



# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**October 2022**

**Issue 25**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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## **From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark**

Greetings members and welcome to issue 25 of the RAT Newsletter. This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of our Corp, we no doubt will celebrate this mammoth date in December, I can only ask that you lock this in your diary. We will advise all members of the date shortly.

Both Robbie and I are once again doing our grey nomad bit and I have been preparing the newsletter from our Annex in sunny north Queensland, which has proven a bit of a challenge I might add.



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### From the Editors desk cont.

It's great to see that two of our members have recently been presented with their Federation Star, (forty years of continuous service). Well done Phantom and Foxy. As I write this I hope to have Phantom's Bio for this newsletter and Foxy's for the next, fingers crossed.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the RAT Newsletter, please don't be shy in providing stories and or photos to be included in the newsletter!!!

See you in December.

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### Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Dear members, yet another quarter has gone, and I keep asking myself where has the year gone?? The work at Joint Logistics Unit (Victoria) – Hobart new workshop; AKA Rollins Shed (see picture below) is progressing well and we are attempting to secure a visit for everyone on our next day of gathering. If you thought the new fleet of vehicles were large, then I'm sure that you'll be impressed with this facility.



Your committee has continued to adopt new technology to keep up to date, as I detailed in my last report, and plan future events. The Col Comdt even put in an appearance and shared his insights at the last meeting. We are looking at some 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Items and some commemorative gifts in order to show our appreciation to individuals and organisations that provide us with support. More information will be provided to you all in December at the gathering so ensure you bring some extra coin to secure your special memory. The back end of the RAEME Association website has undergone a facelift, which to you and me will make little difference, but hopefully it makes like easier for our Webmaster and his ability to keep items updated. If you haven't done so, log-on have a look and we'd love to hear your feedback.

On a totally unrelated and more sombre matter I would like you all to know that Beryl Giffard, beloved wife to Basil Giffard passed away recently; I would like to take this opportunity to send our condolences to Barry and his family on the loss of Beryl.

That's all from me for this quarter, once again find your favourite refreshment, sit back, relax and enjoy the read.



Joint Logistics Unit (Victoria) – Hobart Workshop; Aka Rollins Shed

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## From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

Greetings fellow RATs,

I take this opportunity to highlight an achievement by one of our members that I don't believe has been achieved before. CFN Nigel Fox has been awarded the Federation Star and I am not aware of any other Craftsman having been awarded the Fed Star.



Andrew Herbert  
**RAEME Colonel Commandant Tasmania**

From the HOC:

*On behalf of the Officers and Soldiers of the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers I write to offer our collective congratulations for the award of the Federation Star. From your time at 1 Base Workshops, to your deployment to East Timor, and your time at 5/7 RAR, LSF Wksp and 2 FSB your hard work and dedication has played a part in enabling Army to achieve effects from the tactical to the strategic. And thanks to your example and lifetime of effort, RAEME remains well placed to continue to ensure Army remains able to deliver those effects. You should rightly feel proud of your contribution to our Corps and our Army.*

*Again, congratulations on your career, and thank you for your service to our Corps.*

James Allen  
**BRIG**  
**RAEME HOC**

Let's not forget Peter McDonough also received his Federation Star. **Editor's note.**

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## From the Head of Corps – BRIG James Allen

Fellow Spanners, as snow settles on the hills around Canberra, and as the end of the financial year engulfs us, I have watched with pride as our Corps thrives and excels at adapting to the ever-changing dynamics of our day to day work. This adaption also includes responding to a change of Government, rapid re-adaption to national and international travel requirements, and the impacts of regional flood events in many places. Most of us seem to be coping to various Covid situations. Despite all this disruption, I've been exceptionally pleased to see our Corps members striving tirelessly to accomplish some incredible personal, organisational, and strategic outcomes.



In May, I was fortunate to visit ASEME, where I witnessed firsthand the bright future of our critical recovery trade as the Basic Recovery Course conducted field training in Yackandandah State Forest. I also enjoyed a productive meeting with the other logistic Heads of Corps and attended the Logistic Officers Basic Course dinning-in night. During this trip I was able to congratulate two outstanding Corps members on some noteworthy personal achievements:

- CAPT Wayne Dooley's thirty-six years of service to the Army and the Corps; and

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### From the Head of Corps – BRIG James Allen Cont.

