



# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**April 2023**

**Issue 26**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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Honorary Life Members: Wayne Cubitt, Russell Clark, Shane Rollins.

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

Welcome to Edition 26 of the RAT newsletter. It's hard to believe how time flies since the last edition, what with the RAEME birthday and Christmas been and gone and we are now well into 2023 and approaching Anzac Day.

RAEME birthday was once again a successful day which saw us honour our Federation Star recipients, tour the new JLUV workshop and welcome our latest Honorary Member, Shane (Rolly) Rollins. I have expanded further on these further in this edition.



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### From the Editors desk cont.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and once again I encourage you to provide feedback, photos and stories for future editions!!!!

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### Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

It's that time again, I received a phone call from Russell yesterday asking for my report, unfortunately work commitment got in the way last night, however; here we are only one night late! Its clicked over to the 3rd April, Good Friday is a mere four days away, the Easter Bunny comes to all the good boys and girls in six days, ANZAC day is a mere 22 days away! So, start to polish your boots, wipe last year's beer stains off your medals, and see if your suit still fits! It's three years since the world closed down with Covid and unfortunately there is still waves of this terrible disease coming through, so if you have a cold, or flu like symptoms, please stay at home, it's better to miss one march than to make it someone else's last march.



We will be having a mid-year function in June, date to be confirmed; as always, I'll be looking forward to seeing each and every one of you, sharing some food having a few drinks and of course the committee and myself will do our best to lighten your pockets so please bring some cash along with you.

A few of us ex apprentices got together on Sunday to have lunch with the new CO of 2FSB LTCOL Andrew Clarke. As normal the stories flowed at a rate directly proportional to the amount of alcohol consumed, there was one story in particular that I found extremely hilarious that I thought I would share; it goes back to when computers were first introduced into the system. One of our members was preparing for a promotion course and was struggling with this new computer technology! After several hours of trying to get somewhere they finally asked "How many times can you cut something before you have to paste!!!"

There will be a prizes for answering the following questions at the mid-year function:

- What trade was this individual?
- What Intake was this ex-apprentice?

Can't wait to see you all soon, stay safe and march straight!

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### From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

Greetings RATs,

As we get into a new year I wanted to recognise the great work done by the RAT Committee last year, and in particular the gathering organised for the 80<sup>th</sup> RAEME Birthday in December 2022. What an excellent occasion it was!

For my part, I remind you all that I am your conduit to HOC for any issues or queries you may have, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you need to at [andrew.herbert@defence.gov.au](mailto:andrew.herbert@defence.gov.au)



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## Message from the outgoing Head of Corps – BRIG James Allen



This will be my final message as Head of Corps (HOC). I will be retiring from the full time Army service at the end of the year (2022) and handing over the reins as HOC. I have been honoured to serve in this important position and will remain engaged with the Corps into the future through the RAEME National Network (RNN).

Reflecting on the brief period I have been HOC, I note many significant events have occurred during my tenure, which will shape the future of our Corps and indeed the Australian Defence Force.

I stepped into the role on the back of the worst bushfires the country has experienced in living memory. The fact that the Governor General enacted a compulsory recall of the Reserves is testament to the severity of the situation. From a RAEME perspective, there are many stories of our soldiers performing great deeds from an all Corps soldiering and Defence Aid to the Civil Community perspective. More impressive, in my opinion, are the accounts I have received of RAEME trades using innovation and technical expertise to repair, maintain or modify water pumps, generators, vehicles and all sorts of other civilian and military equipment to ensure vital equipment and capabilities were readily available to fight the fires and look after the welfare of our nation.

As soon as the bushfires finished, we were hit with the global pandemic known as Covid. As a nation we took extreme measures to “flatten the curve”, and prepare ourselves as best we could, to prevent mass outbreak and potential deaths. The media featured the ADF in support of police, medical staff and contact tracing, but our well trained and motivated people will also be remembered for our specific contributions to repairing mask manufacturing machinery, repairing and maintaining medical equipment and a host of other behind the scenes essentials items. Again, the innovation and technical expertise of our RAEME soldiers was proven as second to none and the unofficial motto of “improvise, adapt and overcome” became reality.

