



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

October 2023

Issue 27

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome members to Edition 27 of the RAT Newsletter. Well another year is slowly drawing to a close, this year like most years to me goes by so much quicker!

In this edition amongst other stories we will be honouring two of our members who served in South Vietnam during the Vietnam war. I hope readers enjoy the stories from Gary and Wayne recounting their experiences while serving in South Vietnam.



From the Editors desk Cont.

It is also interesting to learn about their lives after operational service and their ongoing contribution to the ADF and to their communities in their civilian lives.

Don't forget RAEME birthday is approaching your Committee are in the early stages of planning the day and a flier will be sent out closer to the event.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the RAT Newsletter, please feel free to contact me with any stories you wish to be included in the next newsletter.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Team,

I have struggled looking for something to say to introduce this quarters newsletter to you all, but let's see how this goes!! Firstly, thanks to all the members who attended the RAT's mid-year function at Lenah Valley RSL, we were treated well by Andy Mc Shanes team, the food was very good for the price, the beer and wine was served very cold just the way I like it and a few of us won some meat trays, yes a few of us won at least two! Great way to make ourselves welcome! Upsetting the locals by stealing their tucker for the next week!! In all seriousness it was a good night and I thank Andy and the Lenah Valley RSL for making us welcome.



My second point is for a couple of lads outside our association, and who are doing a fabulous job of capturing the true magic of the Corps, your personal experiences as told in their books!



A big hats off to Cookie and Shef for all their efforts that they have put into this! I wouldn't be surprised if there's something in the next Kings Birthday honours for you gentlemen, a big thank you to you both and a thank you to the following RATs who contributed stories to the 2nd edition; David Cantley, Russell Clark, and Vince Voncina.

Well done to you all and a big plug for their books!!

(See purchasing options later in the newsletter) Ed.

Finally, and most likely the most important from a serving members perspective that many of you would not be aware of. Last week I received an email from the current RSM of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering - WO1 Jon Tynan. In January 2024 RAEME will have its first Non-Regimental Tier C Warrant Officer with WO1 Andrew Beaman being posted into the position of ASM Land Worthiness within Land Capability Division. It would be great if either Jon or Andrew could join us in one of our gatherings to inform us all of how this new structure works. We have great Pinot Noir down here gents I'm sure we could make you welcome!

Presidents report Cont.

Ok enough from me, as usual; find a quiet spot, grab a glass of your favourite beverage, and enjoy this issue of our newsletter that Russell has put together.

Cheers and see you all at the RAEME Birthday function.

Chief RAT

From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

Since the last RAT Newsletter, I attended the RAEME Corps Committee meeting in June. The main focus of the HOC, BRIG Slaughter, is to increase the influence of the HOC Cell within Army in order to better represent the Corps. The Corps RSM is looking to improve recognition for RAEME personnel, over and above the annual Craftsman and Officer of the year awards.



In relation to a new Colonel in Chief of the Corps, the decision has been made that RAEME will align with REME (HRH The Countess of Wessex is now the REME Colonel in Chief), however the official approval for her appointment as RAEME Colonel in Chief is still some time away.

Unfortunately, I missed the RAT Mid-Year function but heard that it was well attended and enjoyed by all. Looking forward to the RAEME Birthday celebration in December.

As always, I am only as far away as an email to andrew.herbert@defence.gov.au if you have any Corps matters or queries for me.

The new Head of Corps RAEME (HOC) – BRIG Ben Slaughter, Commander Australian Army Cadets

Ben Slaughter was born in Brisbane where he attended Brisbane Grammar School and studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Queensland. He started his military career as a Reserve Officer Cadet while a full-time university student. In 1992 he transferred to the Regular Army as a Second Lieutenant into the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME).



Brigadier Slaughter's early career included a variety of corps, regimental, and capability development roles in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. More recently he has worked in maintenance engineering, incident management, and force structure plans. In 2019 he was posted to London and embedded in the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters as the J5 planning lead for UK joint operations in Indo-Pacific region and Africa.

Brigadier Slaughter has been privileged to have had command appointments as the Officer Commanding Support Squadron 2nd Cavalry Regiment, the Commanding Officer 7 Combat Service Support Battalion and Commander Joint Logistic Unit (Victoria).

The new Head of Corps RAEME (HOC) Cont.

