



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

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Issue 17

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

President: Russell Clark
Secretary: Amy Britten
Treasurer: Shane Rollins

Welfare: Paul Barrett

Webmaster: Shane Rollins
Editor: Russell Clark

Editor: Russell Clark
3/52 Malunna Rd Lindisfarne 7015
Mobile; 0419 313 910
Email: russell.clark@stategrowth.tas.gov.au
Website: www.raeme.org.au

Sub-Committee
Historian: John Lennox
Veterans: Vacant
Membership: Mark Wilson
Apprentices: Mick Koerber
Merchandise Officer: Mick Moran
Social: Peter Barrett
Social: Vacant

Welcome

Greetings and welcome everyone to the seventeenth edition of the RAT newsletter. I apologize for the late delivery for the newsletter. I hope the additional content on CORP matters makes up for it.

I trust everyone had endured our cold and wet winter and are looking forward to the warmer months leading up to the end of the year. Anyhow on that note I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

President's report

Welcome to this edition of the RAT Newsletter. It's hard to believe we are well into 2016 and the end of the year is looming fast.

Since your last newsletter we held our AGM in March and, surprise, surprise your committee from last year was elected unopposed. Details of your committee are listed above and rest assured they will continue to work together to make things happen for our association.

ANZAC day was as expected a huge day, there is a report on the day further in the newsletter.

Ross was a disappointment, but we have our annual dinner to look forward to later in the year. We have made a number of changes which hopefully should see an increase in numbers. Details on the dinner is detailed further in the newsletter

Finally don't forget, our next function is at the Lair on Sunday 14 September 2016. See you there!

Regards

Shirley

ARTE ET MARTE

(Greasers rule OK)

Coast to Coast Walk for Soldier On – Retired BRIG Dave McGahey and BRIG Phil Edwards.



Unfortunately due to overseas commitments our COLCOMDT was not in a position to provide a report. However I thought it best to provide the following extract of his recent trek across England.

The following excerpt is taken from a log kept by both gentlemen as they walked across the UK following the famous Wainwright's Coast to Coast (C2C) walk from St Bee on the west coast of the UK to Whitby on the east coast. The 309 kilometres walk took them 18 days and this excerpt covers the final 21 Kms.

'We set off in light fog for our last day on the C2C. With a pep in our step we followed a picturesque river valley, and we visited a very pretty set of waterfalls at

Falling Floss; shortly we reached Hawsker our lunch time destination and enjoyed a light lunch, and of course a G&T, at the Hare and Hounds Pub.

'We departed lunch and got our final chance to navigate the last of the North Yorkshire Moor bogs, after 40 mins of squelching through the bog we finally reached the coastal strip of the North Sea and contoured the coast south to Robin Hood's Bay. After 18 days we wet our feet in the North Sea and threw our pebbles from the Irish Sea at St Bee into the North Sea at Robin Hood's Bay.'



Starting at St Bee's



Pebbles carried from the Irish Sea at St Bees to the North Sea at Robin Hood's Bay

'We made it and what a great adventure we have had. Some tough bits, some easy bits, some funny bits and we admit it some really bloody hard bits, but all said and done, it was another adventure of a life time.'

At the time of printing the final amount of funding raised isn't clear but if you would still like to donate, please go to:

<https://soldieron.giveeasy.org/campaigns/walkingacross-the-uk/>

Editor's note: FYI the RATS donated \$100 to the fund raising course on behalf of the Association.

The CORPS newest Major General



Andrew Mathewson was promoted to Major General in September 2015. Andrew joined the Army as an Apprentice Fitter and Turner in 1980. He entered the Royal Military College in 1986, graduating into the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) in mid 1987.

His early postings were predominantly regimental and technical, but in 1995, Andrew undertook a Master of Science degree at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in the UK and subsequently worked in project management on land weapons and armoured vehicle projects. Following graduation from Command and Staff College in 1999, Andrew served in Joint Logistics Command. During 2001-02 on exchange to HQ Land Command in Salisbury UK, he deployed to Kosovo with

the 7th Armoured Brigade in 2001, then to Bosnia with the Multinational Division Headquarters at Banja Luka in 2002.