The pandemic remains an ongoing, but now manageable, concern for us all and it resulted in lasting changes in the way we do business and go about our everyday lives. Who would have thought that face masks would become an everyday fashion accessory in Australia, or that hand sanitising stations would be a feature in the foyer of every building?

For obvious reasons, we could not conduct a Corps Conference last year and I was delighted we were able to pull together a Corps update with people dialling in from virtual venues around the country. It certainly wasn't ideal but it enabled key messages to be passed and updates on strategic issues from AHQ and FORCOMD to be quickly communicated.

Another monumental and sad event for our Corps was the passing of our Colonel in Chief, HRH Prince Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh. He has been a constant for all of us in the Corps throughout our careers and will be missed enormously. At this stage, I have written to my counterpart in REME and ascertained the exact steps we would need to undertake to follow their lead and request the Countess of Wessex as our Colonel in Chief; however, we also have an opportunity to break with tradition and perhaps appoint an Australian dignitary to the role. Before embarking on either option, I intend to gauge the sentiments of the Corps at the forthcoming Corps Conference before making a recommendation to the Chief of Army. It is an interesting time for us all!

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### Message from the outgoing Head of Corps – BRIG James Allen cont.

As I write, the news headlines are dominated by the Russian invasion of the Ukraine and the global manoeuvring of China and the USA. The Ukraine is demonstrating to us the power of technology and how “improvising, adapting and overcoming” can be a force multiplier on the modern battlefield. Whatever the Ukrainians call their equivalent of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, those men and woman are doing a sterling job of modifying civilian drones to be lethal weapon systems, reverse engineering Russian equipment to be used as Ukrainian assets, and probably also modifying and upgrading western systems to integrate or federate with Russian platforms. This war is proving the core skills of RAEME are essential in a major conflict and can be a decisive factor in delivering battlefield capabilities.

In addition to my handing over as HOC, our Honorary Colonel, BRIG (Retd) David Creagh will also be handing over at the end of the year. I’ll take this opportunity to thank Dave for his guidance and for the work he has done to support the traditional functions of the Corps during some very testing times. I’m sure Dave will remain affiliated and active supporting the Corps into the future.

I am looking forward to the Corps Conference being held over the 2nd and 3rd November at Enoggera in our 80<sup>th</sup> year. It will be good to return to a traditional format and have a central gathering, including a BBQ and a dining-in night. May I wish you all continued success in your careers and a most enjoyable Festive Season with family and friends in a few weeks’ time.

**Editor’s note:** - We were advised earlier this month that BRIG B. Slaughter has been confirmed as RAEME HOC.

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

Report to 2022 Corps Conference by Co-ordinator RAEME National Network – BRIG (RTD) Ross Grant



**Introduction.** I have been the Coordinator of the RAEME National Network (RNN) for 20 months. I continue to concentrate on supporting the various association executives around Australia and maintaining the flow of communications to and from them. I can see clearly that all associations remain busy; most have newsletters with articles relevant to their membership; and I note with pride the effort committees put into organising a wide range of events and functions for their local membership. On your behalf, I offer my congratulations to all Associations and their hardworking teams and encourage you to seek them out in your localities via <https://raeme.org.au>

**Growth in the RNN.** I am not sure how successful the various associations have been growing their regional memberships, this year, but all realise the importance of continued growth if they are to survive. This issue has been front of mind in the RAQ for some time. In recent years, they have taken over the remnants of the 106 Fd Wksp (Vietnam) Association, which was struggling to maintain its membership. Fortunately, the RAQ has experienced substantial growth over the last 12 months mainly in Townsville and on the Darling Downs – its newest two sub-associations. Growth is a constant theme and will focus the new RAQ executive elected on 5 Oct 22 over the coming years. The RAQ also attributes its success to high-quality and persistent communications’ platforms – making use of the RAQ/RNN website, their weekly newsletter, Friday Files, their more voluminous newsletter, Spanner News and LinkedIn. They

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## Report to 2022 Corps Conference by Co-ordinator RNN – BRIG (RTD) Ross Grant cont.

are also lucky to have close and vibrant relationships with many local HQ staff and unit commanders and staff across Qld, who support events when they can.

