



# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**September 2005**

**Issue 1**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

**President:** Russell Clark  
**Treasurer:** Shane Rollins

**Editor:** Russell Clark  
*125 Willowbend Rd, Kingston 7050*  
*Phone (03) 6229 5548*  
*Mobile; 0419 313 910*  
Email: [robandruss@iprimus.com.au](mailto:robandruss@iprimus.com.au)

**Secretary/treasurer:** Steve Wilson  
**Sub-Committee**  
**Membership:** Peter McDonough  
**Social:** Scott Chandler  
**Social:** Mark Wilson  
**Historian:** John Lennox

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## Welcome

Welcome fellow Bluebells to the first edition of the RAT Newsletter. At this stage I anticipate running two editions a year, however depending on your input, this may change to quarterly editions.

For a number of years we have attempted to resurrect the Association, however we always appeared to fade away, and though most of us kept in touch some of us felt that it was time that we formed the Association again and as a result we have held regular BBQ's at 2 FSB's "Lair", and the story continues.

We kick started the Association of last year with a BBQ, and the response was better

than anticipated, approximately 60 current and ex RAEME members attended the function. We have since held function's quarterly which has been a time where a few beers have been consumed and a few old stories told. We hope to branch out into the North in the near future with the help of the *Warrant Officer Class threes* (Bourne & Gillon) in Launceston.

In closing, the intent of this newsletter is to keep you abreast of what is going on in our apple isle, and keeping you up to date on RAEME as a whole. But remember we cannot have a successful association without your input.

## Your Committee

You would all know from the first meeting last year that we have elected a committee who has been meeting over the last few months to get the association up and lay some ground rules. Your committee is as follows;

**President;** Russell Clark (Shirley)

**Secretary Treasurer:**

Steve Wilson (Wal)

Shane Rollins (Rolly)

**Social Committee;**

Peter McDonough (Phantom)

Scott Chandler (Sooty)

Mark Wilson (Wils)

**Historian;** John Lennox (Lerch)

## Message from COL COMDT

I received an email from LT COL Terry Beaton who has recently been appointed as COL COMDT (RAEME) Vic/Tas region. The email says;

My name is Terry Beaton and we both have something to celebrate because I have recently been officially appointed as the COLCOMDT (RAEME) for Vic and Tassie - you poor bastards!!

It is truly great that you have reformed the RAEME Assoc (Tas) with some 60 members. Well done! I am heading up to Bandiana tomorrow to be issued with ID and some kit - those moth balls have shrunk some of my uniforms since I transferred to the Inactive reserve in 1996 as a LTCOL. I have the dubious honour to have been the SO1 Corps when my position was disestablished as part of the infamous downsizing exercise prior to the HOC move to Bandiana from Canberra in late 1994.

It is very fortuitous that you contacted Pat Marley, as it has enabled me to briefly introduce myself and let you know that I

will be happy to attend any Association functions provide I am available and have advanced notification. Unfortunately I spend a lot of my time as a voluntary Pensions Advocate and I am also a TIP Instructor traveling Victoria to teach other volunteers how to be welfare and pensions officers. Both my wife Sheila and I would be happy to travel to Tasmania on the Spirit as we can combine it with a holiday and bring our motorcycles across as we did in Jan 1999, when we rode down the East coast of Tasmania. If some kind person could either book us into Anglesea Barracks or put us up, this should reduce costs for all concerned and permit your Association to have the presence of your COL COMDT for the first time in too many years to discuss. I truly apologize for the slackness of my predecessors. I have also been appointed the first Corps Historian and will be working to improve the EME exhibit at the Army Museum Bandiana. If you talk to Pat he may be able to email to you an address that I gave at last years COL COMDT Dinner which I hosted as COL COMDT (Elect).

I look forward to working with you to reinstate the Esprit De Corps and the role of COL COMDT which have both been lost over recent years.

That's enough about me. I would be interested to gain from you contact details for your key committee members and all future copies of your newsletter.

On behalf of the Corps, thank you for your hard work in re-forming the Association in Tasmania and I look forward to meeting you in the not too distant future.

Warmest regards

Terry

Note; A letter of introduction has been sent to the COL COMDT, and he has been invited to attend our RAEME birthday on the 11 Dec 05.

### **ANZAC Day 2005**

The numbers were up this year for the city march, I believe 15 members marched behind the RAEME flag. Two highlights of the day were;

1. Graeme O'Donnell (Trump) marched with us the whole way to the cenotaph, a great feat, and a proud moment for us all. Well done Trump, and
2. Shirley managed to march in a straight line as right marker

After the service we all retired to "Ye Olde Commodore Inn" for a meal and a few quiet ones. Once again our old RAE comrades were there to renew acquaintances and remiss on days of past and tell a few tails.

I also believe that RAEME was in full swing out at the Claremont RSL, we will attempt to make it out there next year.

### **Constitution**

The committee is currently working on the constitution. It is anticipated that there will be a draft copy available for members to read and make comment at our next function at the "Lair" on Sunday the 25 September 05.

### **Association calendar**

Earlier this year we sent all members a calendar of the intended functions for the calendar year 2005.

