



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

October 2020

Issue 21

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome to the 21st edition of the revamped RAT newsletter. The intent of changes to the newsletter is to bring us into the 21st century, being user friendly to prepare and easier to decipher when reading. I would like to make a special thanks to Glen Hay our new webmaster in preparing and drafting the newsletter template. An old saying “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks” can work sometimes!!!! thanks again Glen.



We still live in difficult times but I look forward to meeting as many members as possible for this year’s RAEME birthday, where ever it may be?? Stay safe.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

2020 what a year this is being! I hope that all of our members have stayed safe since our last newsletter. Last week your committee had its first meeting since the outbreak of COVID 19 and I couldn't attend as I had come down with a cold and had to be tested for COVID 19, fortunately a negative result, however; this made me reflect on the principals of R 0, my eldest son came home from a weekend away with a cold, he passed it to his partner, she passed it to me and I in turn gave it to my wife Jacqui, so this cold appears to have a R 0 factor of 1 COVID 19 has a R 0 factor of 3. Part of this reflection has made me once again think of you, our members and in particular our demographic and how susceptible we may all be if COVID 19 gets into our community. One of the Agenda items discussed at the meeting was our annual end of year dinner, if the complications of COVID 19 are not making life hard enough to plan an event, I was recently informed that the ownership of the Balmoral Motel has recently changed and the new owners will not be doing functions. We are currently looking at alternatives and we will be in touch as soon as we have confirmed arrangements, what I would like to stress however, if you indicate that you are coming and wake up feeling off on the day do not feel like you are letting anyone down by not coming, just let us know; this is part of the new normal and this is the responsible thing to do. Talking of the new normality the new fleet of vehicles are making their way onto the island and they are big! We are looking into the possibility of an "open day" as part of end of year activity which will give you the opportunity to get up close to some of this new equipment, so once again stay tuned.



I'd like you all to Welcome Glen Hay our new Web Master and he doing a fantastic job of updating our website, we will be continuing this process and hopefully will have all of our slide shows that John has created up there soon. This will also have our upcoming activities on it so for those of you who "Don't do Facebook" you will now have no excuse! I have included a link to the website for your convenience. <https://tas.raeme.org.au/>

For ex-apprentices out there, Steve Bramich is organising another gathering in the central highlands on Saturday 14th November 2020 at the Central Highlands Lodge (Not the Pub) 7795 Highlands Lake Road Miena for accommodation ph 6259 8179 I hope to see you all there. PS don't come if you are sick!

As part of the new normal theme I've included a photo of my "Home Office" which is being used at least once a week and whenever I feel sniffily, a day at home may save a life so become a life saver don't be a life taker!

From the COL COMDT Tasmania – COL Andrew Herbet

Fellow RATS,

As you might imagine I do not have much to report from a Corps perspective nationally as association matters have taken a back seat to COVID 19. We are very fortunate here in Tasmania and I urge all of you to do your part to keep us that way. All going well the RATs will be able to gather on or about the RAEME Birthday. Let's try to make this year's RAT Dinner a big one with more of our younger members there to lower the average age a bit.



ARTE ET MARTE

From the Head Of Corps – BRIG Todd Ashurst

It is my distinct privilege and honour to have been selected by the Chief of Army to be the Head of Corps for the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, The Royal Corps. Having had the privilege of serving as your Deputy Head of Corps previously, I am very excited by this appointment, a pinnacle of my service. Having now been in the role for 8 months, it is heartening to see the current serving members of the Corps and our loyal members in the associations all coping so well with our current circumstances and challenges.



Firstly, I would like to thank the previous Head of Corps, now MAJGEN Andrew Freeman, for his hard work and leadership. His passion for the Corps was clearly evident as he worked tirelessly behind the scenes while also managing 17 Bde, Army 3rd Line Combat Service Support capability. I wish him all the best in his role in the United States and seeing him back in Australia in the coming years.

The first half of 2020 has seen the Corps deployed on operations across the globe, and just as importantly, here in Australia. For the first time, the Governor General activated the Reserves, and our RAEME part-time workforce were impressive in the support they provided throughout January and February, as they responded to the devastating Bushfire season.