**RNN IT System.** I'd like to firstly thank Richard Legge, ex-RAEME, and owner of Prerequisite IT, <http://www.prerequisiteit.com.au>, for hosting and maintaining our national IT. I also want to thank the RAEME National Network Support Team (RNST) ably led by Alex Smithers in WA, and his team of distributed webmasters, in most state locations – it takes significant commitment to keep the system fit for purpose, secure and accessible.

For your information, the RAEME National IT Network is built on Windows server technologies and Joomla content management. The Joomla system is made up of different modules and extensions providing file storage, image galleries, event and membership management and our online merchandise shop. The system also has email services providing an important backbone for our communications infrastructure and has recently been upgraded. We strongly encourage each Association to use the system fully.

**Other Activities.** The following topics continue to feature in the life of the RNN:

**Roles of the RAEME National Network and Associations.** For those who may not be aware, the RNN exists to encourage all state-based associations, in their own way, to achieve their role and responsibilities to:

- promote the Corps' identity and reputation,
- recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps, and
- provide a local focal point for Corps activities.

**Membership.** May I urge all attendees to consider membership before you leave the service, but if not, soon after you enter civilian life. There are many benefits, but most importantly, an ability to retain a connection with your old Corps and the many fine people with whom you served and networked. May I again commend the regional associations to all and encourage you to support their local activities.

**Spanner Pack.** Just when we thought Spanner Pack would fold, up pops a few more disparate RAEME folks in PNG and the South Sudan. So once again Ray Norman, the Convenor of Spanner Pack, last week despatched another six packages to soldiers in PNG. Total despatched packages now number 4792 since the programs' inception. My thanks to Ray for his efforts over another trying period in his life. If you have soldiers on overseas deployments at any time, let us know, and Ray will guarantee they receive at least one Spanner Pack while they are away from home. Please be aware, the RNN is always looking for new and popular items to put in the pack and appreciate feedback on the contents, particularly from younger soldiers. **Equally important, donations to Spanner Pack can be made by visiting <https://qld.raeme.org.au> the "SHOP" page and the donation field.**

**Heritage Initiatives.** You may have seen coverage on a wonderful initiative to produce a book of RAEME humour. Two members of the Corps, Ian Cook and Peter Shefford "Sheff", have published a highly successful first edition, and are working on Edition 2 which they aim to release early 2023, so they need stories ASAP. Please send them to [FunnyStories@raeme.com](mailto:FunnyStories@raeme.com)

**Funding Support.** I get many queries about funding support for important Corps activities. Just a reminder to Associations and unit members that the Corps Committee may subsidise



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## Report to 2022 Corps Conference by Co-ordinator RNN – BRIG (RTD) Ross Grant cont.

some important Corps events, IAW Corps Instruction No 3 “RAEME Corps Fund Charter” – it is worth a read on the availability of funds or otherwise.

**Appointment of a new COL in CHIEF.** Folks across the RNN are generally aware the HOC is working hard to identify a new COL IN CHIEF – including conducting an important discussion at the Corps Conference on a preferred course of action by members of the Corps. We look forward to a final resolution in 2023.

I always look forward to the opportunity of speaking at the Corps Conference, but most importantly, catching up with many “old” friends. It is good to see so many of you ageing gracefully! If you have any ideas for improving membership of the RNN, or connectivity with our various associations, please get in touch at the address below. I also want to say how grateful for the support I receive from COLs COMDT across Australia and their work with the associations. Special thanks to BRIG Dave Creagh as he steps down – it has been a pleasure to work with you.

