



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

April 2025

Issue 30

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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

From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome members to issue 30 of the RAT Newsletter, I hope this finds you and your family well.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter, of importance was the Hobart Workshop PI reunion in November, which without doubt was a huge success and included RAEME birthday celebrations. Attendees from as far as Queensland, South Australia and Victoria made time and effort to travel to the state to reacquaint with ex members. There is more detailed report on the reunion further in this newsletter.



From the Editor's desk- Russell Clark Cont.

During RAEME birthday celebrations last year saw Honorary Life Membership granted to John Lennox (JL). Well done JL well deserved.

Looking ahead your Committee has been busy preparing this year calendar which you would have received recently. We are trying something different to cater for our members, by having a family weekend in December at "Rivers Edge Camping Ground" in the Huon Valley. This will be an opportunity for you to dust off the camping gear and enjoy the weekend at Rivers Edge. Hey, bring a Hutchie if you haven't got any camping equipment!

Finally, on behalf of the Association we extend our sincere gratitude to COL Andrew Herbert, who has served as Colonel Commandant Tasmania since 2020. His leadership was instrumental in strengthening the Corp in our state. Andrew's dedication has left a lasting legacy, and we thank him for his exemplary service, well done mate.

Well now's the time to sit back, make yourself a brew, and enjoy this issue of the RAT Newsletter. If you have any stories or photos please forward to me to be included in the next newsletter. I will require these NLT 30 September 2025.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Team, this is definitely the hardest introduction that I have yet had to write for our newsletter. I have just posted Russell's Vale for John Lennox on our Facebook site, I would once again like to publicly pass on the association's condolences to Doro, John's partner and John's family; he will be missed by all.



As they say those that are left must go on, no matter how difficult the road appears. We once again have some great articles, Russell continues to herd the cats to get the newsletter out on time, every time. Thanks Russell.

We have a new piece of merchandise that I think will go like hotcakes! It is a leather fob and key ring, yours for the small price of \$15. Some great work by Mick and the Merch team in getting these out before ANZAC day, they will be available both before and after the march, just come and see me. We are also working on some new hats, I'm not sure that they will be ready but we are trying hard. See Micks merch report in this edition.

I am going to keep this one short, so sit back, grab your favourite refreshment, find a comfortable spot, and enjoy the read. It would be great if you could reflect on your own service the people that you served with and reach out and give them a call, it will do you both well.

ARTE ET MARTE

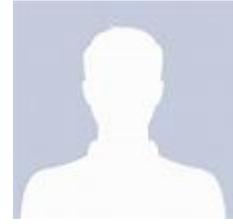
Mark Wilson

Chief RAT



From the COL COMDT –?

Watch this space - no decision has been made by HOC on this position to date.



Welcome the new Head of Corps – BRIG Gabrielle Follett AM BSc BMEDSc MA

The RATs welcome Brigadier Gabrielle Follett AM as the new Head of Corps. Brigadier Follett's remarkable career and distinguished service make her a natural fit for this prestigious role within the Corps.



Brigadier Follett commenced her military journey in 1996 at the Australian Defence Force Academy and graduated from the Royal Military College – Duntroon in 1999. Her career spans nearly three decades, during which she has served in a wide variety of regimental, staff, and command appointments.

Highlights of her regimental career include commanding the Operational Support Squadron, 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, and Gallipoli Company, Royal Military College – Duntroon. She also commanded the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion from 2016 to 2017.

Brigadier Follett has served in key staff roles, including Deputy Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Force and Chief of Staff of the 17th Sustainment Brigade. Her extensive operational experience includes multiple deployments to Timor Leste, Afghanistan, Syria, and Jerusalem, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in Indonesia, Queensland, and during Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

In addition to her operational achievements, Brigadier Follett holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Mathematics, a Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathology), and a Master of Arts in Strategy and Policy, among other academic accolades. She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and completed the Australian Command and Staff College in 2011.

Brigadier Follett's leadership and achievements have been widely recognised. She has received numerous commendations, including a Silver Commendation for her leadership of Gallipoli Company, a Gold Commendation for her contributions during Operation Slipper, and the US Meritorious Service Medal for her outstanding work in Kabul. In 2018, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force.

Appointed Director General of Fuel Services Branch within Joint Logistics Command in 2023, Brigadier Follett demonstrated her commitment to supporting Defence capabilities.

Welcome the new Head of Corps – BRIG Gabrielle Follett AM BSc BMEDSc MA Cont.