Army is in the middle of its largest modernisation since WW2. The equipment we are increasingly being required to work on is very sophisticated, calibrated and technically complex. The method of repair is changing and the ability to integrate repair requirements across the Army workforce, Defence Logistics and industry requires redefinition. The simple systems of yester-year, Land Rover, Unimog, SLR, Leopard, 77 sets, etc, have been replaced by capabilities that demand the electronic and physical integration of many systems and sub-systems. Designing, developing, testing, evaluating, maintaining and repairing these systems-of-systems requires competent, qualified and technically minded “Crafties”, in uniform, but working closely with Industry partners. Our Corps is the means that enables the war fighter to succeed and win in these situations.

In my day-job as the Director General Logistics – Army, my team is leading many initiatives that will impact the Corps in the short and long-term. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the bodies of work happening that will shape the next decade. I anticipate that some of these will directly influence the Corps structure, manning, and training systems to achieve the increasingly demanding capability requirements. My team in Logistics Branch (including many Bluebells) has been working hard behind the scenes.

Engineering Workforce Review. The Engineer Workforce Review is reviewing the RAEME Ground Engineer officer workforce. Phase 1A of this review will examine the Engineer requirements within Army; while Phase 1B will examine the workforce within our Acquisition and Sustainment Group. Phase 2 will determine the skills requirements for the Ground engineering workforce, across all Service Categories (SERCATs), Australian Public Servants (APS) and contracted supporting agencies. The key outcome will be an Employment Specification and career model for RAEME Ground Engineers, which will articulate the requirements and roles for our people, by discipline, at each rank or skills level, using qualifications and credentialing as a baseline.

This important body of work being progressed by COL Damien McLachlan, the Director of Technical Regulation and Evaluation – Army (DTRE-A) and will establish the baseline for

Head of Corp – continued

what RAEME engineering officers need to be 'Ready Now' and inform the Technical Workforce Review to determine how we become 'Future Ready'.

Technical Workforce Review. The Technical Workforce Review commenced in late 2019, and takes a Corps-agnostic view of Army's technical workforce (RAEME, RAE, RASIGS). The review has broken the Land Technical Workforce into seven technology subsegments, allowing the team to analyse similar trades and officer specialisations to determine the benefits and risks of adopting contemporary workforce structures to assure operational effectiveness well in to the future.

At its heart, the review seeks to understand how technical roles and skills will likely evolve to support Army's modernisation, and how we ensure members of the Corps remain current with rapidly evolving technologies. Part of the review is analysing different ways to develop specialist skills, and aligning this to the most suitable times in year and across an individual's career to obtain required qualifications. Put simply, it seeks to define more effective ways to develop our people to meet the increasingly complex requirements of our profession. I wish to thank COL Colin Blyth, Director of Logistics Plans and LTCOL Troy Wilson for their continued great work on this project. I also congratulate Troy on his selection as Commanding Officer of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME) from 2021.

Training Transformation – Flexible Learning Model Program. Concurrent to these two important bodies of work, ASEME (under LTCOL Rebecca Gordon) are rapidly progressing a modernisation of our training system. Since early 2020, the Career and Advanced Training Wing (CATW) have developed the Flexible Learning Model (FLM). This has been a true collaboration between Army and our industry partners at Wodonga TAFE. This blended training model is outlined later in this edition of Spanner News by the OC CATW.

I wish to thank LTCOL Rebecca Gordon and MAJ Babu for their efforts on this important body of work.

Data Enable Asset Management. While the aforementioned reviews are focused on structuring and skilling the workforce, the identification and prioritisation of work across the increasing number of vehicles and weapons platforms is critical. The aim of this work being led by LTCOL Steve Mencshelyi, from the Directorate of Logistics–Army, is to minimise the burden of maintenance data collection, input, and management.

Readily available technology has the ability to simplify and automate a range of time consuming administrative and manual management functions. Similarly, the same systems also have an ability to track real time platform use. Greater fidelity and confidence in data will allow our Corps members to be better informed when making maintenance and engineering decisions at all levels. Live data will also provide an ability to track, monitor and assure platforms are employed appropriately and legally.

Data, Health & Usage Monitoring Systems, Vehicle Information Management Systems, Business Intelligence and data fusion is progressively enabling Defence to understand its capability like never before. The work done on M113AS4 by our Crafties and industry partners has demonstrated an ability to automate maintenance administration using a variety of Sensor, software, and hardware data. Dashboards using extant data sources coupled with real and near real time data has improved Army's understanding of how fleets are being employed. This is the future of maintenance identification, analysis and prioritisation!

