



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

April 2024

Issue 28

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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Veterans: Vacant
Membership: Mark Wilson
Apprentices: Wayne Cubitt
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Honorary Life Members: Wayne Cubitt, Russell Clark, Shane Rollins.

From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome to the 28th edition of the RAT Newsletter. How time has passed since our last edition. RAEME birthday has been and gone and we are now heading into our colder months of the year.

Your Committee has been busy preparing this year's calendar, looking at ways to generate interest amongst members, and you would have received our events calendar for the year, we encourage members to attend the functions, where possible. To remind you there is a calendar of events included in this newsletter.



From the Editors desk Cont.

Our biggest event for some time, is the proposed reunion of ex members of Hobart Wksp PI, Tas Comdt Wksp and members of the RAT Association later this year. We are currently seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) to ascertain the viability of planning this function which will coincide with this year's RAEME Birthday. There is more on the proposed reunion further in this edition.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the RAT Newsletter, suit back relax and enjoy.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

It's that time again, Russell is trying to herd the cats to get the newsletter together and my ribs are sore from his so-called gentle nudges! So here it goes, your committee is meeting monthly via Teams meetings and it has been an interesting experience, Teams does not always work the way that one would expect, and trying to set up accounts on a non-commercial site is not as easy as one would expect! Technology is only good when it works! We will continue to improve our skills in this area and fight the evil empire that is Microsoft!



This year we are trying a few different things with a quarterly gathering, our next event is 18th May 24 at South Arm RSL. Let us know if you are coming, enjoy the drive on the Eastern Shore and come and enjoy a great meal!

As I write this ANZAC day has been and gone, I understand that a number of members participated in their local dawn services, in particular members in Launceston, Hobart, Kingston and Kettering to name a few.

It was different for me this year as if you are not aware I managed to hurt an old injury in my back which prevented me from walking for over a week, and sent me back to the surgeon, the great news is I'm fixed but I cannot walk the distance of the march I rode in a vehicle, complete with a small RAEME Flag hanging off the car.

Enjoy your day whatever you choose to do, now sit back grab your favourite refreshment and enjoy the read and I'll talk to you all next time!

Arte Et Marte

From the COL COMDT – COL Andrew Herbert

My time as RAT COL COMDT comes to an end on 30 Jun 24. And I want to thank all RATs for your camaraderie and support. It has been my privilege and honour to be the RAT COL COMDT over the last 5 years.

I will of course, still be a RAT and will see you all around at RAT functions in the future.

Cheers

Herbie



Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at 14 April 2024:

Bank Balance: \$2206.87

Cash on Hand: \$239.00

Net Position: \$2445.87



Sick List

Vale

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

Tanner, Lindsay SSGT (Rtd) aged 82, passed away on 8 Feb 24. Lindsay served in RTR and RAEME and hadn't been well for some time. A celebration of Lindsay's life was held at St Helens, on 16 Feb 24.

Welfare

RAT has been advised of the following: -

McKerrow, Bob

Bob (Big Bird) continues to battle with his health since open heart surgery last year, Big Bird is making a steady progress and we wish him well.

Barrett, Peter

Peter (Speedy) was recently diagnosed with Cancer, he has received treatment and recently received a positive result from his Doctor, once again we wish him well.

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

Hi all, we currently have in stock the 80th Anniversary black/gold polos. The sizes are limited from Small to XL sizes and priced at \$30 dollars. Anyone wanting larger sizes we can order them but the price will be higher due to price rises and the lower number of polos we would need to order. Other items we have in stock include Glass Steins with either the Apprentice Logo or the RAEME Logo in a gold print. We purchased a quantity of these to save on freight cost.



Other items we have in stock are caps, bucket hat, stubbie coolers, coffee mugs, 2023 port, 80th anniversary port, facemasks, Tri colour cloth patches, various stickers and Apprentice bottle openers.



Merchandise Cont.