He has deployed as the lead for the first Maintenance Advisory Team into Iraq in 2003, the lead for the first Logistic Assurance Team into the Special Operation Task Group in 2004 and with 2nd Cavalry Regiment in 2006/07 as part of the Overwatch Battlegroup in Iraq.

He has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Queensland, a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology and a Masters in Strategy and Management from the University of NSW. He is a Fellow of the Defence and Strategic Studies Course and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Brigadier Slaughter is married to Maria who is a workforce planning consultant in the Defence sector. Like many working couples they share the parenting of two active boys and when they can find time around the boy's sporting commitments, the family enjoy the outdoors and travelling.

The RATs welcome BRIG Slaughter's appointment as HOC and looks forward to welcoming him to our events in Tasmania as he fulfils his two demanding roles. For more information on BRIG Slaughter and the Australian Army Cadet Corps, please click on this link:

<https://www.armycadets.gov.au/about/our-leaders/brigadier-ben-slaughter/>

Introducing the new Representative COLCOMDT- RAEME BRIG Ed Smeaton, DSM.

We are very pleased to announce that Brigadier Edward Smeaton, DSM, was appointed Representative Colonel Commandant – RAEME in April 2023. Here is a little about BRIG Smeaton and his plans for the role.

Brigadier Smeaton was born in Rylstone, country NSW. He entered the Royal Military College in 1989, graduating in June 1990 into the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Brigadier Smeaton served in a variety of regimental positions including as a junior officer with the 16th Air Defence Regiment Workshop, 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment, and 1st Recruit Training Battalion. He also served in 7th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), 5th Aviation Regiment and 1st Combat Engineer Regiment. His command appointments included Commanding Officer 1st Combat Service Support Battalion and Commander of the Force Support Group / Chief of Staff 17th Combat Service Support Brigade.

Brigadier Smeaton's staff appointments spanned force structure development at Land and Army Headquarters and career management within the Directorate of Officer Career Management-Army. He also contributed to Combat Service Support interoperability within the ABCANZ Armies' Program Office in Washington, DC and to Army's land materiel maintenance reform as Director Plan Centaur.

Brigadier Smeaton's operational service includes Operation Catalyst as the Officer Commanding of the Force Level Logistic Asset and Operation Slipper as Commanding Officer of the Force Support Unit, both in the Middle East.



Introducing the new Representative COLCOMDT- RAEME Cont.

In 2019-2020 he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Highroad as the Commander of the Australian Task Group and Deputy Branch Head Operational Sustainment in the NATO mission. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership of the national task group and his contribution to the sustainment of the Afghan forces. Brigadier Smeaton holds a Master of Management in Defence Studies and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. He is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College (2004) and the United States Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy (2016).

Brigadier Smeaton and his wife Simone have three children and together they enjoy travelling, cycling, and being outdoors. He is currently employed with Aspen Medical as the General Manager - Supply Chain.

Brigadier Smeaton advises: *"It's a great honour to be appointed as the Corps' Representative Colonel Commandant and I am very much looking forward to working with all members of the Corps, both past and present, in this capacity. We have a very proud history and our exceptionally experienced Colonel Commandants across the regions are an excellent connection to the traditions of the Corps. I hope to continue to build upon the strong networks across our Corps and our esprit de corps, bringing the experience of the past to assist with the challenges of the future."*

Arte et Marte

Ed Smeaton DSC BRIG (Retd)

Representative Colonel Commandant

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

The following report is a heavily edited version of my report presented to the RAEME Corps Committee meeting held on 21 Jun 23, on the status of the RNN.



Status of the RNN.

I reminded members of the Corps Committee the RNN has been in existence for some 12 years. I went on to say it consists of a loose arrangement of mostly regional and some unit associations spread across Australia and provides a national focus for celebratory activities undertaken by a loyal band of retired Corps members. In line with Corps Instruction (CI) 31, "The RAEME Association", the RNN generally aspires to the following goals:

- Promote the Corps' identity and reputation across Australia.
- Recognise and celebrate the achievements of the members of the Corps.
- Provide a focal point for Corps activities nationally and regionally.
- Foster relationships between Head of Corps RAEME, RAEME Corps Committee, RAEME Serving Members and all RAEME Affiliated Associations and other RAEME groups.
- Undertake tasks that are mutually agreed by affiliates and members that will assist and support Corps members.

RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE Cont.

Looking to the Future.

Although not spelt out in CI 31, the role of the Coordinator of the RNN, is spelt out in other guidance, as follows: “To provide a national focal point for the RAEME family, including the RAEME Regional Associations, and other RAEME affiliated groups, Head of Corps and RAEME serving members.”