She brings a wealth of experience, a forward-thinking vision, and a dedication to the values and traditions of RAEME as she assumes the role of Head of Corps.

On behalf of all members of the RAEME Association Tasmania, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Brigadier Follett on this appointment and look forward to her leadership in the years ahead.

Australia Day Honours 2025

Appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division (AM):

Colonel Thomas Robson MCDERMOTT CSC.

For exceptional service as the Headquarters Joint Operations Command lead planner for the development of an Australian Defence Force operational contingency plan in support of Australia Defence Force Operations.

Colonel McDermott is an officer of impressive intellect and dedication to duty who made an exceptional contribution as the lead planner for a highly consequential theatre-level operational contingency plan. Colonel McDermott displayed an outstanding leadership style that cultivated strong, cooperative relationships and a collaborative, whole of headquarters effort to generate outcomes that will have lasting positive effects on Defence and Australia's security.

Awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

Craftsman N.

For meritorious achievement in the application of remarkable judgment in non-warlike situations as a Heavy Marine Maintainer within the 2nd Commando Regiment.

Craftsman N demonstrated a superior level of dedication to duty and technical mastery during 2024 in his meritorious achievements as a Heavy Marine Maintainer within the 2nd Commando Regiment's Technical Support Platoon.

Craftsman N displayed remarkable initiative in maintaining specialist Special Force marine equipment and boats through his achievements in identifying and rectifying significant faults in material readiness. He has enhanced the capability of Special Operations Command and the Australian Army.

Awarded the CSM

Major Katelyn Clare THORNE.

For meritorious achievement in streamlining operational reporting, systems administration and governance for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation on Operation PALADIN from July 2022 to July 2023.

Australian Day Honours 2025 Cont.

Major Thorne is an exceptional officer who made a conspicuous contribution by removing redundant forms and duplicate operational reporting in an international operational environment to the benefit of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation. Displaying the ability to identify a problem, develop a solution and implement a change management strategy resulting in immediate operational reporting to Headquarters United Nations. Pivotal in improving Operation PALADIN administrative systems and better value for money accommodation for the Australian Defence Force.

Changes to Royal Symbols across Defence



On 27 September 2022, Buckingham Palace announced updates to Royal symbols to reflect the reign of King Charles III. The late Queen Elizabeth II's Cypher (E II R with St Edward's Crown) is being replaced by His Majesty's Cypher (C III R with Tudor Crown). This transition represents a significant update to the symbols that embody royal authority across Commonwealth institutions, including the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The Department of Defence has received formal advice from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) regarding these changes. Following the United Kingdom Government's approach, Australian Government Departments will update Royal symbols in line with the Symbols of the State Guidance. The Secretary of Defence and the Chief of Defence Force have tasked ADF Headquarters (ADFHQ) with leading this transition, including the establishment of a working group to evaluate the scope, costs, timing, and potential impacts of these updates.

Defence will adopt a measured and cost-efficient approach to implementing these changes. Guided by a "grandfathering" principle, existing symbols will remain valid, and updates will be introduced progressively to minimise financial and operational disruptions. No specific timeframe has been set, and Defence organisations are encouraged to avoid unnecessary expenditures. This deliberate approach mirrors the ten-year transition during Queen Elizabeth II's reign, ensuring continuity and consistency in adopting the new Royal symbols across Defence.



Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at **14 March 2025**.

Bank Balance:	\$2,219.20
Cash on Hand:	Nil
Stock on Hand:	Nil
Net Position:	\$2,219.20



Sick List

Vale

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

Jacubec, Karl SSGT (Rtd) aged 80, passed away on 23 November 2024. Karl was a Fitter in the ARA for 20 odd years, before retiring here in Tasmania

Lennox, John (JL) SGT (Rtd) aged 72, passed away on 13 April 2025. John was a 23rd intake Fitter and Machinist. John was a dedicated hard worker to the Anglesea Barracks Museum, Arms and Military Collectors Guild and of course the RAEME Association Tasmania (RATs), and let's not forget the Army Apprentices Association. JL has been a member of the RATs since its conception, serving on the Committee and the role of our Historian during this time. JL was given Honorary Life Membership at last year's RAEME Birthday, honouring and rewarding the time and effort he had put into our Association.

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.

Brooksbank, Neil has been unwell for some time fighting his illness and his treatment continues. Neil has a positive attitude and is making a steady progress.

We wish all our members listed above well.



Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

Hi all from the north Island

We have just received a limited number of RAEME Association of Tasmania Keyrings to match the Stubby Coolers we received last year. The Keyrings are \$15.00 each and we still have the Stubby Coolers for \$10.00.