We are currently investigating sports shorts with the approximately 100mm high RAEME logo printed on the front left leg and Tee shirts with the RAEME logo printed on the front breast. The cost and style are still being look into. Also, should a unit wish to order enough Tee Shirts and Sports Shorts we could have the unit name as well for additional cost a large 250mm RAEME log can be printed on the back.

I will also be looking into travel mugs with the RAEME Logo and will let people know once we decide if they are able to be done at a reasonable price and good quality.

Should there be other items you would like to see, let us know and we can investigate what we can get.

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

Our Corps' Formation

On 01 Oct 1942, the capability of the UK Defence Force was enhanced by the formation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers or REME as they are known to their friends. The formation of REME was not only established within the British Army's Order of Battle but it was also officially registered with the UK's Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Below is REME's official Birth Certificate. The original Birth Certificate it on display at the REME Museum in the village of Lyneham, Wiltshire UK. Further details may be found online at:



<https://www.rememuseum.org.uk/Blog/collections-in-focus-birth-certificate>.

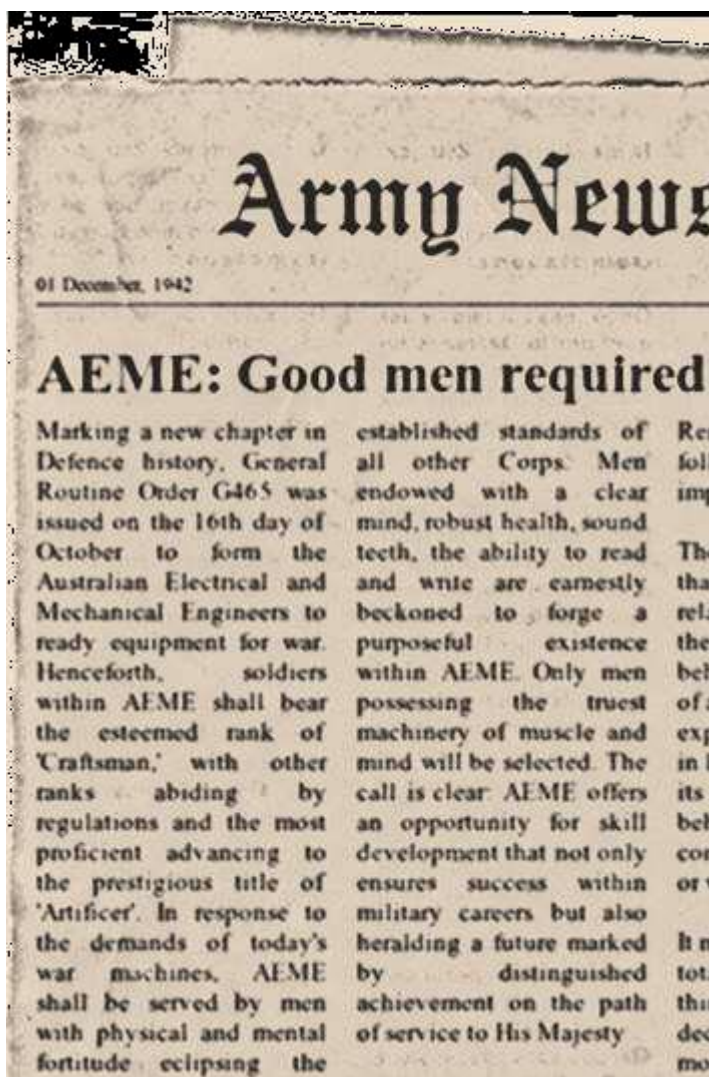


In an effort to find something similar for RAEME or even to locate the original Order that directed our Corps formation, we sought assistance from the historians within the Research Centre of the Australian War Memorial. They were able to find reference to the original General Routine Order but they weren't able to locate a copy of it. They did however suggest



RAEME History Cont.

we enlist the help of the National Archives of Australia (NAA). The researchers at the National Archives also had difficulty locating a copy of the original Order. They were however able to locate the first reference to the Corps in one of the earliest editions of the *Army Newspaper* from December 1942, as shown in the extract image to the right. Notably, not only was the foundation of AEME announced in the *Army Newspaper*, but a recruiting call was placed for men who possess the highest standards. Thanks to the good judgement of our forefathers, the application of such high standards not only ensured our Corps was formed with the best and brightest of the time but by maintaining the same high standards today, we retain our rightful place of superiority above all other Corps in technical and intellectual brilliance!