Here are some key points, on which we will focus in the future:

Membership and Membership Transference. An organisation which doesn't grow its membership base is doomed. It is important to have good relationships with local ARA and ARES units, which amongst other things, helps the recruiting process, while acknowledging, we must employ all available methods to attract new members to refresh and grow our associations.

Levels of Activity. Each association has determined specific needs of their regions and membership. Some associations are comparably active, working well within their capacity. Some need help and I have spent some time in the last twelve months assisting the ACT and NT associations. In the case of the former, the new Chair and Secretary are doing a great job, while in the case of the NT, I can see they need more assistance communicating to their potentially large local membership base for some time into the future. All associations reported good attendance at their most recent ANZAC Day Marches and post-march activities.

Communications. Newsletters have an important place in the life of all associations, constantly reminding our membership of Corps' development program, but also spelling out forthcoming activities, important Corps initiatives and significant heritage events. These media “platforms” are also very important for keeping the members up to speed on the Corps daily activities in support of the ADF.

Website Utility and Accessing Technical Support. The RNN and Association websites, and the RAEME Facebook are also important tools, and we are blessed to have a great RAEME National Support Team (RNST) distributed across Australia, ably lead by Alex Smithers in WA – but the IT system is under-utilised. Over the last 6-12 months, Alex and his team have updated the network and made it more secure - I believe it is serving regular users well. Most importantly, the network also facilitates the sale of RAEME merchandise. Some associations use the website to gain new members and sell discounted tickets to their events and activities.

RAEME Craftsman Magazine. With the thinning out of the HOC Cell, production of the “Craftsman” falls to SO2 Corps, MAJ Steve Howell, and his editorial team of one, Dave Clark. Steve and I (and recently the Corps RSM) have encouraged the associations to provide articles for the “Craftsman”. It is important for the associations to provide articles and elaborate on what they are doing in their regions – it can also improve their membership.

Funding Support. Most associations are financially viable or have simple funding models to suit their local needs. Most use a basic “pay as you go” model for functions; some use a model that is supported by association subsidies, or a combination of both. All associations are aware that on occasion, they (and RAEME units) may seek financial assistance from the RAEME Corps Committee for some important events, IAW CI No 3 “RAEME Corps Fund Charter”.

RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE Cont.

These subsidies may apply to Corps anniversaries, special unit birthdays, important association events, celebrations and initiatives like Operation Spanner Pack or the RAEME Corps history project.

Op Spanner Packs. Despite fewer RAEME folks being posted overseas on Operations, Op Spanner Pack will continue under the management of MAJ (Rtd) Ray Norman, from his home in Maroochydore. It is clear our members really appreciate receiving these small packs and we routinely receive generous letters of appreciation from beneficiaries.

Heritage Initiatives. Over time, there have been many initiatives to celebrate our Corps heritage, including in 2022, the 80th Anniversary of the Corps. Most recently we have seen the production of two books of RAEME humour – our humour is clearly an important part of our Corps culture, heritage and resilience and needs to be preserved. I commend the initiative and energy of Ian and Sheff and hope the next edition sells well. They deserve to be congratulated for their efforts by HOC and we should contemplate the heritage needs of the Corps in the future.

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 but understand the pathway HOC is pursuing, to align RAEME with REME's recent move which sees HRH The Countess of Wessex appointed COL IN CHIEF.

Conclusion.

The RNN a single national POC for anyone who wishes to remain connected to friends and colleagues they made in the Corps during their service. Regardless of where an individual exits the Army, the RNN encourage them to look for their local RAEME Association and consider joining. More importantly, we encourage them to consider taking on a leadership role – it is essential we get fresh younger faces in the most executive committees as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 15 Sep 2023:

Bank Balance:	\$2017.95
Cash on Hand:	\$150.00
Stock on Hand:	\$1805.00
Net Position:	\$3692.95



Health and welfare



Vale

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

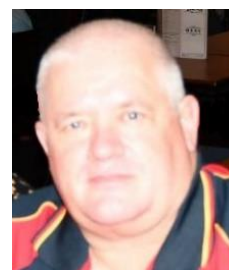
Ross, James “JR” late of Hervey Bay, formerly of Rossarden, Tasmania, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on 19 Apr 23, aged 68 years. His funeral service was attended by family and friends at the Fraser Coast Crematorium and Bayside Memorial Gardens, Hervey Bay, 24 Apr 23.