It was disappointing to see only 25 members attend our last function, which was way down on the numbers of the previous functions. We believe this may have been caused by no fliers being sent out to remind members of the upcoming function. From this the committee has decided that we will send out a flier

approximately 3-4 weeks before upcoming functions.

As a reminder though, let's keep supporting the association. We will still be circulating an association calendar at the start of each calendar year, a good place to stick it is on the beer fridge as a gentle reminder.

### **Membership**

You all would have filled out an application form for membership at the first meeting of the Association; Phantom is transferring this information onto a spreadsheet and will have it available for members to see at our function in September. We have attached an application form to the newsletter for you to fill out if you haven't done so by now, also you may wish to distribute to fellow Bluebells who would be like to join the Association. Remember membership is not only open to Bluebells but also personnel who may have worked with RAEME in the past, you know those bloody cockroaches that used to work in the RPS as an example.

### **RAEME Craftsman**

The committee has forwarded a story to the editor of the RAEME craftsman for publication in summer 2005.

### **Financial status**

The committee should be in a position to advise all members of our current financial status at the next function. Rolly is arranging to re-open our bank account, this will be finalized over the next couple of weeks.

### **Our RAEME Association website**

Phantom has been working on putting us on the website, I believe that Mark Wilson is going to assist us on this matter as a sponsor, hopefully we will be up and running on the web soon. We will keep you updated on this.

**Where's Bruv**

A lot of Bluebells has been asking where's Bruv?

Most of you are aware that Andy and Bruv headed off to the big island on a two year working holiday, although I believe that there hasn't been too much of a working holiday just a holiday. Bruv has been sending regular emails, and boy are they having a good time. They have been spending most of this year over in West Australia, although the last email was from Darwin with a photo of them both sitting near naked beneath a waterfall.

I believe that they will both be back home at Binalong for the summer, lets hope we see them both at the first function in the New Year.

**Articles for publication**

This newsletter is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

If you want to add anything to the newsletter just forward it to me, my email address is on the front cover.

Lets here from you the deadline for the March edition is **11 February 2005**.

Message from  
Representative Colonel Commandant  
(COL Graeme Smith)

As RAEME's newly appointed Representative Colonel Commandant I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself and to outline some of the priorities that I hope to be addressing in the coming months. I proudly served the ARA for 31 years with career highlights being the CO of 3 Base Workshop 86-87 and Controller MEA from end 93 to early 97.1 adopted civilian garb in the newly formed DTK-A in 2000. If you like you can blame me for the TRAMM! Of all the

complaints that I hear around the country, the enduring one is that RAEME and the Army has lost a lot with the demise of DGEME. As the RAEME Representative Colonel Commandant I have a duty to try in conjunction with HOC and the Corps directorate to redress some of the deficiencies. The fact is that we cannot do the job without your help.

Firstly you would have heard about the proposal to reintroduce Corps subscriptions. I am fully behind this proposal and I hope you will also actively support it. I see it as absolutely essential to resource some of the initiatives that will reestablish our *Espirit de Corps*. Since I took up the role of Honorary Colonel Commandant VIC / Tas. I have been seeking ways of ensuring the future viability of the RAEME Associations. For those who haven't had any contact with these very dedicated organizations, they do a sterling job in supporting our veterans and widows/widowers from past conflicts. They are also active in supporting serving soldiers through the RAEME craftsmen awards and they try to maintain the links with today's RAEME and the history of the Corps. They cannot continue to do these things without continued support and active involvement of RAEME's youth; that is you!

The introduction of Corps subscriptions could help to bridge these gaps that will ever widen with time unless we act now.

Later this month there will be a meeting of all the regional RAEME associations, Honorary Colonel commandants and HOC in Bandiana to discuss the formation of a National RAEME Association. Improved communications is the key contribution such an organisation can provide to the regional associations and you the serving RAEME soldiers.

Shared membership lists, shared vision, shared calendars of planned events, shared RAEME memorability and product lists, and the wide distribution of latest news and discussion of issues will be some of the improvements.

You don't need me to tell you that RAEME faces some serious challenges in the years ahead. I think that regardless of how RAEME is organised, the most pressing problem will be recruiting and training the tradespersons needed to maintain the ever increasing numbers of complex equipment being brought into service. We cannot just rely on the recruiting system to do the job; for reasons that are too many and varied to discuss they will fail - particularly faced with the demographic changes in Australian society. As it was true in the past we can be the most effective recruiters. Those of you in units can sell the Corps to the other Corps of the Army and help swell the ranks. I heard that ALTC had to cancel two fitter's courses this year because we cannot get enough candidates. Last Friday I attended the Melbourne RAEME Mafia Dinner and we farewelled three senior Corps members two of which (one LTCOL and one WO2) had been laterally recruited to RAEME. I think that well illustrates the point. Over to you!

Arte et Marte

Colonel Graham Smith



**Representative Colonel Commandant  
Colonel Graham Smith**  
*(extracted from "RAEME Craftsman"  
Winter 2005)*

### **Summary**

Well that's it the first edition put together, I hope this is the first of many. I hope to see you all at the BBQ on the 25 Sep 05 at the "Lair"

### *Arte et Marte*