- LT Lily McIvor's Honours project through UNSW. Her paper was chosen as one of ten (selected from 750 submissions) by the International Federation of Automatic Control. She will present the paper at the Manufacturing Modelling, Management and Control Conference held in Nantes, France in June this Year.

Both officers have done the Corps and themselves proud in different ways.

Another remarkable individual achievement is the 50 years (that's not a typo) of service within RAEME by CAPT John Land. CAPT Land's milestone was celebrated and acknowledged during a Dining-In night at Singleton in June by the NSW Corps Commandant, COL Andy Adams

Also, in June, I was thrilled to welcome the seven newest RAEME officers into the Corps. Attendance at the lanyard presentation in Canberra by the majority of the RAEME HoC cell and other long-serving local RAEME officers showcased our Corps famous Esprit de Corps and openness, when welcoming new Corps members. But it was the confidence I have in the future of our Corps that stood out, as I can see it is in exceptional hands with the calibre of our new members.

For the second half of this year I hope to be able to travel further, and engage with Corps members in the pre-pandemic fashion, in person. Whilst currently tentative, my aim is to visit Townsville later this year, to meet with the RAEME members of the 5th Aviation Regiment and the 3rd Brigade. I'd like to acknowledge the organisational achievements of the RAEME members of all units in NQ, especially those who contributed to the success of the recent Flood Assist Operations, Exercise Sea Explorer, and Exercise Vigilant Scimitar.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge some of the strategic objectives being delivered within the area of the Army Aviation Systems Branch, where I wear my other hat outside of my HOC duties. Since the last edition of the Spanner News we have seen:

- Insitu Pacific awarded LAND 129 Phase 3 – Shadow UAS replacement project;
- LAND 4503 – ARH Tiger replacement with Apache project achieving a National Security Council Second Pass approval; and
- LAND 4507 – MRH90 rapid replacement project, living up to its name "rapid", preparing the document suite and briefings in preparation to support Government approval later this year.

With this hard and complicated work being accomplished by our Corps members across the nation, I encourage you to occasionally take a step back, even if you feel you don't need to, to ensure you're looking after each other, your families and yourself. I wish everyone the best in their endeavours for the second half of the year.

Arte et Marte

James Allen  
**BRIG**  
**RAEME HOC**

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## A service of thanksgiving for His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921 – 2021.

### Extract from “The Craftsman” magazine 2022 written by Captain Frank de Waard

On the 29th of March 2022 at 11:30, the royal trumpets sounded in Westminster Abbey and the crowd rose to its feet as Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, made her way to her seat next to Prince Charles, escorted by Prince Andrew. I couldn't believe I was standing in a large crowd of dignitaries, in a building with centuries of history, representing the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps. I am writing this article so that all past, present and future members of RAEME, may have some insight to how it felt to attend the belated thanksgiving service for our former Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Philip, who passed away in 2021.

My day began with a trip along the M4 to London, and Australia House. Australia House is located in central London on the Strand, opposite St Clements Dane Church. Once inside Australia House, I met BRIG Grant Mason, DSC, DSM, ADC, who is currently Head of Australian Defence Staff (HADS), United Kingdom, who was also attending the service.



L to R: CAPT Frank de Waard; BRIG Grant Mason, DSC, DSM, ADC; MAJ Stephen Venning

This magnificent building is covered in Australian marble, and in its recent history, the foyer has been used for Harry Potter films, while the staircase was used in one of the Wonder Woman movies. After a quick tour of Australia House, it was a short cab ride along the Thames to Westminster Abbey. The Guard of Honour at the entrance was comprised of a number of Cadets from different services. Once inside, I marvelled at the history of the place, including Christopher Hawking's memorial stone, Poets Corner, with the statue of Shakespeare, and memorials to many other famous people from over the centuries.

Once at our seats, a row of Canadian Infantry personnel filed in behind. Naturally we started talking, and it became clear, Prince Philip was associated with their Regiment. Interestingly, one of the soldiers in the group, belonged to a Battalion that had fought alongside 3RAR in the battle of Kapyong, in Korea. I also noticed some REME Corporals and spoke to them. It turns out they drove the Land Rover for Prince Phillip's funeral procession in 2021. Fittingly, the REME Corps RSM and HOC, had brought along the youngest member of the Corps, a 17-year-old "Crafty", who had just about fainted when he was called up to the COMDTs office to get the news he was attending the Service.