Head of Corp – continued

Leaning into Brigades. The final aspect I wish to touch on is a deliberate activity aimed at better enabling materiel availability and preparedness across the force. This is a collaboration between Joint Logistics Command (JLC) and Army to streamline maintenance management. This will be a standardised and formalised approach ensuring Army reaches across the Defence Logistic Enterprise, including our industry partners, Joint Logistic Units' contracted workforce and Army uniformed maintenance personnel to streamline processes and outcomes. We call this initiative "Leaning into Brigade's" and it has three main objectives.

- Integrate maintenance effects and streamlines business process.
- Define and generate a deployable maintenance capability.
- Formalising configuration management, modification programs, rework programs and industry inputs.

This is an important body of work commenced by COL Colin Blyth, and being progressed by LTCOL Steve Mencshelyi, to support both the digital and physical integration of capability, and fuse industry, JLC and Army maintenance effects together in a more streamlined way.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great work our two Deputy Heads of Corps have been doing. Both Lieutenant Colonels Rebecca Gordon and Miles Irving are working tirelessly for our Corps, while having demanding Commanding Officer appointments. They have both significantly contributed to the stewardship of RAEME and have ensured we remain contemporary, relevant and forward looking. On behalf of the Corps, I thank you for commitment as Deputy Heads of Corps.

Over the coming months and years, the Corps needs to support these bodies of work being driven out of Army Headquarters. While I have been planning a Corps Conference, it is unlikely to be held in 2020, due to the impacts of COVID-19. These are important issues. While some of us may feel uncomfortable with evolutionary outcomes of Army's deliberations; we must look forward to ensure RAEME continues to evolve in the everchanging world of maintenance and support. I am proud of our Corp and humbled by the opportunity to lead it during this complicated time in our history.

Arte et Marte

Brigadier
Director General Logistics – Army
HOC RAEME

Treasurer's Report – Rolly

Rolly reports that as at 22 September 2020

Bank Balance:	\$1146.71
Cash on Hand:	Nil
Stock on Hand:	\$270.00
Net Position:	\$1461.71



Sick list

Good news no listed members to report.



Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

The Association currently holds a small quantity of merchandise which you can order on the Associations website. Polo tops etc can be ordered and manufactured at short notice.



RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

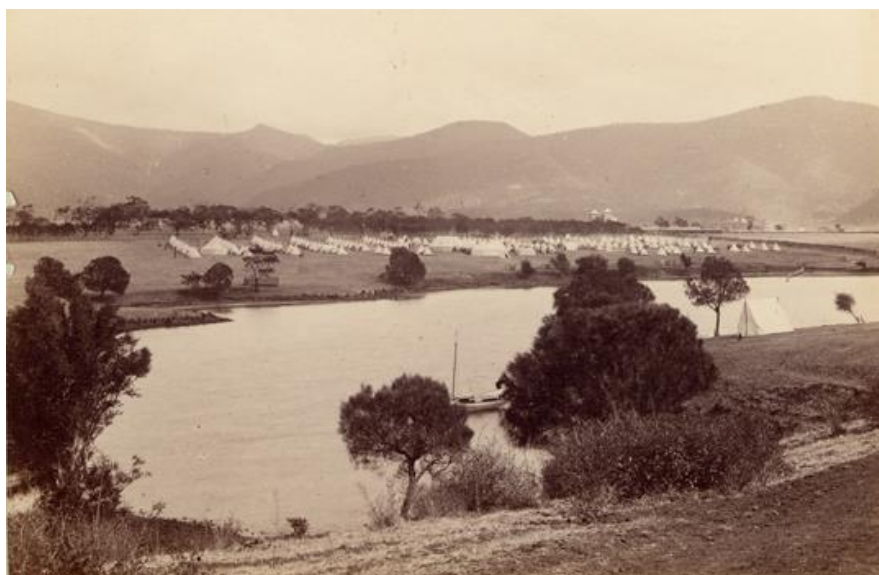
DOWSINGS POINT

Part 1

Most of the RATs will be familiar with Dowsing's Point as it has been largely the RAEME home in Tasmania.

