



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

April 2026

Issue 32

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

Office Bearers

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Welfare: Vacant
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Veterans: Vacant
Membership: Mark Wilson
Apprentices: Wayne Cubitt
Merchandise: Mick Moran
Social: Russell Clark
Website: www.raeme.org.au

Honorary Life Members: Wayne Cubitt, Russell Clark, Shane Rollins, John Lennox (Dec).

From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome members to issue 32 of the RAT Newsletter, I hope this finds you and your family well.

With the introduction of our national newsletter "Maintenance Matters" it has allowed us to shorten the content of our newsletter to report mainly on local RAT events, National events etc. can now be viewed in *Maintenance Matters*. I will provide more information on the national newsletter further in this newsletter.



From the Editor's Desk Cont.

You would have received by email our planned events for the year, I realize at the moment we live in uncertain times with the surge in fuel prices etc. I certainly hope this is not going to dampen our get togethers. We are uncertain at this stage where we can meet in August, I have been advised that the Man of Ross Hotel is undertaking renovations and will not be open this year for meals. We are looking at options and advise members closer to the date.

I will be sending out details over coming days regarding ANZAC Day. I will be providing a sequence of events for Hobart, Launceston and St Helens. JRs flag will be present for the Launceston march and I encourage our northern brethren make an effort to attend the march.

Finally make yourself a brew, sit back, relax and peruse the newsletter! I hope you enjoy it.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Well, it's that time of the year again where Russell puts on his gumboots and becomes a chicken farmer and tries to get everyone's individual reports in a timely manner. Yes, I'm normally the hardest to get the report from; I know, but my excuse is I'm still working. Well for the next 91 days that is!



On a more serious note, ANZAC day is just around the corner and Russell has just sent out the sequence of events for the day, take the time to commemorate the day in the fashion that makes you comfortable, for some this may be in solitude for others, joining mates for a stroll (let's face it you can't call what we do marching!) and a beer. What I do ask that we support each other throughout the day no matter your personal choice.

A couple of other matters that I would like to let everyone know, Mr Nigel Fox has agreed to become our Historian, I met with Doro Lennox and hopefully we can get Nigel to catch up with Doro soon to look through John's other works that he had stored electronically. There are a couple of projects that I am aware of on the mainland that may be of interest to some of you:

Black Hats Memorial, Tongala, Vic Mick Thompson and his team are memorial to recognise the association between the Armoured Corps and RAEME, Mick is chasing photos that depict RAAC & RAEME from 1972 to present. Please email your contributions to armouredmemorialtongala@hotmail.com If you would like to know more Mick is a member of the RAEME Facebook site and is providing regular updates.

Pte John Ferguson Project, Some of you may be aware of Ian Baker from his Raemus Rover Off-Road racing adventures, Ian has started this new project that I have found interesting, not RAEME specific but a bloody good cause non the less, Ian has moved to the Ayr, Queensland region and is trying to locate restore and maintain Military graves in the area, if you are in the area, look him up, he is a great bloke giving up his own time for great causes.

Well that's enough from me, grab your favourite refreshment, and enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter, and thanks Shirly once again for all your work mate!



From the COL COMDT –?

Watch this space – once again of disappointment, no decision has been made by HOC on this position.



Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at **11 April 2026**.

Bank Balance:	\$2,037.20
Cash on Hand:	Nil
Stock on Hand:	Nil
Net Position:	\$2,037.20



Note: - Waiting on Delivery of Hats, Stubbie Holders and puffer Jackets, which have been paid for.

Sick List

Vale

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



Fogarty, Colin Capt. (Rtd) Colin (Col) Fogarty passed away 19 December 2025. Col enlisted as an Apprentice in the ARA and served in the Malaysian Emergency as a young CFN. He then transferred to the CMF reaching the rank of Captain. In civilian life he was a member of the Police Force reaching the rank of Superintendent before retiring.

Welfare

RAT has been advised of the following: -

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

Siepen, Garry (Soupy) Garry has had recent surgery to his back and is making a steady progress.

Strang, Tom Tommy has been recuperating a number of times in Hospital recently, but continues to fight on.

We wish all our members listed above well.

Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

We still have a very limited number of RAEME Association of Tasmania Keyrings, the Keyrings are \$15.00 each.

The Keyrings are a black Leather Baron Keyring with the logo in a colour resin. I would expect that the stock we have will go fast.



Merchandise officer-Mick Moran cont.