Music continued to play as many other dignitaries filed in, heralding PM, Boris Johnson's arrival. This was followed by various members of the Royal Family who made their way to their seats which were about 10 rows in front of us facing our chairs, so we had a clear view of

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## A service of thanksgiving for his Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021 Cont.

Prince Charles and behind him Prince William. The Queen then arrived, and the service was underway.

The service was multi-facetted and included a very good speech from a recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, who described how undertaking tasks in the program, helped her get her first job and build the skills we take for granted in the Defence. The Choir and all attendees joined in the hymn singing, including an amazing performance from a young choirboy. At the end of the service, the crowd rose for the National Anthem, with notes rebounding from the stone walls and pillars soaked in history, in a building that has been used to crown all of the British monarchs since 1066. I was moved deeply.



Westminster Service Booklet

I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to attend this commemoration service, alongside MAJ Stephen Venning, and represent all members of RAEME. I will be handing my copy of the service booklet and ticket to the HOC Cell for their retention – I believe it belongs to the Corps, not me.

I also trust this article gives all readers an insight into what it felt like to attend the Service of Thanksgiving for His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 1921 – 2021, Colonel-in-Chief Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Arte et Marte

**Captain Frank de Waard**

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## Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 31 Aug 2022:

Bank Balance:	\$2182.11
Cash on Hand:	\$40.00
Stock on Hand:	\$300.00

**Net Position: \$2522.11**



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



I am pleased to see all associations are keeping busy, highlighted by the excellent turn-out at various ANZAC Day parades and post parade functions. I have seen detail on most of the activities around Australia in association newsletters which are now being published widely usually in an electronic form or by direct mailing.

I have been using the RNN IT communications system provided by the RAEME National (Network) Support Team (RNST) to great effect to keep in touch with the associations in the RNN. I encourage all associations to use our electronic systems as best you can, especially to get your newsletters into the wider RAEME community. Help is available from the RNST to facilitate your use, and association management capacity.

As a result of a meeting of some of the RNST on 7 Jul 22, we agreed on an outline plan to improve the website security, accessibility, functionality and consider ways to broadening the systems use. I want to thank the RNST - Alex Smithers, and his team of webmasters in most state locations for their great work and assistance

I have discussed methods of providing for long-term funding for our IT system, with SO2 Corps in the HOC Cell, MAJ Stephen Howells, and we are considering options. In the interim, we have enough funding to keep the system going short-term thanks largely to funds in the RNN Account, which were topped up by the profits from the very well received publication of the "Horses' Mouth", compiled by two loyal and dedicated RAEME people, Ian Cooke and Peter Shefford.

Other activities, which we will steadily address in the coming months, include the following:

- **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.
- **RAEME Craftsman Magazine.** The most recent edition was published 1 Jul 22 – lots of interesting articles showing what the Corps is up to across Australia and elsewhere. Don't forget to get future articles for "The Craftsman" magazine to MAJ Stephen Howells, the SO2 Corps [stephen.howells@defence.gov.au](mailto:stephen.howells@defence.gov.au) at any time for publication of the next edition later in 2022.
- **Appointment of a new COL in CHIEF.** We are still waiting for advice on the replacement of our COL in CHIEF following the passing of Prince Phillip. HOC is about have discussions with CA in regard to the matter and protocols to be followed as a result of the appointment of the new COL in CHIEF for REME, Sophie, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex.

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/COORD RNN**  
[rnn.chair@raeme.org.au](mailto:rnn.chair@raeme.org.au)

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## Sick List

Good news, nothing to report this issue.



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## Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

We Have recently acquired the following additional merchandise which is now available for members to purchase on our website: -

- RAEME Flags,
- Coffee mugs,
- Bar mats,
- Bottle openers.



We are looking at making available 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RAEME Polo tops shortly and should be available for purchase at the RAEME birthday.



I will shortly be updating the order form and arrange to have photos of the new merchandise placed on our website. Additionally, merchandise will be always be available for purchase at our functions.

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## RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

History of our Corp taken from “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsman of the Australian Army 1942-2014” – published 2014.

