



# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**May 2007**

**Issue 6**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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## **Welcome**

Welcome Bluebells to our sixth edition of the RAT Newsletter.

Our Association has been busy since the last newsletter, although the numbers were down for the RAEME birthday in last December the birthday was celebrated as you would expect, not only in Hobart, but in Launceston at Bob Gillows residence. The GOC Graeme Bourne has forwarded a report to the editor (which had to be censored).

So far this year we have had the RAEME Remembrance Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, our annual general meeting and lastly ANZAC day. I have provided a report on all in this issue of the newsletter.

Don't forget our annual Association dinner that once again will be held at the Claremont R&SLA on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007. I encourage all members and partners to attend the dinner. If it is anything like last years inaugural dinner it will be a great night.

ARTE ET MARTE

## Colonel Commandant's Mid Year Report –2007

Firstly I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year! My apologies for the lack of contact for at least the last six months, but a long period of illness did not help matters. I recently returned from Thailand and Burma, where I saw incredible mateship displayed not only amongst the ANZAC pilgrimage group but also to a Japanese researcher who joined us for a day. It restored my faith in that the old Aussie tradition of "*giving a bloke a fair go*" has not completely died, contrary to media coverage.

Since my last report there have been outstanding developments within the region. The Bandiana, Seymour/Puckapunyal and RAEME Vietnam Veterans - Southern groups have all been presented with their "Charters" as separate Chapters of the RAEME Association of Victoria (RAV). The RAEME Association of Tasmania (RAT) continues to grow after their outstanding inaugural "Mixed Dinner" held at the Claremont RSL in Jun 06. The RAT Committee has followed up with successful Corps Birthday celebrations and ANZAC Day activities this year. It is hoped that both LTCOL Mick Buldo and I will be able to attend this year's RAT Formal Dinner to be held on 7 Jul 07, to make up for our inability to attend their Corps Birthday activities last year. The RAV held its last Colonel Commandant's Corps Birthday Dinner on 1 Dec 06. The night was a great success with 81 attending along with BRIG David McGahey and his lovely wife Sue, as Guest of Honour - in recognition of David's tremendous contribution to the Corps over the last four years as Head of Corps (HOC). BRIG David Welch and LTCOL Nick Stanton, as the new Head of Corps and Deputy respectively, have big

shoes to fill with both BRIG McGahey and LTCOL Andy Adams' departure.

An interesting aspect of last year's dinner was the fact that over 1/3 of the guests were not yet members of the RAV. In 2007 the dinner will revert back to its original title as the "RAEME Corps Birthday Dinner" out of respect for the late Max Moore, who initiated the concept of the "Colonel Commandant's Dinner".

Throughout the Region the majority of activities held have demonstrated a generally constructive development for the Corps' Regional future. Despite hot conditions, there was a good turn-out for the Annual RAEME Day of Remembrance at all venues. Bandiana successfully trialled a twilight service to overcome the problems of high temperatures. Exercises commitments unfortunately prevented the attendance of personnel from Melbourne based ARES Units at the Shrine. LTCOL Craig Atkins and former MAJ Colin Galvin are to be highly commended for bring along their entire families to participate in this unique commemoration service for the Corps. Their commitment and the dedication of 84 year old Doug Brazier, who drove himself to the Shrine on this hot day, demonstrated the true spirit of the Corps, which those not attending without just reason, have obviously lost or never had. It was particularly disappointing to see the lack of so-called friends of CAPT Paul Lawton who failed to support his finance, Catriona Campbell whilst she laid his cross in the grounds of the Shrine under the RAEME Tree of Remembrance. At least her Father flew down from Canberra and her Grandfather was present to help her new RAEME "Mates" to support her both at the service and at the Emerald Hotel afterwards. How times and personal values have changed in this dollar driven world. Again reflected by the lack of RAEME

Vietnam Vets and Peacekeepers that attended the Commemoration.

Recently Jeff Bruhn had 81 “RAEME Brothers” (this unique term of unity includes female personnel) attend the Mafia Dinner held at Vic Bks SGTs’ Mess on Friday 4 May 07. Feedback indicated that the Dinner was highly successful with a greater attendance than last year, with personnel attending from Graytown and the DHOC LTCOL Stanton coming from as far as Bandiana. The Prince Philip Banner was professionally paraded by LT Dean Kachab, WO2 Marty Fisher and SGT Darren Werry. Regrettably, my now annual ANZAC duties in Burma again prevented my attendance at both the RAV’s ANZAC Reunion and the Mafia Dinner. Anyway, well done Jeff and all concerned with the 2007 Mafia Dinner and my appreciation to you and LTCOL Mick Buldo for all your support throughout the year. However despite developments on most fronts, sadly it appears that the RAEME Vietnam Veterans-Southern Chapter is still plagued with bickering over the disestablishment of the previously “defunct” National RAEME Vietnam Vets Association and distribution of funds, which will undoubtedly end up destroying the autonomy of this group - if a resolution is not found quickly between warring factions. The end of the year will also sadly see the disappearance of the last ARA RAEME Workshop in the Region when 26 Tpt Sqn Wksp re-locates to Brisbane.