He later undertook the role of Acquisition Project Manager, in Project AIR87 procuring the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter. He also worked in Army Headquarters, and then returned to the UK as a military attaché. In January 2008, he became the Program Director AIR9000, Multi Role Helicopter Program, and subsequently was promoted to Brigadier as Director General Army Aviation Systems.

In November 2012, in a part-time capacity, Andrew was appointed as Head of Corps RAEME, by the Chief of Army. He is also Patron of the Australian Army Apprentices Association. In 2015 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia. He has just relinquished his appointment as Head of Corps RAEME, and is now Head Helicopter Systems Division in the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) – formerly DMO.

Andrew, and his wife Tina, have two daughters aged 18 and 21. Andrew's leisure interests outside of family life include bushwalking, reading, woodwork and painting.

Congratulations, Andrew, from the members of the RATs.

Treasurer's report – Rolly

Rolly reports that our bank balance as at 24 August 16	\$1349.66
Out goings	\$75.10
Stock on hand	\$200.00
 Net Position	 \$1474.66

RAEME National Association

Progress on Developing the RNA.

Your RAEME National Association (RNA) continues to develop and is at another crossroads in terms of improved administration, procedures and

documentation to be put in place and activated. Some work remains to have the draft Constitution, Newsletter and Committee position descriptions formalised, but thanks to a lot of work by President of the RNA, Richard Moyses, and Lyell Wedd from the ACT Association, progress is being made.

What's going on in the CORPS



Plan Centaur. Addressing maintenance constraints within the Armoured Cavalry Regiments (ACR) is the initial focus of Plan Centaur – the most comprehensive and significant improvement program in 30 years to consider the way RAEME may deliver maintenance to Army in the future. With Phase 2 of the program now underway, work has concentrated on gathering data that will inform a clear understanding of all maintenance-related constraints, issues and interdependencies. Work Streams include:

- A detailed workforce and work practices analysis;
- A review of deployed maintenance structures and lines of maintenance support;
- An examination of actual demand and vehicle usage;
- An evaluation of supply chain practices and procedures; and
- An analysis of maintenance outcomes and root causes of identified issues.

Two “quick wins” projects are also included as part of the Phase 2 program of work, including a “lean” process improvement project at 2 Cav Regt Wksp in Townsville.

The data and issues identified during Phase 2 was presented at a major stakeholder collaboration event in Darwin in April, where potential solutions was identified and evaluated by the maintenance community prior to the preparation of business cases for approval by the Army Capability Resource Management Committee. Outcomes of Plan Centaur will also be suitable for other elements of the Combat Brigades.

Plan Centaur’s Director General, BRIG David McGahey, said that it is vital that the Land Materiel maintenance workforce and the extended maintenance community get involved with the program.

“RAEME Corps in particular has a vested interest in getting this reform right,” BRIG McGahey said. “Centaur presents a critical opportunity for the maintenance community to shape its future.” “We need everyone’s input to make sure that Centaur delivers the most effective maintenance capability to support the modernised Army”.

Phase 3 of Army’s maintenance reform program, Plan CENTAUR, will be considered by the Army Resources and Capability Modernisation Committee (ARCMC) in early July, following the endorsement of 26 projects and five ‘Big Ideas’ by the Program’s Governance Board in June.

CENTAUR focuses on the elimination of ground-based maintenance constraints that impede the deployment, operation and sustainment of Army units. Army’s three Armoured Cavalry Regiments will be the lead units, but outcomes will be applicable to all elements of the Combat Brigades.

Phase 1 of CENTAUR identified a number of issues and constraints via a 10-week analysis, and Phase 2 has focused on gathering and analysing data over the past eight months to inform potential solutions.

More than 60 projects designed to address the maintenance constraints and issues identified in Phase 2 were proposed by

participants at a major stakeholder event in Darwin in April. Those project ideas were reviewed and analysed by the CENTAUR team, and prioritised to form the proposed Phase 3 program below:

Project Number	Endorsed Project	Endorsed Stream
9	Improved Contract Management	Maintenance System Design & Operation
26	Maintenance Task Analysis - Major Systems	
28	Asset Management Plan - Quarterly	
30	Logistic Support Analysis System CASG	
32	ISO55000 Asset Management Audit	
33	AHQ Maintenance Structure and Accountabilities	
60	Availability Optimisation	
21	Defining Demand	Demand Management
22	Demand Input to Capability Life Cycle	
2	Handheld Diagnostic Tools	Productivity Management
3	Portable ICT Devices	
14	Tiger Team Training Courses	
15	Workshop Operating Guide (Battle Rhythm)	
19	LEAN Workshops	
46	In-inspections	
4	Multimedia Training Aids	Trade & Training
23	Certifying Individual Maintenance Competency	
49	Officer Training	
7	Reduce Specialist Training	
8	Trade and Training Modernisation	
5	Future ERP Requirements Determination	Maintenance Support Systems
6	Improve MILIS Effect	
16	Validate ERTs & Implement Related KPIs	
43	Reverse Supply Chain	
44	Updating Approved Parts Lists	
52	Data Cube/Data Mining (enable planning)	
12	Forward Basing of A Vehicles	Big Ideas
37	4PL/OEM Supply Chain Support	
53	Constant Production	
54	CASG/JLC Re-Alignment	
55	Autonomous Parts Delivery	

From the head of CORPS Cell Managing Corps Funds.

The RAEME Corps fund continues to operate in a healthy state, which is a direct response resulting from membership subscription uptakes. There is always a strong representation of retired and ex-serving members, who have subscribed and continue to make their annual subscription, so it would be good to match this with Corps subscriptions from the newer members of our Corps.

To explain, the Corps Fund provides a valuable resource to the members of the Corps, both serving and ex-serving.

It can fund many activities and provide financial assistance to regional and unit activities, such as prizes for Corps awards, financial assistance to Unit Adventure Training Activities, financial support to Unit

charity events, contributions to funerals and memorial services and the Corps fund also allows ongoing Corps Corporate and merchandise activities (Craftsman Port, Craftsman Magazine, Corps Conference and assorted merchandise).

With the continued pressure to achieve budget cuts within Defence, discretionary expenditure at unit level will become increasingly difficult to secure. As the Corp Fund grows it is anticipated that the range of supported activities and Corps funded activities will also increase.

Please consider being a Corps subscriber and note the details on the last page of this Newsletter on how to become a subscriber.

Mates 4 Mates

“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 www.mates4mates.org or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

Valuable links you may be interested in

[RAEME National Website, RNA and RATs Web Site.](#)

Just put ‘RAEME’ on your browser, select ‘RAEME National’, go to the map of

Australia and select a State or Territory on the right of the home page.

On the National site www.raeme.org.au go to 'Join the Social Network' on right of Home page. This is where all the RAEME family (YOU) can log in. You may join for free and you can find mates present and past with their email contact. This Social Network will grow to be a very useful tool for you and your friends.

The latest 'Craftsmen' magazine can be found at:

<http://walshmedia.realviewtechnologies.com/?xml=craftsman>

The latest [Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter](#) can be accessed at:

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/wpcontent/uploads/TAA-Nov-2015-v1.0.pdf>

Veteran's Link:

<http://adso.org.au/latestnews/723-video-ADF-veteranslest-we-forget>

Defence Force Welfare Association



I thought it best to include information to members in future newsletters on points of interest from the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA). The following has been provided by RAQ's DFWA rep, Peter Snowden. I note with interest issue 5 which may be of interest for members who served in East Timor.

The first four items (there are many others) outlined below are the priorities currently being actively pursued by DFWA and ADSO on your behalf. It will be a long fight, but you should be aware that the fifth item will become more contentious in the near future:

- DVA Culture and Processes as they apply to all veterans when they become a client of DVA.
- Veterans Disability payments as they apply to 120,000 persons and families.
- Military Superannuation including Fair Indexation for all DFRDB recipients (2,000 still serving and 3,000 retired but still under 55 years) and Fair Indexation for all other Military Superannuation payments, MSBS access to Employer Benefits (100,000 persons) and
- DFRDB Commutation (50,000 persons). So even with this priority there are priorities - the numbers effected will give you a guide. Then again the Government in their largesse may go for a different priority of what is the cheapest to placate some.
- Proposed Australian Military Accord as it may apply to ADF and all veterans and their families.

The fifth issue is related to a trial of an anti-malarial drug, Mefloquine, in Timor. About 2000 troops who deployed to East Timor took part in a trial of this drug. Apparently these troops were chosen for a trial, just days before departing for Timor. They could have opted out if they wanted to, but would be replaced/not go to Timor, if they chose not to. None opted out despite a paucity of information being provided.