### RAEME HISTORY SEGMENT – A SPECIAL 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY STORY-Part 1

Events leading to the Formation of RAEME – 1939 to 1942. Australia was generally ill-prepared for WW2 and it took some time for the prevailing lethargy to be overcome. Almost reluctantly additional funds became available to develop the Army’s electrical and mechanical services, but unfortunately much of the knowledge and experience that had been gained during WW1 had been lost or was



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## RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox Cont.

ignored and the Australian Army was entirely dependent on British resources to achieve the necessary development. In spite of these difficulties and some cross-Corps confusion regarding the responsibility for the maintenance, repair and modification of mechanical and technical equipment, the first WW2 AAOC workshops were raised early in the war.

Key to the AAOC deployable capability was the Army Field Workshop (AFW). However, in spite of the importance of this capability to the AIF, raising an AFW was a difficult task. The outbreak of war had accentuated the need for tradesmen, and workshops had to compete fiercely to obtain its establishment of skilled manpower from the limited national resource. This was a requirement made more difficult by the perception held by some trade qualified AIF recruits, who enlisted to fight, but who saw service in a workshop as a non-combat role. Bureaucracy was an additional hurdle, resulting in slowness to release trade qualified men from the central Army pool of enlistees.



1939: New 6th Division recruits entraining at Melbourne Showgrounds railway station for Puckapunyal.

All of these problems were eventually overcome and AFWs were raised, trained and deployed in support of AIF Divisions in the Middle East, Malaya and Australia.

The 2nd AIF's initial engagements in the Middle East were fought against the Italians and as a result of battle damage, the harshness of the terrain, and a decision to employ captured Italian vehicles and equipment, the workshops were faced with an enormous workload and often exposed to enemy fire. During the attack to remove the Italian garrison from Tobruk, no 6 Recovery Section of the 2/2 AFW actually went into action with the tanks and carried out repairs during the battle. For this action SGT W.M. Allison and PTEs E.O.J. Dunning and K Smith were awarded the Military Medal.



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RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox Cont.



1941 Maddalena: The Motor Transport Section of 2/2 AFW at work on Bren Gun Carrier



An Italian-made SPA truck resurrected by the 2/53rd LAD during 1940.

During the siege of Tobruk, the Greece campaign, and later actions in the Western Desert, the men of the 2nd AIF Workshops and their recovery elements made a significant contribution to the eventual defeat of the Axis powers in the Middle East.



Recovery under fire in Greece 1941

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## RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox Cont.

Closer to home, the Australian Government agreed to commit the 8th Division AIF to Malaya to assist with countering the Japanese threat. Elements of the 8th Division AIF, including supporting LAD and AFW support arrived in Malaya during February 1941. A second contingent of the 8th Division arrived in Malaya during June 1941. On 7 December 1941 Japan entered the war with a surprising and devastating attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. The next day Japanese forces commenced their invasion of Malaya. In a matter of weeks Japanese forces gained control of much of Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific Area. Australian troops of the 8th Division captured during this period numbered about 17,000. 9,607 members of the Division were killed in action or died later as prisoners of war.



Members of the 2/4th AFW, 8th Division, on a troopship. From left to right are: WO Alfred Hindle; LT John Hornidge; CAPT Sydney Harkess, later killed in action aged 46 and WO Victor Beynon

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## Website

Our website has had a recent makeover courtesy of the RAEME National Support Team (RNST). This team supports the RAEME National Network and their purpose is to provide web hosting services along with some consistency across the various States' websites.



The average user will probably not notice much difference apart from a slightly cleaner look to our pages, but the real changes are behind the scenes where the various webmasters lurk. The supporting software has been upgraded with new innovations, improved performance and latest security technology.

So, while you as a user simply continue to click away and get the information you want, the RNST with great help from RAQ webmaster have been busy making these changes.

To access our website, click on the following link: <https://tas.raeme.org.au/> or enter raeme tas into your favourite search engine.

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## 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours – RAEME Recipients.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (DSM).

**Brigadier Todd Andrew ASHURST.** For distinguished leadership in warlike operations as the Commander Task Group Afghanistan and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Resolute Support Mission Chief of Combined Joint Operations, on Operation HIGHROAD from September 2020 to June 2021.

### ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL (OAM).

**Warrant Officer Class One Bradley Scott BARGENQUAST** (48<sup>th</sup> VM). For meritorious service as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 11th Combat Service Support Battalion, 1st Combat Signal Regiment and Royal Military College - Duntroon.

**Warrant Officer Class One Michael Leonard WATERS** (42<sup>nd</sup> F&T). For meritorious service in senior Artificer Sergeant Major roles inside Army Headquarters and Special Operations Command. Warrant Officer Class One Waters has demonstrated exceptional performance in multiple senior Artificer Sergeant Major appointments.

### CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

**Lieutenant Colonel Josephine Lee RICHARDS.** For outstanding achievement as a Commanding Officer of 8th Combat Service Support Battalion force assigned to Operation Bushfire Assist and as the Commanding Officer of Joint Task Unit 629.1.1 on Operation COVID-19 Assist.

### CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL

**Lieutenant Colonel Paul John BELLAS** CSM. Bar to CSM. For meritorious achievement in the reform of organisation management in the Australian Army.

**Major Benjamin William ANGUS.** For meritorious achievement as the Officer Commanding Administration Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

**Warrant Officer Class One Christopher Barry McCULLOCH.** For meritorious achievement as the Artificer Sergeant Major of the 3rd Combat Signal Regiment

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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

**MATES 4 MATES**  
Here for those  
impacted by service.

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## Mates for Mates Cont.

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

**Injured Your Back?** Establishing the date of clinical onset of a medical condition is a key to DVA accepting that the condition was “service-caused” for incapacity payment purposes.



It was a surprise to DFWA that a recent case saw the Repatriation Commission successfully argue at Federal Court that the date of clinical onset of Cervical Spondylosis was the date of X-ray imaging confirming the diagnosis. Symptoms had been reported during service and at the final medical board. Expert medical opinion was that clinical onset was indicated at the time of these earlier symptoms. The veteran was considering an appeal to the Full Bench of the Federal Court. Costs were mounting.

This approach by DVA goes against the:

- DVA Policy Manual;
- 2018 advice from the Chief Health Officer and Principal Medical Advisor of DVA, Professor Ian Gardner; and
- legal precedent set by the Full Bench of the Federal Court

These all clearly distinguish between clinical onset and diagnosis. For a doctor can say that earlier symptoms indicate the presence of that disease at that time, then that is the date of clinical onset, not date of diagnosis. Full details can be [found at this link](#).

When DFWA found other cases where this approach was being taken by some delegates, it appeared that there was a systemic issue concerning governance and quality assurance within DVA. There may have been other cases where similar claims had been denied at least initially. The matter has been raised with the Secretary DVA and the matter is being investigated.

If you know of veterans who have been denied a claim for similar injuries on the basis that clinical onset was the date of diagnosis, they are advised to see an advocate and raise the issue with DVA. DFWA is pressing DVA to be proactive in this area and contact veterans who may have claims wrongly denied.

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

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## 6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson

It's time again for us at the 6LSC workshops to fill you in on some of the things we've been keeping ourselves busy with since the previous edition. To begin with I would like to welcome our newest craftie, Ben Fuller, who transferred into the Devonport depot from the ARA recently. As a fellow boffin



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## 6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson Cont.

I'm glad to see another member of our trade in the state. Ben's been keeping himself busy in the north-west but hopefully will get a chance to catch up with the rest of the workshop soon. To the joy of our beleaguered workshop CPL, SGT Neil Brooksbank has recently returned to the unit after an extended absence and will be taking up the role of workshop SGT.

With welcomes out of the way it's time to dive into what we've been up to. Since the previous edition we've been out and about traipsing around the countryside on a number of occasions. In June the unit engaged in what was to be a two-week exercise at Stony Head which was

designed to expose us to a longer period of field activity than in previous years. Unfortunately, due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the field, the exercise was cut short before the full benefit of planned training could be imparted.

In late July in an effort to maintain our competency driving the workshop vehicle fleet (including the 42M recovery vehicle), we got to enjoy a trip out through Strathgordon to the Gordon Dam once the mid-winter snow had melted enough for us to make the trip. Although it was a day longer than most expected and featured some roads narrow enough to barely fit the larger vehicles, on the whole it was a good experience, especially for those who hadn't previously had the opportunity to get out to see the dam.