We are hoping to get new stock of RAEME caps with the Rats logo soon but do have the large brim hats in stock.

A reminder we are able to order the Polos, Tee Shirts and Shorts from our supplier in Hobart.

The other new item we are getting are puffer jackets with the RAEME Badge embroidery.

To place an order for items, click on the link below;

<https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php/shop/order-form> and follow the prompts.

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – Nigel Fox

As mentioned in the Presidents report, Nigel Fox has elected to undertake the role of our Historian officer. Most members would remember Nigel and his avid interest in Army History, and is currently working at the Anglesea Barracks Museum providing advice on old memorabilia in particular Badges.



Hopefully Nigel will have a history report for the next edition.

Im sure you would join me in thanking Nigel in taking on this important Committee position.

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)**.

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



Links to other Resources Cont.

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;

<http://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

The latest Army News can be found at:

www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews

Maintenance Matters

RAEME's National Newsletter may be viewed online or downloaded by clicking on the following link:

<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter>

Other Happenings

RAEME Birthday 2025

RAEME Association Tasmania (RAT) members, partners and friends have in the past, normally gathered at Derwent Barracks to celebrate RAEME Birthdays. However, this year, it was decided to break with tradition and celebrate the 83rd RAEME Birthday at the South Arm RSL, which is located near Fort Direction at the entrance to the Derwent River on Sunday 30 November 2025.

This gave RATs a chance to celebrate the occasion and interact in an enjoyable and relaxed environment, as expected, celebrating 83 years of RAEME's dedicated service

RAEME Birthday 2025 Cont.

to the Australian Army and the nation. We would be remiss if we did not offer our thanks to Tony and his staff for again providing outstanding facilities, food and service at the RSL.

Our AGM, speeches and the traditional RAEME Birthday cake cutting took place during the course of the afternoon.



RATs assembled



Birthday cake 2025

RAEME Birthday 2026 Cont.



Cutting of the cake LCPL Mat Jordan and Tom Strang

Special thanks must go out to all those involved in the organisation, conduct and attendance at this year's birthday. Additionally, it was great to have so much support shown by the Association.

Rivers Edge Camping Ground FRT weekend (12–14 Dec 25).

This weekend saw 19 members and partners attend our inaugural RAT FRT get together over the weekend 12-14 December at Rivers Edge Camping Ground approximately 70 Kms south of Hobart. The heavens were kind to us with fine sunny conditions, till pack up!!

The weekend gave members and partners an opportunity to sit back and relax, enjoy each other's company and reflect on days gone by.

Of special interest JRs flag gained a lot of attention from passers-by, enquiring about the significance of the flag and what it stood for.

The inaugural weekend was without doubt a success to the point where a decision has been made to make this an annual event. We have decided to hold future weekends in February to avoid clashes of individual events leading up to Christmas, which hopefully should see an increase the number of member's and partners attending.



Rivers Edge Camping Ground FRT weekend (12–14 Dec 25) Cont.



One of the sites at Rivers Edge Camping Ground



Happy Hour



RAT Meet and Greet Hobart RSL Friday 13 March 2026

The RATs held its first function of the year at the Hobart RSL on Friday 13th March 2026. Sadly only 9 participants made it to the function. However, on a lighter note, there were a number of apologies from members who could not make the event.



RATs assembled

Although numbers were down, overall, it could be deemed a successful get together, achieving in some way its goal of bringing together fellow RATs. The highlight of the night was our President Mark Wilson winning a prize in the nightly raffle. No doubt he will get a chance to use the voucher on ANZAC day at the RSL.

Special Report

New Corps Newsletter - Maintenance Matters

I have included an extract from Edition 1 of *Maintenance Matters* so members can gain an understanding of our new Corps-wide newsletter, which will be published monthly. This marks the beginning of a refreshed and more connected era of communication for our Corps. I have attached a link to the newsletter at the conclusion of this report. I will however distribute the latest newsletter to members via our email network. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ian Cooke from the ACT who initiated the idea of having a national newsletter last year and painstakingly prepares the publications of *Maintenance Matters*.

Overview

Maintenance Matters seeks to connect RAEME members everywhere, be they serving or former-serving; once a Crafty, always a Crafty. The Corps was well-served by technical publications like *Maintenance News*, *The RAEME Newsletter* and a series of helpful regular Head of Corps update emails such as those that are sent by our Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan. Likewise, our State and Territory Associations have always kept their members informed through their own newsletters or other email updates. *Maintenance Matters* will build on the great work already done with a single publication intended to keep both RAEME members informed, regardless of how or when they served or continue to serve, regardless of trade or rank and importantly, regardless of their location.