Welfare

Brooksbank, Neil has been unwell for some time fighting his illness and his treatment continues. Neil has a positive attitude and is making a steady progress.

Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

Mick is still 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.



RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

RAEME History segment Special 50TH Anniversary of the Proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war

Introduction. This history segment concentrates on Australia's commitment to South Vietnam (SVN) 1962-1967. The Department of Veterans Affairs is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War in various ways in 2023, so it is timely to remind our membership of what some of our RAT members did when serving in SVN over the 10 years Australian forces were committed.



64386 Maj Gary Philip Byard RFD JP (Retd)

I began my paid Army career on the 25th of January 1966 – having spent 4 years on the Army Cadet Corps.

Plane from Hobart to Melbourne, Bus from Melbourne to Balcombe and the beginning of my adventure, trade trained as a Vehicle Mech, or Greaser, and graduating 12 December 1968,

My formal posting was the 3 Base Workshop, after 16 months of time wasted, I was posted to 21 Construction Squadron Workshop at Puckapunyal. A great posting, and set the groundwork for the government sponsored tropical adventure – SVN. Naturally the dreaded Canungra pre-embarkation training was the precursor.

I was posted to 17 Construction Sqn Wksp at Nui Dat. On the ground issued all the gear needed to be a soldier in a warzone, and to test things out I was given a standing patrol (Rat Patrol) on day three. Being an inexperienced L/Cpl, leading 6 seasoned Engineers, I listened to their suggestion on the conduct of “operation” – Idiot!! The following day I was hauled before

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox Cont.

the SSM 2 Sqn SAS who had witnessed the “operation” He was not happy, nor was the orderly room clerk who rostered me on the duty.

Enough of the intro. The work was hard and constant, comforts of the Sqn lines were regularly left behind during overnight (days) to NDP Susan, which was the fixed forward operating base for the construction of a civilized bridge just short of the Xuyen Moc province border.

Days rolled into months, when after three had passed I was posted into AATTV – the Team. A wonderful posting for a greaser. When we finally moved to brand new lines at Van Kiep, I was kept very busy teaching and re-teaching the crusty WO2 and Sgts the intricacies of the changeover protocols for the camp generators, to which we had responsibility. I guess because they didn't go bang the information never seemed to sink in.

So, despite being mortared a few times, nothing overly exciting occurred before I was on a Herky bird and back to AUS, and home in one piece, and posted to 1 Armored Regiment LAD, at Puckapunyal. A wonderful posting that saw out my end of enlistment period.

I joined Tasmania Police as a Constable, and then into my next “move “to Temco where I finished my time as the Safety and Emergency Service Co-Ordinator.

During that period, I knew that I was missing something in life. Yes, THE GREEN. So, after seeing a newspaper ad for OCTU, I enlisted in the ARES and graduated as a second Lieutenant in Mar 83, and discharged from the ARES as a Major 30 April 2005.



A young Gary Byard

64373 WO1 Wayne Cubitt

My first involvement in the Vietnam war was as a seventeen-year-old second year Army Apprentice. I was volunteered to participate in a military Funeral for a National Serviceman. I still remember that day, war has its consequences and sacrifices. I participated in TWO more Military Funerals after that, one even in Hobart where I was posted to Tas command Workshop.

My next involvement was at 3 Base Workshop at Broadmeadows in Vic where we started the re-build program for the Mk3's 2 1/2-ton IHC trucks mainly returned from Vietnam, most were damaged, so completely stripped down, all components refurbished or replace, then rebuilt.

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox Cont.

Speculation on their actions was always rife with different theories, but the equipment was thoroughly cleaned on return because of quarantine.

My posting eventually arrived and after doing all the pre-embarkation duties, even, for me getting married. (Andy has been my rock for 53years and going strong) I left Australia on 22 July 1970, and started my tour of duty with 5 Company RAASC WKSP. After stay overnight at our headquarters in Vaun Tau I was off to our detachment in the Task Force Maintenance Area at Nui Dat.

Arriving at my home for the next 365 days which was a good old marquee tent (can't remember its proper name atm), I believe our modern refugees don't like living in tents now, so the greenies say!

Our role in Nui Dat was the repair, maintenance, and modification (unauthorised) etc. on the vehicles within the TFMA, which included posties, refuelers and anybody passing thru. Our primary roles were to maintain the F2 Dump trucks and other vehicles belonging to 86 Transport Squadron who supported 17 Construction and 1 Field Squadron in their specific roles.

