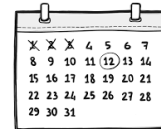
M543 recovery task



Deep discussion in the Craftsman Club

Calendar of Events until December 2022

Following on from the Presidents report all proposed events at this stage have been cancelled with the exception of the RAT dinner, which is tentative at this stage



Calendar of Events until December 2022 Cont.

Date	Timings	Remarks
25 April 2022	0930h	Anzac Day
3 July 2022	1230	BBQ at the Lair
Sept 2022	TBA	Get together
4 Dec 2022	1230h	RAEME Birthday 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 30 September 2022.