Mates4Mates

"The Power of Mateship".

Mates4Mates is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing holistic welfare and treatment programs that give direct support to current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have suffered physical or psychological wounds, injuries and illnesses as a result of their service, either in Australia, or overseas. Integral to supporting our brave mates is the provision of support to their families.

Mates4Mates provides a wide range of services including psychological counselling, career coaching programs, wellbeing workshops, family support meetings, physical rehabilitation and conditioning programs including individual recovery plans and physical training sessions for adventure challenges.

For help or to support our wounded, injured and ill ADF mates;

visit mates4mates.org or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

MATES4MATES

Here for those
impacted by service.

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/

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>

[Links to other Resources Cont.](#)

[Army News](#)

www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews

Other Happenings

RAEME Birthday 2023



Saturday 2nd December 2023 saw RAT member's and Partners assemble to celebrate the 81st RAEME birthday at the Queens Head Hotel, North Hobart. Although numbers were down, members still managed to travel from as far as Launceston, St Helens and Swansea to help celebrate this great day.



Cutting of the cake was undertaken by our oldest and youngest members, Brian Parker and CFN Barnaby Matton-Johnson.



RAEME Birthday 2023 Cont.



Happy Birthday RAEME



CFN Barnaby Matton-Johnson & Brian Parker cutting the cake

RAEME Birthday 2023 Cont.

To cap of the day, we held our AGM and in typical RAT fashion your Committee was elected unopposed, with the exception of Wayne (Bruv) Cubitt volunteering his services as the Apprentices representative. Your full Committee 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 their hand up to volunteer to join our Committee.



Members and partners on the day

The major raffle price was won by David Scarioffoti.

To view more photos of the day, access our website gallery, [Birthday 2023](#)

ANZAC Day Commemorations 2024

ANZAC Day, the RATs once again witnessed the solemn commemoration of ANZAC Day Marches.

In Launceston, Hobart, St Helens and Claremont, to name a few, saw small numbers of RAEME veterans, their families and members of the public gathered to pay homage to the sacrifices made by Australian service personnel in war and peace, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

ANZAC Day Commemorations 2024 Cont.

Launceston service

The crowds in Launceston were out in full force this year, and were fortunate to see the inaugural marching of the RAEME flag in Launceston, a small contingent from the South having travelled north to march with our Northern brethren.



Dawn service Launceston Cenotaph



Small contingent of RAT members assembled prior to the 1030h march in Launceston

Following the service members adjourned to the Launceston RSL for a well-earned beer, lunch and it was a great time to catch up on some old yarns and a chance meeting with ex members.

ANZAC Day Cont.

Hobart service

As it was in Launceston, the crowd were out in full force in Hobart, RAT members firstly attended their respective dawn services and assembled for a pre-march gathering at the Customs House Hotel followed by a post march gathering at the conclusion of the March.



Dawn service Hobart Cenotaph



RATS assembling prior to step off.

ANZAC Day Cont.



SGT Michael (Boz) Bosselmann leads the RAT Contingent in Hobart

As the day unfolded across Australia and around the world, the events all serve as powerful reminders of the sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and women throughout history. Through moments of solemn reflection and camaraderie, Australians unite to honour the courage, resilience, and enduring legacy of the ANZAC spirit.