Arte et Marte

**Ross L G Grant AM**

**CHAIR RNN**

[rnn.chair@raeme.org.au](mailto:rnn.chair@raeme.org.au)

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## Treasurer’s Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 26 March 2023:

Bank Balance:	\$2306.95
Cash on Hand:	Nil
Stock on Hand:	\$500.00
<b>Net Position:</b>	<b>\$2806.95</b>



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## Vale

### Vale

It is with deep regret that we advise of the following:

- **Tucker**, Dennis (Danny) passed away 24 November 22 in St Helens having suffered from Asbestosis. Danny was a 13<sup>th</sup> intake VM serving his country proudly and will be sadly missed.

## Welfare

**Ross**, Jim (JR) has returned home from hospital. He is suffering from Fibrosis. JR is in good spirit, and still has a keen sense of humour. I’m sure you will join me in wishing him well.

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## Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

Mick is currently grey nomading on the mainland with his wife Lynne in their campervan. Any orders for merchandise can be ordered through our website, the Committee will take it from there.




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## RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

### 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RAEME part 2

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

In spite of their capture and harsh treatment, some artificers found a way to defy their Japanese captors. Lieutenant R Wright of the Australian Army Ordnance Corps made three covert radio sets, one hidden in a broom; another was concealed in a clock and a third in a water bottle. These radio sets enabled prisoners to keep abreast of war news and greatly assisted in the maintenance of morale. The photograph below was taken after the Japanese surrender. It shows Lieutenant Wright demonstrating his covert broom radio to three unidentified members of the AIF.



The rapid Japanese advance continued and in January 1942 Japanese forces overran a comparatively small Australian force on the New Guinea island of New Britain. This Japanese victory opened the way for a Japanese invasion of New Guinea, posing an even greater threat to Australia. On 19 February 1942, Japanese forces attacked Darwin, twice before noon with more than 260 aircraft launched from four aircraft carriers in the Timor Sea and from land bases at Ambon in the Maluku Islands of the Dutch-East Indies. Darwin, only lightly defended, was left devastated by the Japanese attack. At least 243 people were killed during the bombing and much of city's infrastructure, including valuable port resources, was destroyed



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**80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RAEME part 2 cont.**

**Fuel storage tanks burning in Darwin after the first Japanese air raid.**

A number of AAOC Workshop elements were in Darwin at the time of the initial bombing attacks and it is possible a spotter from 23 Independent Brigade Group Workshop was one of the first to report Japanese aircraft over the town.



**19 Feb 1942: Sounding the general alarm at the Darwin-based 14th Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA.**

Confronted with the grim reality of a major attack on Mainland Australia, defensive preparations were finally begun in earnest. At the strategic level the Australian Government directed the return of the battle-hardened AIF troops from the Middle East. At the same time, and at an organisational level, the Government directed Army to undertake an internal review designed to produce a more effective Defence Force. Indeed, this review was to have a profound effect on the future of the Ordnance Department and the Mechanical Engineering Branch and would lead directly to the formation of a new Corps for a modern Army.

In response to the Government's directive to review the Defence Force, the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Thomas Blamey, appointed a committee to investigate the issues raised by Government. Ordnance and the maintenance and repair of equipment did not escape his attention and Blamey wanted to know if existing policy and arrangements for the control, design and inspection of Army munitions and stores was causing a duplication of effort and staffing.



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## 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RAEME part 2 cont.

This particular focus of the review had been influenced by similar events taking place in the United Kingdom which, in October 1942, resulted in the formation of the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). In Australia the immediate reaction to this British initiative was to retitle the Director of Mechanical Maintenance (DMM) the Director Mechanical Engineering (DME); and the formation of a new Corps was discussed at the highest levels.