We also supported 85 Transport Squadron, if their equipment was in our AO, or lucky enough to join their overnight conveys to Long Bin on resupply missions, especially with the F2's on blue metal runs for road repairs.

Our work ethic at Nui Dat was one of if you start a job you worked until the task was completed, and our main task was servicing as per the book. Now these vehicles were driven every day especially the dumpers so the 12,000 miles service being the major one, the vehicles were doing that within a fortnight. The drivers assisted with the service as there was an incentive, that if your vehicle was in the workshop for more than 24hours they would do a stint of Mess duties for three weeks.

The F2 Dump Trucks, when worked consistently with one driver, a 5ton capacity vehicle carrying over 10+ ton loads were a reliable vehicle.

When lucky enough, one Sunday per month half of our detachment would be loaded onto a truck and visit our other half in Vaun Tau for a few beers and a BBQ. Vun Tau were allowed 2 cans per night like us, so all eventually thrown back on the truck for our return trip later that afternoon.

After 366 days I returned home on 22 July 1971, the reception received was one of disbelief that your serve your country and be despised by your own people has haunted Vietnam veterans for years.

I have great respect for our National Servicemen, who lost the ballot, who didn't want to go to war, did what the country required them to do, only to be unwelcome returning home.

We lost over 500 due to the conflicts of war, that was bad enough, but our own country has been **responsible** for many more, those who were driven to suicide.

I discharged from the ARA as a WO2 in July 1986 and settled into civilian life for some time as a diesel mechanic for a company in Hobart. I applied for a job as a TRO at Hobart Wksp PI, also at this time I transferred to the ARES from the Emergency Reserve and discharged as a WO1 in January 2001.

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox Cont.



Wayne Cubitt receiving his Honorary RAT Life Membership in October 2016

I know many Vietnam Veterans have commemorated more formally and informally at a national service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra on 18 August 2023. We need to honour and remember the service of some 60,000 Australian men and women who served in the Vietnam War and their families. Tragically, 523 Australians lost their lives in the war, and over 3,000 were wounded.

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
Here for those
impacted by service.

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.dfw.org.au/



Australia Day Award 2023

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM). Corporal Gavin Thomas WATSON.

For meritorious devotion to duty as a Technician Electrical Section Commander within Technical Support Troop, 1st Signal Regiment, during period January 2019 to September 2021. Corporal Watson's pursuit of excellence and selfless dedication to duty have directly resulted in substantial improvements in 1st Signal Regiment's field power distribution capability ensuring the preparedness of the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters and that it is Ready Now and Future Ready.



His outstanding foresight, technical acumen, drive and initiative has had a profound impact on the development and provision of deployed field power. His actions epitomise the Defence values and are in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

On behalf of the RATs, we congratulate CPL Watson on the awarding of his CSM

Army Apprentice's Report

The latest Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter can be accessed at

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/>



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

6 LSC Jottings – CFN Barnaby Matton Johnson

G'day RATS.

After missing the last newsletter, I thought I'd better give you folks an update on the workshops here at 6LSC. After a pretty boring first half of the year things have picked up considerably here with training weekends, trade courses and supporting our local units.



This winter our general engineering section was kept busy with two of our members having the opportunity to get away to further their trade qualifications with CFN Cristian Furness completing his miscellaneous equipment course as an armorer and CFN Simon Boarder completing his metalsmith module one. Our other metalsmith, LCPL Amy Britten had the opportunity to sharpen her metalworking skills while supporting 13CSSB in fabricating a roll cage for the Mogzilla project over in WA (Pictured), joining members from other parts of the country. LCPL Britten was also part of the recruiting team at AGFEST this year that was awarded an Army Team of the Year award.



On the military side of things, a couple of our members got their long-awaited G-Wagon conversion coursed done and we all got wet and wind-burnt up at a blustery Stony Head a few weekends ago while at the 2FSB range weekend where some of our people got the chance to throw grenades and exercise their marksmanship skills. In addition, some of our members managed to get away to assist on exercise Talisman Sabre 2023.

However, on a slightly sadder note, this year we will be saying goodbye to our workshop heavy hitter, Niall Woolley who has held the workshop maintenance together during his tenure here

6 LSC Jottings – CFN Barnaby Matton Johnson Cont.

(Although if he had any hair left to begin with I'm sure he would have pulled it out by now). Army being Army he can't stick around here forever and will be shipping off to remote Karratha in WA at the end of the year.