Lest we Forget

Hobart Wksp PI/Tas Comdt Wksp reunion November 2024

As members would be aware your Committee is considering holding a reunion of personnel who were posted to Hobart Wksp PI, Tas Command Wksp, 611 Sup PI Tech Support and RAT members in November this year. The following was placed on our Website in February this year: -

Attention all past and present serving members of Hobart Workshop and Tas Comd Workshop, as well as all other RAEME members who have served in the great state of Tasmania.

The RAEME Association of Tasmania proposes to celebrate our 2nd Reunion and is requesting expressions of interest to confirm its viability.

Hobart Wksp PI/Tas Comdt Wksp reunion November 2024 Cont.

The initial planning and dates for the reunion are:

- Friday 15 Nov 2024 – Welcome drinks 1730 for 1800 start, venue to be advised
- Saturday 16 Nov 2024 – Dinner at Queens Head Hotel, Menu with costs to be circulated closer to the event
- Sunday 17 Nov 2024 – 12.30 for 1.00pm - BBQ lunch Derwent Barracks

The Committee understands the financial burden of travelling to Hobart but needs sufficient numbers to make the reunion viable. If the Committee determines that it is not viable the event will be cancelled and notification will be sent to those who have expressed interest. This decision will be made by Friday 10th May 2024 therefore please do not make any firm travel plans until after this date.

You may indicate your expression of interest at the link below by **5th May 2024**. If your plans should change please revisit this page and change your intention.

At this stage numbers are looking good and there is every likelihood that it will go ahead. We will be advising all the EOIs of the outcome mid-May.

If you are still considering attending, but haven't done so as yet, please go on line and complete the EOI. tas.raeme.org.au

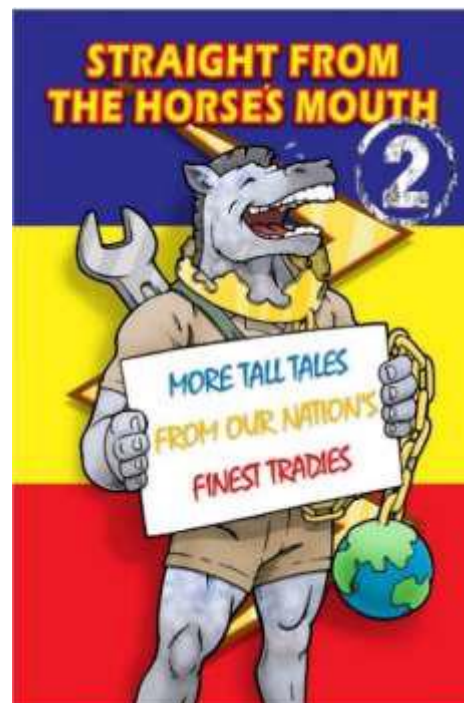
RAEME Humour Book-Third Edition

Due to the huge success of the First and Second editions of RAEME's humour book, *Straight from the Horse's Mouth* a third edition is being drafted now. The editors need stories!!

If you have any funny stories to share, new or old, factual or enhanced, please send them to the book editors at FunnyStories@raeme.com. Remember, stories don't have to be true, just believable! If you didn't get your order in for Edition 1 or Edition 2, it is not too late

Our Head of Corps Cell was gifted several hundred copies for sale from the Corps shop with all funds raised to be made available to support serving and retired members of our Corps. Ian also has a handful of copies left for sale (\$20 for Edition 1 and \$25 for Edition 2). He will take them to the next Association gathering. but once they are gone, they are gone!

The Head of Corps Cell shop is up and running online but they haven't as yet uploaded their books for sale. When they do, we will let you know but in the interim, requests for books can be sent to Head of Corps Cell at RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au.