These discussions resulted in the issue of General Routine Order G465, on 16 October 1942, authorising the formation of the Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME). On 20 November 1942 General Routine Order 0573 promulgated full instructions regarding the formation of AEME and the process of reorganisation which was to take place.

The initial transfer of the Australian Army Ordnance Corps Workshop organisation to the new Corps was to take effect on 1 December 1942.<sup>4</sup> The transfer of unit maintenance tradesmen (with some exceptions), whose duties were primarily the maintenance of mechanical equipment, took place on 1 May 1943. AEME began life with 950 officers and approximately 14,000 other ranks.

The immediate focus of the new Corps was the provision of support for operations against the Japanese. To this end some AEME elements deployed to New Guinea, while the majority of field units prepared for future operations from training areas in northern Australia and others provided their support from fixed facilities at various locations around the nation.

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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

No report from the Welfare Officer this edition.



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

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## Army Apprentice's Report

### Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) Reunion 2023 – Albury Wodonga area



The AAAA will be conducting a reunion to celebrate 75 years since the establishment of the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe, but later at Bonegilla. The reunion will be held in the Albury Wodonga area commencing on 20 Oct 23. Details are available on the AAAA website.

The Assn is seeking expressions of interest from potential attendees. This information will allow organisers to plan confidently, and they would appreciate advice on your intentions as soon as possible.

Contact email:

[events@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:events@austarmyapprentice.org)

The latest Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter can be accessed at

<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;

<https://www.rsltas.org.au/about-us/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)

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**Links to other Resources cont.**

**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**

**RAEME Birthday 2022**



Sunday 11 December last year saw 53 members and partners attend "The Griffin's Lair" to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our RAEME Birthday. The committee decided to revert to a more traditional BBQ this year that was enjoyed by all. Special thanks once again must go out to our President Mark Wilson and members of 6LSC, in particular Niall Woolley.



RATs assembled at "The Lair"



Whose shout is it?

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### RAEME Birthday 2022 cont.

Highlights of the day included tours of JLUV Wksp, honouring Federation Star recipients and awarding of an honorary Life Membership. These stories are mentioned further in this edition.

Cutting of cake was undertaken by our oldest and junior members, Brian Parker and Barnaby Matton Johnson.

To cap of the day, we held our AGM and in typical RAT fashion your Committee was elected unopposed, and are listed on the first page of the newsletter. We do have vacancies that were not filled, I'm sure there are some of you out there who could feel these positions. The current Committee is not getting any younger and we do worry somewhat, what the future holds for our Association if some younger members do not put there hand up to volunteer to join our Committee.

The major raffle price was run by Andrea Cubitt.

To view more photos of the day simply access our website gallery, [Birthday 2022](#)

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### Recognition of RAT Federation Star recipients

Being presented with a Federation Star is no mean feat. By way of background, in 1998 the third iteration of medallic recognition for long service, the Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM), was introduced. The DLSM may be awarded to a member who has, on or after 14 February 1975, completed 15 years qualifying remunerated service in the Australian Defence Force. This includes efficient service in the Permanent and Reserve Forces.

To be eligible for the DLSM 15 years of service must be reached. At each subsequent 5 years of service, a clasp is presented and worn on the medal. Clasps are therefore presented at 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service. These are replaced by a single silver Federation Star for the fifth clasp. Additional Federation Star emblems are added for subsequent clasps.



The first four clasps to the medal are indicated by rosettes (see above). These are replaced by a single Federation Star for the fifth clasp (see below). Additional Federation Star emblems are added for subsequent clasps.



I think we can all appreciate that there are not too many people who would become eligible for this recognition and acknowledge that 40 years of service is an outstanding achievement. It is common on occasions such as this to use the term “40 years of undetected crime”,

At last year's RAEME birthday we took the opportunity to recognise our Federation Star recipients, presenting them with certificates of appreciation on the day. In total they have racked up 183 years off service, two of whom are still serving.