For our August training weekend, the Workshops along with other 6LSC elements spent the weekends at Fort Direction near South Arm in order to conduct some serial-based leadership training including a demonstration of the capabilities of the 42M recovery vehicle. We stayed in the refurbished historical barracks accommodation and despite the chilly and blustery conditions generally had a good time not in the least helped by a nice dinner at the South Arm RSL on the Saturday night.

That just about wraps up our activities to date, but with more events planned in the near future I'm sure that there'll be more to share with our fellow RATs by the time the next edition of the newsletter rolls around. But until then, from the crew at 6LSC workshops,

Arte et Marte.

**LCPL B. Matton Johnson, Boffin.**

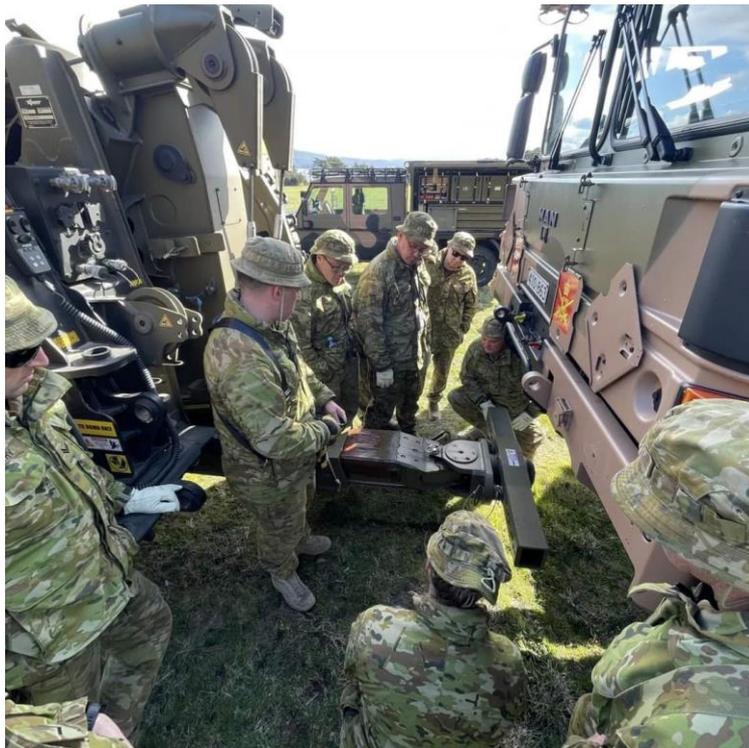


42M Medium recovery vehicle with 40M cargo truck on lift tow, Fort Direction TAS.

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6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson Cont.



CPL A. Warsing instructs on the correct hook up procedure on the 42M medium recovery vehicle.



The view from Cape Direction, TAS.



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## 6LSC Jottings – Cfn Barnaby Matton Johnson Cont.



G-Wagon driving through some slop, Fort Direction TAS.

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## Army Apprentice's Report

Association National Reunion Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Commencement of the Army Apprentices Scheme. Next year marks 75 years since the 1st Intake of Army Apprentices commenced training with a further 49 further Intakes to follow. To celebrate this milestone the Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) is organising a National Event to be held in the Albury Wodonga area over the weekend of 20th to 22nd Oct 23.



Australian Army Apprentices Association MAY 2022 Newsletter "The Apprentice About". To view this edition, visit the Association Website or [click here](#). Please feel free to pass this information to any Appies and encourage them to join the Association so that they can receive their own copy.

AAAA is still looking for articles for future Newsletters, particularly from Bonegilla of the 80's and 90's, or more Corps-specific items. If you have any comments or contributions to the Newsletter, please contact us.



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## Army Apprentice's Report Cont.

Also, please let the Membership Secretary know at [membership@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:membership@austarmyapprentice.org) there have been any recent changes to your contact details.

Regards

**Jeff Heron**

**Newsletter Editor Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc.**

Email: [news@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:news@austarmyapprentice.org)

Website: [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)

The latest Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter can be accessed at

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/>

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## RAEME Adult Trades Reunion

Did you attend an Adult Tradesman's course at the RAEME Training Centre, Bandiana, Victoria??