Photos from the past

Hobart Wksp PI 1975 (Photos courtesy from Gordon Dennis)

1975 started with a crash when the bulk carrier Lake Illawarra collided with the Tasman Bridge causing the collapse of two piers and 127 metres of bridge decking on Sunday 5th of January. Shortly thereafter some LCM8's (Landing Craft Mechanized, Mark 8) were brought to Hobart to transport emergency and support vehicles across the Derwent River thus reducing the transport time to get to the city from the far side of the river. Along with the "8's" came mechanical support personnel from the watercraft workshop in Sydney. Radio and Electrical support were provided from Hobart Workshop Platoon along with heavy lift capability.



Engine pack being prepared for insertion into the LCM8

Operating times for the boats went from hours per month to 23 hours per day and it was not long before repairs rarely done in Sydney became more common in Hobart. These photos show the first engine pack change complete in Hobart.



Hobart Wksp PI 1975 Cont.



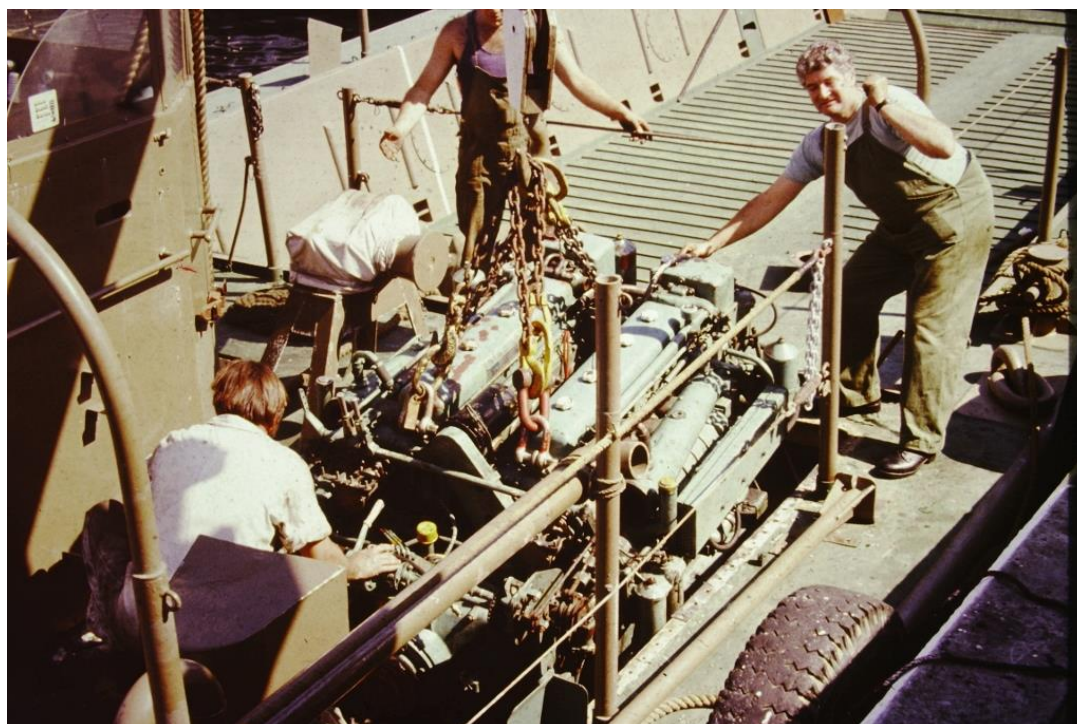
Tied alongside Elizabeth St Pier



It goes in there!!!!



Hobart Wksp PI 1975 Cont.



A tight squeeze but it will fit

Ed. Note: LCM8 (AB1050) is still in service with 10FSB at Ross Island Townsville and is named "Snoopy".

Calendar of Events until December 2024



Date	Timings	Remarks
18 May	1200-1500	South Arm RSL
15 June	1800-2100	Lenah Valley RSL
17 Aug	1200-1500	Ross Hotel, Ross
19 Oct	1800-2100	Claremont RSL
15-17 Nov	Various	HBT Wksp/Tas Comdt Wksp reunion including 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 15 October 2024.