Post indigenous use of the land there was a building on the point within a copse of trees. It was known as the "House in the Trees" and was the residence of Edward Moore the former licensee of the Fox Inn (Previously the "Old Fox Inn") at Granton and features in one of John Grovers paintings. The building was constructed around 1839 and there is some suggestion that Moore had plans to start a ferry service as at this point the river is the narrowest place between Hobart and Bridgewater.

Later it was the location of a Military Stores Depot used by the Colonial Defense Forces until It was taken over in 1901 by the Commonwealth Government on the Federation of the Australian Colonies.



RAEME History – continued

This undated image shows a Tasmanian Military Forces Camp at what is now Goodwood. The Grandstand at Elwick Showgrounds is visible above the camp. Image taken from Dowsing Point.

Up until World War 2 the Ordnance stores were in the Sandstone Buildings on Castray Esplanade which had been erected in 1832 by convicts under the supervision of Royal Engineers.

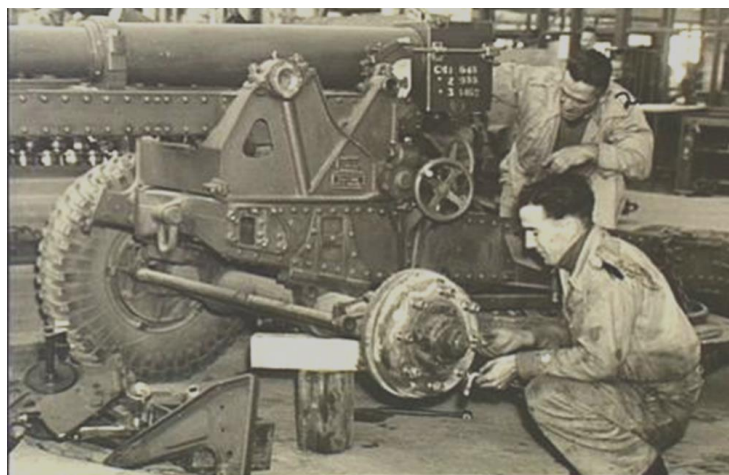
As the likely hood of war increased additional storage space was perceived to be required and planning began on developing a storage facility, Ammunition Depot and Ordnance Workshop on Dowsing's Point. At this time other storage facilities were erected at "Kermode" (Now known as Mona Vale) near Ross. This facility also included ammunition storage. These storage buildings are still in place

At this time Ammunition had been largely stored at the Magazines at Queens and Alexander Batteries and some at Anglesea Barracks. A returned stores Depot was established at the Elwick Show Grounds.