*Back*

*To*

*Bandiana*

I am looking for any RAEME digger who may be interested in a "Back to Bandi" reunion. At this point in time, it is a concept only. I am seeking interest from ex RAEME people who would like to catch up with their old mates. If enough interest is generated, I will take the next step.

If you would like to submit an expression of interest please contact: -

Garry (Snowy) Whykes at [gwhykes@gmail.com](mailto:gwhykes@gmail.com)

Please supply the following: -

- Your Name
- Contact details (email and phone No)
- Course e.g. 5/65

If you are in contact with your mates please let them know of this flyer,

Arte et Marte

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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)



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## Links to other Resources Cont.

### 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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## Other Happenings

### Anzac Day 2022

This year saw the return of the Anzac Day March in Hobart after two years of Covid. RAT members after attending their respective Dawn Services, assembled at Customs House for a customary pre-drink, or two, before assembling for this year's March.



A bit early but cheers

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### Anzac Day 2022 Cont.

Although numbers were down, 14 assembled for the parade marching to the Hobart Cenotaph behind the RAEME flag. This was followed by lunch at the Customs House giving members to reflect on days gone past along with our friends the RAE Association.



RATS assembled and marching through Hobart



LCPL Amy Britton formed part of the Catafalque Party at Hobarts Cenotaph

The afternoon saw the majority of members gather at Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess for an afternoon of Two Up and reacquaint with old friends from other Associations.



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Anzac Day 2022 Cont.



LCPL Matty Jordan tossing another win at Two Up

Photos of the parade and members attending respective dawn services can be viewed on our website.

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**Mid-year luncheon**

Sunday 10 July 2022 saw 44 members and partners attend the "Griffins Lair" for this year's mid-year luncheon.



Members lunch

Special thanks must go out to: -

- CO 2FSB for allowing us the use of the "Lair",
- Our President Mark Wilson for preparing a fantastic spread,
- 6LSC members for manning the bar and having the new 42M medium recovery vehicle on display,

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**Mid-year luncheon Cont.**

- Shane Rollins for the merchandise display and raffles, and
- Last but not least our members partners.

Obviously, once again the highlight of the day was our luncheon prepared by Mark, someone said he would make a god wife!!!!!!!!!!

The main raffle price “With Skill and Fighting Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014” book was won by Howard Alcock.



Tom Strang, Mark Chandler, partners and friends



Neil Brooksbank, partners and friends



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### Mid-year luncheon Cont.



Jill Dobie updating Brian Parkers details on our website

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### Federation Star recipients

As you would now be aware CFN Nigel Fox will shortly be presented with his Federation Star for 40 years continues service with Defence. In the meantime, not forgetting, Peter (Phantom) McDonough received his Federation Star and, using Phantoms words, sorry no Bio.

*“Received my DL5M/5 clasps and Federation Star today (my choice) got my DFSM the same way, dropped in the letterbox in 1989, no presentation, no ceremony, no parade, no fanfare, just me and the letterbox.*

*I had thoroughly enjoyed my ARA/ARES service equally it's unfortunate that I had to return my DFSM in order to acknowledge my total career.*

*Was a bit disappointed in that it all arrived like an IKEA flat pack and had to put it all together.*

*So pinned the medal on as is and saluted my mate the letterbox”.*



The Committee would have liked the opportunity to congratulate Phantom at this year's RAEME birthday. However he and his wife Karen are continuing their Grey nomad travels in their caravan and will be leaving the state travelling to the north island shortly. On behalf of RAT members Phantom, congratulation on receiving your Federation Star, and safe travels.

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### Federation Star Cont.

It would have been remiss of me not to mention RAT members who have received their Federation Star, namely: -

- Bob McKerrow,
- Bob Keenan, and
- Peter Barrett.

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### JLUV Workshop update

Rolly advises that the new Wksp is due for completion over coming weeks and we hope members have an opportunity to tour the facility at the RAEME birthday in December.



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### Photos from the past



The old and the new Wreckers from a few years back

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Photos from the past Cont.



47 Tpt Coy Wksp Diamond T Wrecker



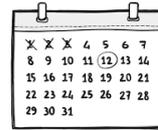
Senior Apprentice John Lennox

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### Calendar of Events until December 2022



Date	Timings	Remarks
13 Dec 2022	1200-1530	RAEME Birthday

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### 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 15 March 2023.