New Corps Newsletter - Maintenance Matters Cont.

Maintenance Matters will not replace any current publication like *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine or any State/Territory Association communications; it will complement them. *The RAEME Craftsman* records the history, efforts and activities of our Corps over the previous year. *Maintenance Matters* will capture what our Corps is doing now; it will provide a snapshot of Corps activities now. Associations will continue to carry news or matters of relevance only to that Association.

The Editorial Team

The editorial team will be broken into the following groups:

- Managing editors. ~3-4 members, including at least one serving member who actively prepare each edition.
- Supporting editors. At least 1-2 members from each Corps Association who provide all Committee-endorsed content.
- Serving editors. At least 1 serving member in each region who will encourage regional unit engagement or manage regional submissions.

If you wish to join any of these teams, please send your request to: Newsletter@raeme.org.au.

The publication timeline

Key dates along the monthly publication timeline include the following milestones each month:

- 05th – Submission deadline (late entries may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- 12th – Clearance received from State/Territory Associations for selected articles (if required)
- 15th – Publication online and notification to all Associations and Head of Corps Cell for distribution.

How you can submit articles

Articles for consideration for inclusion may be submitted via an [online portal](#) on the RAEME National Network website. You will find a template and guide for compilation on this site. Serving members or workshops may also submit through their regional RAEME representatives.

What will be included in each edition

This first edition is intended to be an introductory edition, however future editions may include some of the following:

- Any big news or plans for events such as ANZAC Day.
- Recognition of members receiving notable honours.
- Corps updates from Head of Corps Cell.
- Reports from recent RAEME Association events or plans for impending events, nationwide.
- RAEME unit jottings. These are intended to be a snapshot in time from serving units, for example, reports from recent field exercises, sports days, workshop restructures etc.

Whichever unit is featured in an edition will get priority for selection of the newsletter cover image.

- Personal insights. This may be from any individual who wishes to share a reflection on their service or a description of their current or recent posted position.
- Any identified reference to RAEME or our members in ADF or civilian media.
- Official ADF updates re conditions of service changes.
- Historical references, including from member experiences on recent deployments that were not captured by the last Corp History project.

New Corps Newsletter - Maintenance Matters Cont.

What will be included in each edition Cont.

- Details to support members of the Vietnam Veterans or Australian Army Apprentice Associations.
- Humorous content such as cartoons, jokes, puzzles.
- Veteran and veteran family support updates, including from agencies such as DVA, Open Arms, Defence Families Australia and more.
- Supporting information from selected Ex-service Organisations such as Invictus Australia, RAEMUS Rover, Soldier On and more.
- International EME Corps news, including from REME in the UK and RCEME in Canada.
- Guidance from policies that affect members such as from PACMAN, Corps Instructions or other publications.
- Welfare and Vale notifications.
- General Content including information or initiatives from companies with clear RAEME-links.

What won't be included

Certain items will automatically be excluded from publication or they will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These include:

- Security-sensitive information that could compromise ADF personnel, units, or operations.
- Material that is derogatory toward individuals, units, RAEME, or the ADF.
- Content that conflicts with Army, or ADF principles.
- Items relevant only to individual Associations, e.g., AGM minutes, financials, subscriptions etc.
- Personal political opinions or content promoting contentious issues.

The RAQ will donate a \$50 store voucher to the author of the submission chosen as the best by the editorial team!



The newsletter may be viewed online or downloaded by clicking on the following link
<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter>



Photos from the past

I thought it appropriate to include past ANZAC Day marches. Please note some members have since passed.



April 2006 our WW2 Veterans with Major Herbert



April 2006

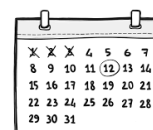
Photos from the past Cont.



April 2007

Coming Events

Listed below are the proposed gatherings for the remainder of 2026



Date	Timings	Remarks
25 April 2026	TBA	ANZAC Day
16 May 2026	1200 for 1230	South Arm RSL 2972 South Arm Rd
16 Aug 2026	1200 for 1230	Midlands TBA
29 November 2026	1200 for 1230	RAEME Birthday South Arm RSL 2972 South Arm Rd

Conclusion

Well that's another newsletter done and dusted! Keep in mind we still have three proposed activities coming up as highlighted above. Lock them in your calendar, and we hope to see you and your partner there?



If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 15 September 2026.