In 1942 the AEME units were,

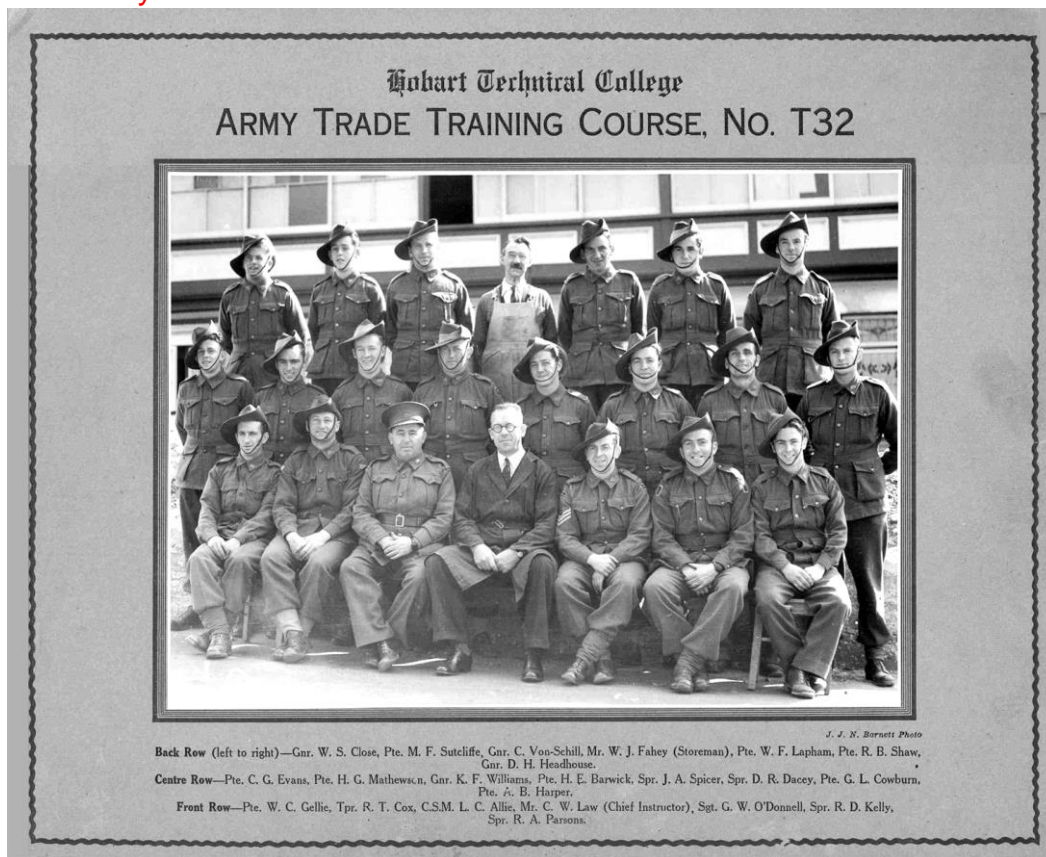
- Tas. Lines of Communication Area Wksp., AEME, Dowsings Point
- Tas. Lines of Communication Area Wksp., MT Branch Hobart
- Tas. Lines of Communication Area Wksp., Armoury Section, Elwick
- Tas. Lines of Communication Area Wksp., Detachment Launceston
- 222 Aust. LAD Type A, Mona Vale
- 281 Aust. LAD Type A, Milford
- AEME Wksp. Brighton
- 13 Aust. AA Wksp. Section, Dowsings Point
- 59 Aust. AA SL Wksp. Section, Dowsings Point
- Tas. Lines of Communication Army Trades Training Depot, Elwick (Hobart Technical College)

You will notice that there were Anti-Aircraft and Search Light Workshop Sections. These maintained the 40mm Bofors and 3.7inch Static AA Guns protecting the Zinc Works and Ammunition Factory near the present Hobart Show Grounds.



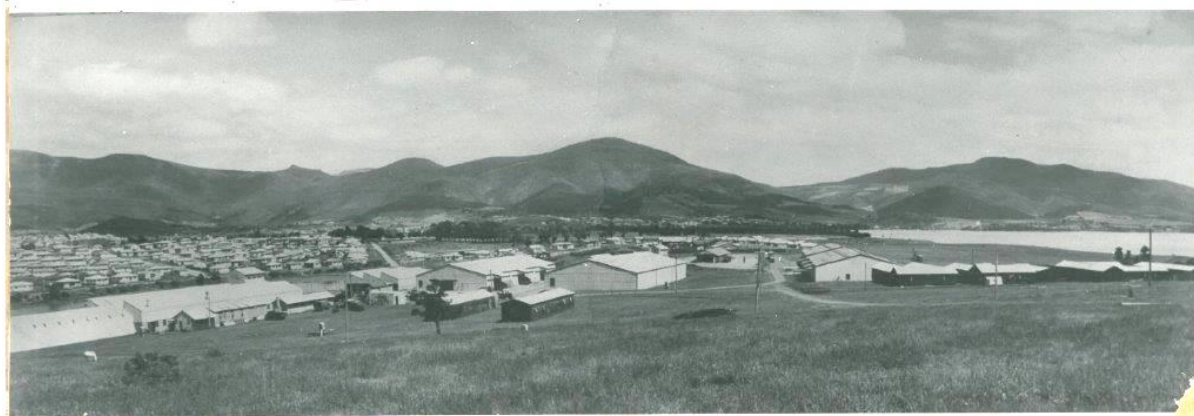
AEME Tradesmen working on a 25Pdr Gun
Dowsing Point 1943

RAEME History – continued



At the end of the War the Castray Place store was closed and stores moved to both Dowsing's Point and Kermode. A new Administration Block was built at Dowsing's Point.

By 1957 Married Quarters were built and many of the WW2 buildings were removed and or replaced by brick facilities. 25 Construction Squadron rebuilt the roads and kerbing and constructed the security fence. On completion of these works this unit was disbanded.