This does not mean that ARES units with ARA staff will have an easy time to win the Regional ARA Craftsman of the Year Award, as your nominations must still meet the high standard required for this prestigious award. Ongoing promotion last year resulted in four nominations in 2006, two ARA and two ARES, the highest result in decades. An outstanding achievement and all units concerned are to be highly

commended for their effort, especially as the standard of the reports were exceptional, thereby resulting in the Region winning the National Award for ARES Craftsman of the Year. It was particularly pleasing to see this important Award go to the Apple Isle after years of apparent neglect and inactivity. Which reminds me that reports have to be raised in just over a month’s time.

Yours – “With Skill”

### ***Colonel Terry Beaton***

#### **RAEME Birthday**

Last year’s RAEME birthday was held in both the north and south of the state. All reports indicate that the northern element enjoyed, not only celebrating the birthday, but renewing old friendships and the chance to exchange some of old tales and the clushe “you remember when”.

It was disappointing to see the numbers in the south, for those who did attend enjoyed a great day.

A personnel thanks to Bob Gillow, Graeme Bourne and Don Hurd.

#### **RAEME Day of Remembrance**

On Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> February the RAEME day of Remembrance was held at “the piston” at 2 FSB. I was pleasantly pleased on the attendance of the members who attended to show respect for our fallen comrades. This was followed buy a quiet ale and nibble at “the Lair”.



## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> March 07. It was disappointing saying the least on the attendance. The meeting however went ahead, all current committee positions and social positions remain the same, with the exception of the following.

It was decided to elect the following:

Vice-president: Tony Rich

Social member: Don Hurd, raise your right hand Don... you're elected.

Their currently is one vacant social position with the resignation of Scotty Chandler. For those who do not know, Scotty has gone west to Karatha and joined ranks with Bruv. Things have not been the same since they both left and we miss their comradry. Rest assured, while they are there, the Black Hand is alive and well in the west.

## Anzac Day

Once again a great day, this year the twin boom wrecker was part of the 11 o'clock service in Hobart, and it looked great. The vehicle featured in "the Mercury" (local newspaper). SGT Stephen (Nobby) McShane drove the vehicle and was closely supervised by the co-driver our ever reliable member Graeme (Trump) O'Donnell, and from all accounts enjoyed the day. Numbers were up this year and members retired to "Ye old Commodore Inn" for a meal and drinks, and once again renewed acquaintances with our Sapper mates.

I have not received a report from Claremont RS&L, no doubt it would have been a great day as per usual.

A special thanks to both Tony Rich and Nobby in preparing the twin boom

I have attached a few memorable shots of the parade.





## Proposed new chapters

I would have mentioned in the last newsletter that we propose to instigate another two chapters of the association, in Launceston and Devonport. We are progressing slow on the formation of the chapters, and it is planned to have both up and running by the RAEME birthday in December.

## Report from the COC (our northern chapter????)

It has finally happened!

Pith helmets on – great coats off – we’ve had a gathering of the “old farts” RAEME element in the northern end of the island.

Nine ex soldiers rolled up, some old (well), some bold {I mean bald} some just looking plain healthy (which one was that) but most importantly – all had great memories of days gone by.

It being a rather humid day on Sunday the 10 December 2006, some convivial imbibing ( havin a beer – ed) took place and as the day progressed the pith helmets were replaced with the tin helmets as the stories become bigger, better and longer.

Bob and Kate Gillow opened their home for the barbecue event and a RAEME color gi-normous decorated sponge cake was offered for sweets and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Bob and Kate.

The general consensus of the gathering was that we should have more of them and hopefully more people to attend.

A great day was had by the following:

Bob (Blue) & Kate Gillow.

Maurice (Ocker) Williams

Wayne (Bruv) & Andy Cubitt

Rod (Shoddy body) and Kay McLean

Dave (pinball) & Karen (pinball 2) Reardon

Ian (Pie) & Shirley Gillespie

Steve & Jacquie Woolston.

## 6 LSC Jottings December 2006 to June 2007

Here at the workshop we have been busy with our usual tasks of what RAEME does best. Starting with December last year we celebrated the Corp birthday during the courses camp with a ceremonial cake and curtesy of Captain’s Wilson and McShane, some doughnuts. Mmmm must be a police thing with doughnuts course Wal certainly soaked them up.