### Recognition of Federation Star recipients cont.

- Robert McKerrow – 50 years,
- Robert Keenan – 47 years,
- Peter Barret – 45 Years, and
- Nigel Fox – 42 years.

Unfortunately, we had one other member who reached this milestone who could not make the day, Peter (Phantom) Mc Donough, we have his certificate of appreciation to present to him at the earliest opportunity.



Robert Keenan, Peter Barrett, Robert McKerrow and Nigel Fox after there presentation of certificates

I propose to provide biographies on all our recipients over coming editions, the first one from Phantoms follows below.

### Peter (Phantom) McDonough

This is my life

Corps enlisted into RAEME on 20 Sep 1972 to undertake a Radio Mech Adult Trade course but both the instructors and I soon found out I was not suited (at all). So I opted to undertake a Clerk Admin course and never looked back.

My first posting was to 3 Fd Engr Regt Wksp, this was the perfect grounding for the rest of my career, thanks Des Ryan and all who served in that great unit. Followed up with two years at 2 Base but missed the weather so headed back to Townsville for a few more years. Promoted to Cpl and then Sgt with each of these postings.

### Recognition of Federation Star recipients – Peter McDonough Bio. cont.

Must thank the other students on each of my Subject 2 courses for getting me through, a lot of that crap was beyond me. A quick trip to Tassie to instruct on a Reserve Recruit course, very satisfying job and met my wife (Karen) to be.



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A stint at 1 Base Wksp on promotion to SSgt followed, yes we did have a few unpleasant officers in the Corps at that time, but we move on. Completed Subj 1 and 2, thanks again to all, particularly Tony Hickey and Lloyd Milligan, posted to Adelaide Wksp Coy on promotion to WO2.

Next was a 12 months role in Coord branch HQ 6 MD and gained a healthy appreciation of the dedication of our Army Reserve Soldiers. Made my first acquaintance with my letterbox when my DFSM was dropped off, pinned it on and saluted.

Only 12 months later posted to HQ Log Comd on promotion to WO1 and then SCMA after Ian Johnson was levered out, a very satisfying role, however, absences played havoc on my young family, so I elected discharge and completed a wonderful 20 years.

Army reserve immediately gave me the opportunity to continue in uniform, so I was introduced to RAEME reserves at FRG 301, Russell Clark, Glen Hay, Tony Rich and Co, as well as ex ARA members would then heavily influence my future in Tasmania.

Next as SO3 SCM in APA TAS, I undertook the horrendous task of Reserve pay/trades remediation and convinced to seek PSO commissioning and subsequently appointed CAPT in the same role. A career highlight was to act a guard commander for the honour guard for the funeral of Alec Campbell the last survivor of the Gallipoli campaign, May is bloody cold in Hobart in short sleeve polys.

Appointed MAJ in 2000 and assumed command of 6 LSS Wksp, absolutely loved it, again working with unique soldier/tradesmen, some extraordinary personalities.

Returned to APA as SO2 SCM and also undertook the role of Army ADC to the Governor of Tasmania.

In 2010 I retired from my civilian employment with CSIRO and relocated to Nambucca Heads. Joined 41 RNSWR, however this Infantry unit was unsure what to do with a RAEME Major, but ended up as OC Admin Coy. Enjoyed the role but not the unit, so after having completed 40 years at this stage I'd had enough and resigned in 2013.

The unit totally forgot my resignation, so a last minute presentation of a unit plaque no name and a Scottish bonnet (41 has Scottish affiliation) was very embarrassing and I returned them by post the next day.

Interestingly, HOC did not acknowledge my service either. 10 years later, the RAEME Association Tasmania presented me with an official RAEME statement of service, thanks COL Herbert, Russell Clark and all members.

At this time I decided to acknowledge both my ARA and ARES service and returned my DFSM and subsequently awarded the DLSSM, 5 clasps and Federation Star. Having been absent from the Army for 10 years I elected to have the medal sent by post. Once again I reacquainted myself with the letterbox, pinned on the medal and saluted as appropriate.