ARMCO HUT OCCUPIED BY REMNANCE	RAEME WORKSHOPS	R.S.G. AND TRAFFIC SECT	GROUP STORE IV (GROUP VI)	MENS GROUP MESS	GROUP SERVICE STATION III	GROUPS I & II	GROUPS V & VI	STORES 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 GROUP IV
					OIL & PAINT STORE AND LUBRICATION			

Website

We now have a new webmaster for our website, Glen Hay. Glen volunteered to undertake this fastidious role hitting the Rat road running tidying up the site, making a number of changes including the Gallery and Publications just to name a few. With the help of Mick Moran, he has created a Shop tab which will include all our Association merchandise available to members to purchase. Other State Associations also sell a variety of merchandise and each State can be accessed from the map of Australia on the right of the web page.



For those who know Glen, which would be most of us, he has a wealth of knowledge on these matters and we are lucky that he has given up his time and volunteered to undertake the role. When you have a moment please take a moment and go on, line and see the fine work achieved by Glen at. <https://raeme.org.au>

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 Notice of Meeting and Agenda for our 2020 Annual General Meeting is on the Apprentices Association Website.



<https://austarmyapprentice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Notice-of-Meeting-and-Agenda-2020-AGM.pdf>,

Next gathering of the Tasmanian Ex-Army Apprentices is Sat 14 Nov 20, Central Highlands Lodge. Check your emails for the invitation.

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

Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 – Members of the Corp

This year saw three current/former members of the Corp (unfortunately none from Tasmania) awarded the Award of the Medal (OAM) in the Military Division to:

Lieutenant Colonel James Glen HISLOP (Retd), who lives in Wodonga, VIC, for service to veterans and their families over many years.



Warrant Officer Class One David Graeme McBEAN, meritorious service as the Artificer Sergeant Major of Forces Command and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and the Senior Technical Advisor Small Arms at the Land Engineering Agency



Noel Geoffrey LAKE, Gannawarra VIC 3568 For service to veterans and their families.



New MAN in town (Mack and Unimog replacement)

Rolly recently provided a photo of the new MAN which replaces the Mack and Unimog which have seen service since the early eighties. Reminds me of something from the scenes of “Thunderbirds”.



Services were recently completed at Hobart Logistics Company on both MAN's, work could not be completed in the existing Workshop. I understand the new Workshop reported on last year is due to be started in March 2021.

RAEME Port 2020

This year's Port will be sourced from Kies Family the final label will be finalized shortly. The 2020 Corp port will be sold for \$25.00.

Once again, the POC for ordering, paying and pick up is Shane Rollins. You can contact Rolly either by email at :-

shane.rollins@defence.gov.au

or by mobile on **0419391569**.

Orders must be placed and paid for **NLT 1 November 2020**.



Other Happenings

6LSC Jottings – LCPL Matty Jordan

Members from 6 Logistic Support Company (LSC) and 15 Support Squadron (FSS) Recovery Troop attended Exercise Tiger Crawl from 24-26 July 2020 to support 44 Transport Squadron (162 Tp and 172 Tp) as an FRT undertaking various convoy drives around the state.

Both the legacy fleet and new MAN trucks were used as part of the Exercise 172 Tp starting in Hobart and went up the East Coast having convoys splitting at “Chain of Lagoons” staying in Devonport overnight and returning to Hobart the next day.

162 Tp started at Devonport staying in Hobart and then returning back to Devonport the next day.



6LSC – continued



RAT dinner 2020

As you would now be aware the dinner this year has been cancelled and with the Covid Pandemic a decision has not been made yet on where we will be holding this year's RAEME Birthday. We should be in a position to advise members of the proposed location shortly. WAIT OUT!!!. Oh, and the AGM will be held on the day.

Photos from the past

Just a couple this edition.



A young SGT Michael Koerber

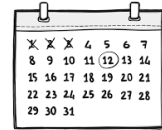


6EME PI reunion 1885 at Brighton.

Pictured L-R Norm Heath, Doc Roberts, Fred Ratcliffe, Brian McDermott, Brian Parker

Calendar of Events until December 2020

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



Date	Timings	Remarks
30 Nov 2020	1200-1600	BBQ and AGM Venue to be advised (Tentative at this stage)

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 28 Feb 2021.