With that I'll bring this edition of the 6LSC Jottings to a close. I look forward to seeing you lot at the next function, probably at RAEME Birthday where I expect I'll be stabbed with cutting the cake once again.

Arte et Marte, LCPL B Matton Johnson, Boffin.



Other Stories

ANZAC Day 2023

This year, once again the weather held off and RAT members after attending their respective Dawn Services, assembled at Customs House in the south for the customary pre-drink, or two, before assembling for this year's ANZAC march.



RATS assembled Sir

ANZAC Day 2023 Cont.

It was a pleasant surprise to see an increase of members and friends formed up for the march through the streets of Hobart.



RATs on the march



Our flag bearer CFN Mark Jones 6LSC Wksp

After the service members assembled at Customs House for lunch, and once again the stories got bigger and better, much the same as last year!!!

ANZAC Day 2023 Cont.



“Can you remember when”

More photos of the day are posted on our website under Galleries.

Mid-year informal dinner July 2023

July this year saw 42 RATs and partners attend an informal dinner at the Lenah Valley RSL. This was the first opportunity this year for members and partners to gather for a long overdue get together. It was pleasing to see members as far away from Launceston and St Helens make the journey south for the night.



Lenah Valley RSL went out of there way to make the night a success, and should be commended as such. Mind you the President of the Club is an ex Appie, and a greaser to top it off, Thank you Andy.



Mid-year informal dinner July 2023 Cont.



Rolly as per usual had memorabilia available for purchase on the night and it was topped off with a raffle, which was won by yours truly, I now have a RAEME umbrella for golf days. I also understand that we swept the meat raffles sold by the RSL on the night.



More photos of the night are located on our website under Galleries.

RAEME Port 2023

This year's RAEME Port will be delivered by Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER) Workshop, which is their first time in doing so.

The 2023 RAEME Port is an 8-year-old aged Tawny from the Ernest Hill Wines in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

SOER Workshop have aligned themselves with a charity organisation Kids West which provides vital life-saving equipment in support of paediatric and neonatal intensive care across Western Sydney. A percentage of profits from the port will go to the Kids West Charity.



SOER have advised that the bottling process will commence in early October so orders should be sent and received prior to RAEME Birthday.

Orders have closed but if you contact SOER ASAP, they may be able to help you out (not guaranteed). SOER may be contacted via email on msoer.emeops@defence.gov.au.

RAEME Humour book

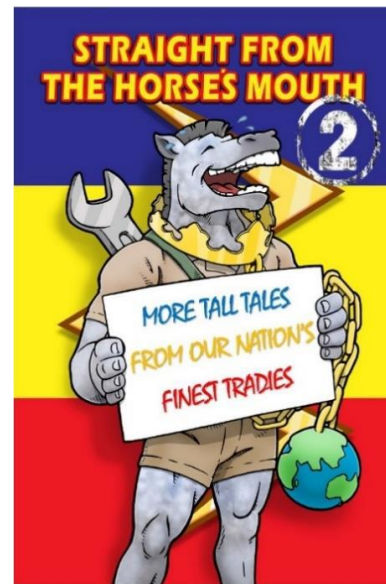
The Second Edition of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth; More Tall Tales from Australia's Finest Tradies* has now been published and sent to all purchasers!

If you didn't get your order in before they shut off, you may still be in luck. Ian has a handful of spare copies that he will take to future Association events but once they are gone (at \$25 each), they are gone!

After that, the books are likely to be available for sale through the Head of Corps Cell Shop and/or the Army Museum, Bandiana (both yet to be confirmed).

The Editors are now collecting stories for Edition 3. Whilst over 20 funny stories have already been received (thank you to all who sent them), more are required.

If you have any funny stories to share, true or otherwise, please send them to the editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com. Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable!



Photos from the past



Lube and Service vehicles (Land Rover was called Chitty Chitty and the lube trailer was Bang Bang) used by Crafties posted to 17 Construction SQN Wksp in South Vietnam.



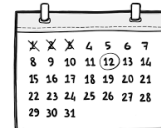
Photos from the past Cont.



The crew (members of Hobart Wksp PI) on “WOMFU” inaugural Raft race in Hobart 1978

Calendar of Events until December 2023

One to go and the most important day on our calendar.



Date	Timings	Remarks
3 Dec 2023	TBA	RAEME Birthday

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 1 March 2024