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## Recognition of Federation Star recipients cont.



Phantoms letterbox.

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## Tour of JLU(Victoria) Hobart Workshop

RAT members recently had an opportunity to tour the recently completed JLUV workshop. You will recall in recent newsletters we provided members with updates on the construction of the Wksp. Shane Rollins has provided a background into how much effort went into approval being granted to construct the new Wksp, as follows: -

The start of the Land 121 B vehicle replacement program replacing Mack, Unimog, and Landrover also triggered a nationwide workshop and facilities buildings assessment program. New workshops were planned in most states with a new Tasmanian workshop not included in the first draft.

After much debate and the fact that none of the new vehicles would fit in the existing buildings they initially looked at modifying existing but in the end the cost estimate was mealy the same as a new workshop.

It was actually announced by Brig. Dave McGahey at a RAT dinner in 2012, initially it was only going to be a 4-bay workshop for heavy vehicles with the other buildings to be used for the light vehicles. In the end we convinced the project that one facility with six vehicle bays, including a GE bay was approved.

Features include 15 Tonne overhead crane reticulated POL stations and fume extraction in each bay. There is also a heavy vehicle hoist system. Office space conference and meeting rooms and dedicated stores facilities and light and heavy tyre changing equipment to name a few others It is also used by 6LSC when required they also have a dedicated office in the building.



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Tour of JLU(Victoria) Hobart Workshop cont.



RAT members Gp 1



RAT members Gp 2



Inside JLUV Wksp

To view more photos of the tour simply access our website gallery, [Birthday 2022](#).

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## Honorary life membership Shane Rollins

At last year's RAEME Birthday honorary life membership was granted to Shane (Rolly) Rollins. Rolly has been an active member for a number of years, earning, friendship and respect of all members. Rolly enlisted in the Army in 1972 and provided a bio on his time in Defence and further afield as a Transport Inspector and Fleet Manager of the Police Garage.

<b>1972-1973</b>	Army Apprentice School Balcombe 27 <sup>th</sup> Motor Mechanic
<b>1974 – Sep 1978</b>	Puckapunyal Workshop Company Vehicle Mechanic
<b>Sep 77 – Mar 78</b>	Melbourne Workshop Coy ANARE LARC Det)
<b>Sep 78 – Jan 79</b>	3 Field Engineer Regiment Townsville.
<b>Jan 79 – Mar 80</b>	Secondment to AAD Mawson Station
<b>Mar 80 – Aug 81</b>	11 Supply BN Meeandah Brisbane
<b>Aug 81 – Mar 83</b>	Secondment to AAD Davis Station
<b>Mar 83 – Sep 86</b>	Base Workshop Bn. Cpl VM
<b>Sep 86 – Dec 88</b>	2/3 Field Engineer Regt Holsworthy Sgt VM
<b>Dec 88 – Dec 89</b>	P&EE Port Wakefield SA - Sgt VM
<b>Dec 89 – Dec 93</b>	B Sqn 1 <sup>st</sup> ARMD Regt Puckapunyal Vic -WO2 ASM
<b>Dec 93 – Feb 95</b>	Perth Log BN WO2
<b>Feb 95 – Jun 06</b>	LSF WKSP – 2FSB ARES
<b>Feb 95 – Sep 99</b>	APS Vehicle Inspector Hobart Log Platoon
<b>Sep 99 – Nov 03</b>	Transport Inspector TAS State Gov
<b>Nov 03 – May 06</b>	TAS Police Fleet Manager
<b>May 06- Oct 22</b>	JLU V Hobart Maintenance Manager
<b>Oct 22-</b>	Retired

Rolly is married to Sandra and they have two children Dean and Kelly



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**Honorary life membership - Shane Rollins cont.**



Shane being presented with Honorary life membership by Col Comdt Tas Region Col Andrew Herbert

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**RAEME takes on Netball**

LCpl Amy Britton from 6LSC recently represented the Army in a civilian mixed Netball competition in Queensland in September 2022. The team made the grand final but were runners up in the competition. Well done Amy.