On return from deployment they were told if they had any of the side-effects, they could report them to the medical admin people at the airport who would interview them and conduct checks as necessary before they went on leave. This would mean a few hours' delay in seeing their families and getting further flights.

Apparently there were some side-effects reported but they affected only a small

number. The ADF also administered a large initial dose commencing the course. This is not recommended by the manufacturer. Some of the mental side-effects are very similar to depression and PTSD; however, the standard 'drug' treatment of PTSD, actually makes the condition worse if the person is suffering the side-effects of Mefloquine. It is not sure if treating GPs or psychiatrists would be aware of Mefloquine history of a veteran and hence possibility of alternative diagnosis and the dangers. People need to get their Med Records from the ADF.

Canadian and US Armed Forces have banned it. UK Armed forces have just issued a report on it. Defence Force Welfare Association and the Alliance of Defence

Service Organisations have requested that the ADF cease/suspend its use, investigate proactively all of the ADF members who were 'trial' personnel.

An article from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (a respected professional organisation) makes an interesting read.

You will find it at:

<http://www.pharmaceuticaljournal.com/opinion/comment/stop-prescribingmefloquine-to-our-military-personnel-for-malariaphylaxis/20200021>.

Sick list

The following members are in hospital or recovering from illness:

- **Lennox**, John (Lurch) - is recovering from burns to his back, chest and arms following an accident and is currently in the RHH recovering from his burns.
- **Truscott**, Graham (Baldy) - is recovering from stomach and throat cancer following surgery.

Merchandise Officer

We now have a merchandise officer, Mick Moran. We have the following

merchandise available for purchase from Mick:-

- Polo shirts (available by order)
- Stubby holders - \$5
- RAEME ties -\$10
- RAEME cap - \$10
- RAEME decals - \$2
- RAT cap - \$20
- RAT decals - \$2

All our merchandise are available at RAT functions, or alternatively feel free to give Mick a call on 6227 1050 to purchase any of the merchandise listed above.

Of interest the RAT (brotherhood caps and decals which made their debut on ANZAC day received favourable comments!!!!!!!!!!



**The old and the new
RAEME port 2016**



You would have received an email last month advising of this year's port which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the "Battel of Crete". This is being organised by 16 ALR at a cost of \$25. They are also organising 9Lt port casks to commemorate the 75th anniversary of RAEME in 2017. These are at a cost of \$300.

I am currently taking orders for the port, however I require it NLT 31 Aug 2016. If you wish to purchase a cask you will need to deal direct with 16 ALR. Details are in the email I sent earlier this month. If you require further information please feel free to contact me on 0419 313 9210.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

ANZAC day

This year a change of venue saw the need to assemble at the Customs House on Hobart water front prior to this year's march.



Pre march drinks

In excess of 25 members of the Association assembled for the march to the cenataph



Assembly prior to the march through the city



Members at the cenataph

Following the march Members gathered at the Custom house for a meal many of which moved on to meeting old friends at Anglesea Barracks SGT's mess for a few quiet drinks!!!!



Enjoying a quiet one or two

Ross

It was disappointing to see a low number of attendance at the Man of Ross for a counter meal in June. This could partially be attributed to some apologies and an AFL game in Launceston on the day. But it was duly noted of no attendance of a specific region.....

The day is planned mainly to give an opportunity for members from the north and south to meet as one. We may have to assess the viability of arranging a meal there next year. This will be discussed at next year's AGM.

RAT annual dinner 2016

This year a decision was made to move our dinner to later in the year to cater for our gray nomads making their annual pilgrimage to the warmer climates during our colder months. It is pleasing to report we have tentatively booked the Officers Mess at Anglesea Barracks for Saturday 26 November 2016. This is an ideal location, mainly for its history, accessibility, and close proximity to accommodation.

Your committee has been working on this over the last two months guaranteeing a great night for all. I encourage you to put this in your calendar and come along for a good night. I will be forwarding further details in early October which will include local accommodation details etc.

Calendar of events till December 2016

- 14 September 2016 – BBQ Griffins Lair Derwent Barracks
- 26 November 2016 – RATS Annual dinner - Officers Mess Anglesea Barracks
- 2 December – RAEME Birthday -TBA

Conclusion

Well that's it bluebells. If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter

please forward them to the editor NLT
30 January 2017.