After the cake cutting we had the RAEME flag flying proudly in front of the workshop and proudly told anybody who would listen that the corp of RAEME is really the only corp to be in.



**At least the RAEME soldiers got the flag vertical.....**

Starting the year in January continued on at the LSC with our usual range mandated training, range practices, BFA’s, stock takes and checks, I am sure we will eventually get this all correct. The start of this year introduced CFN Bill Palmer (ARA) into the unit as a Tech Elec Fitter in EIR. Bill is being utilised whilst LCPL Taylor is busy completing his A Grade certificate and CPL Matt Davey is busy building his house. Also into EIR this year comes CFN Harry Duffy, our newest member of the workshop who has completed his recruit course last year.

It’s great to have CPL Neil Brooksbank back after a busy fire season back in charge

of GE. In the pipelines we have an ex ARA Armourer coming but this won't be until late this year. We are also likely to get an ex ARA Metalsmith who would like to settle here in Tasmania.

We are also fortunate to have recruited Conlon Tobias as a VM and Howard Hill who wants to become a Recovery Mechanic and still on the recruitment side, Damien Tunks has decided to commence parading again in the ranks of Vehicle Section.

Currently the "head shed" of the LSC is deployed over sea's, With Capt Andy McShane and WO2 Nige Bellette on operations in Timor, and Maj Andrew Herbert and Capt John Stanfield in Iraq. Has proven interesting to keep things ticking along.

A good task completed by the workshop was the resurrection of the old International F1 Twin Boom Wrecker for inclusion in the Anzac Day Parade. Several weekends were spent on the vehicle, cleaning and painting by SGT Knobby McShane and the Ace in painting and preparation. I am sure all the members of the RAEME Association would agree that the end result was just what was needed. Seeing Trumpy's smile during the day made it worth it. There was also good coverage in the paper the next day.

We have just had an interesting weekend in support of 44 Tpt Sqn whilst they were conducting their Tactical Operations training. The 6 LSC provided the role superbly as an enemy party. Don't quite know about CFN Roy Disher on the roof of a wet wether station offering torments to the truckies though. But the team all looked the part in Swiss Army Cams. Very convincing....Not.

Continuing on with streams, CPL Geoff Johns (SGT Shultz) is of to complete his subject 1 for SGT in July along with CPL Andrew McCoy from 44 WKSP, CPL Steve Browning is of on his subject 4 for SGT in July (gone for two months). With the promotion side CPL Neil Brooksbank as well as CPL McCoy are slated for their subject 2 for SGT course during September of this year. It will be good to have some new Sergeants in the workshop.

Other projects we have been working on are the dreaded trade competencies; we have sent a claim for RPL to ALTC at Bandianna to have CFN Roy Disher's competencies recognised so he can be granted his ECN 235-2 Metalsmith trade so he can then attend a subject 2 for CPL and climb the ranks.

Several workshop members supported the 2 FSB recruiting and presence activities at Agfest this year which proved beneficial, even if to just wave the flag (You guessed it, the RAEME Association flag was there in pride of place). From a workshop point of view we had some good interest, but there was a lot of interest shown for ADFA and Mechanical Engineering studies.

Currently the LSC is preparing to send people away for Talisman Sabre 2007 at Rockhampton, 2 FSB is contributing upwards of 30 people so we will be a bit slim on the ground for the next four weeks or so.

In conclusion, if you know of any tradies who would like to do something different in their spare time.....send them on.

Tony Rich  
WO1  
ASM

Arte et Marte

## What's happening with your Association??

At the last committee meeting we discussed a number of ways we could encourage members to attend functions, but more importantly getting our spouses/partners to come along. When all Bluebells get together we tend to put the old tin hats on and forget all about them. We considered a number of options, which were;

- Random get together over a meal, say a counter meal on a given night,
- A BBQ/counter meal with other associations, and
- A mystery tour?

I seek your thoughts, but remember they are, in my opinion an integral part of our association. I encourage each and everyone to bring your spouses/partners along to our next function which is, The RAEME mixed dinner on the 7 July 07.

## Historical report

### Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA)



Mick has nothing to report since the last newsletter, we encourage all ex "appies" to contact Mick regarding membership.

Information on membership can be found on the web at [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org), including a membership form The membership email address is:

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

### Membership.

Well that completes the fourth edition of the RAT. After the inaugural mixed dining in night I believe we have reached an important milestone in the formation of our association, and like fellow bluebells we are here to stay.

See you all in September.

*Arte et Marte*