Amy not representing Jetstar but defending in the mixed netball!!!!





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**RAEME takes on netball cont.**



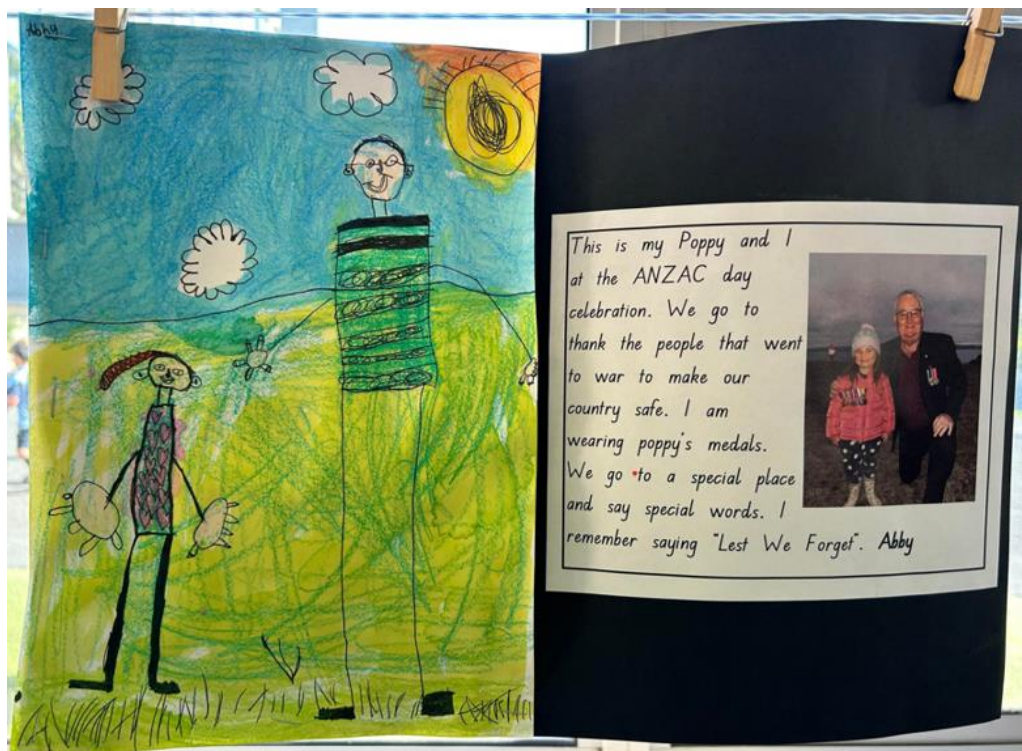
Army mixed tri service team (Amy front row right side)

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**Anzac Day 2023**

Anzac Day is just around the corner, we will be sending out fliers to members leading up to the event. Glen Hay our webmaster submitted this piece done by his grand-daughter Abby (6) for her prep class. The topic was celebrations and Abby created this based on last years Anzac Dawn Service at South Arm



A picture is worth a thousand words

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**Photos from our past**



Anzac day Hobart 2009



Inaugural Remembrance day January 2006

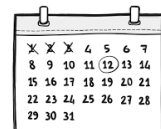


Photos from our past cont.



RAEME birthday 2012

Calendar of Events until December 2023



Date	Timings	Remarks
25 April	TBA	Respective RSLs
June TBA	1200-1500	BBQ Griffins Lair
3 Dec	1200-1530	RAEME birthday Griffins Lair

Conclusion

On a final note please stay healthy and stay safe. I look forward to seeing many members at this years Anzac Day Parade.

If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 15 September 2023.