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

The Stubby Coolers are a good quality cooler with the upper, side and bottom are fully stitched and should last well.

We are hoping to get new stock of RAEME caps.

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

To place an order, click on the link below;

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

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – John Lennox

On the 1st of Jan 1943, being the first year since RAEME's establishment, the Army News released what was important at that time. Some of the more interesting stories are below. For more <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3351692>



HE MUST HAVE BEEN GOOD
A cable message received yesterday from New York stated that a soldier had been discharged from the United States' Army because of his tremendous snoring powers. Australian Army medical officers said yesterday that plenty of men had been thrown out of their tents because of their excessive snoring, but nobody had yet been thrown out of the Australian Army for this "offence." Most Australians silence snoring comrades by hurling a boot at them or by the more humane method of turning them over.

ARMY NEWS THANKS ITS READERS
The demand for the Christmas issue of Army News was so heavy that all requirements had to be rationed and our limited supply of this issue has now been exhausted. It would have pleased us to be able to supply one copy to every person serving in the N.T. but newsprint supplies would not allow this. To all who have sent seasonal greetings and congratulations for the Christmas issue, and to every one of our readers, we reciprocate those greetings and thank you. For this year, 1943, we resolve to try and improve our methods of, keeping you abreast of world news, just as you are improving your standard of efficiency in training so that you will play your part in the great and final victory, which, will most assuredly be ours.

On The Home Front
Few of the normal New Year festivities are available to the people "Down South" in their celebrations at the advent of 1943. Even late revelry has been curtailed by the demands of a normal working day in place of the usual holiday. Soft drinks are hard to obtain, no race trains will run to-day and the ordinary tram services were not increased to deal with late traffic on New Year's Eve.

Military Rejects for Farms
The Western Australian deputy director of manpower is making a voluntary call-up of unmarried rejects, between the ages of 18 and 34, for rural work. He said that the increase of rural workers was necessary to enable producers to carry on.

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)**.

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 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



Links to other Resources Cont.

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

www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews

Other Happenings

Hobart Workshop Platoon Reunion 15-17 November 2024

Twelve months of planning finally saw the coming together of ex members of Hobart Workshop Platoon, their partners, and members of our Association held over the weekend of 15-17 November 2024. People travelled from as far as Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. The weekend as expected was a huge success finishing off incorporating RAEME Birthday as part of the reunion at "The Lair"



This was the second reunion held, the first one in 2019. It was sad to see however that some ex members (and close friends) had passed since the first reunion, but were remembered during the course of the weekend.

Three functions were held over the course of the weekend: -

- Friday Night – Meet and Greet Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess,
- Saturday Night – Dinner Lenah Valley RSL, and
- Sunday - Lunch and RAEME Birthday at "The Lair" 2FSB Derwent Barracks.

I have limited the number of photos in this edition, however you can view all photos of the weekend on our website, simply click on the following link:-
<https://tas.raeme.org.au/index.php/gallery/general/view-album/tag-Workshop%20Reunion%202024>

Hobart Workshop Platoon Reunion 15-17 November 2024 Cont.

Was it a success? My word it was, everyone enjoyed themselves and asked whether another reunion should be held? At this stage NO, but you never say never!

Friday Night - Meet and Greet

Friday night saw the reunion meet at the Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess giving everyone a chance to reacquaint old friendship. It goes without saying that the Mess hadn't seen a gathering as such for some time, being embarrassingly caught short with most drinks and were forced to restock from the Officers Mess but, as expected, that is the RAEME way!

The night also included the introduction of our new RAT mascot, yet to be named, there is more on this further in the newsletter.



Members assembled Sir

Saturday night- Dinner Lenah Valley RSL

Saturday night was an informal dinner at the Lenah Valley RSL, once again a chance for friends to mingle, chat and tell a few good old stories.

We could not have asked for a better venue, this RSL is one of the few remaining genuine RSL's, its current President, Andrew McShane is a member of our Association, well done Andy, it's a great RSL.

Everyone as was Friday night enjoyed the night, the highlights being winning the majority of the RSLs meat raffles.

Unfortunately, I have no photos of the night, if anyone out there does, can you please forward to me so that we can include them in the website's gallery?

Sunday – BBQ, RAEME Birthday and tour of the new Workshop

Sunday was the final day of the reunion, no doubt the best day. Lunch was prepared by the Committee under the guidance of our President Mark Wilson, once again providing a great lunch.

Hobart Workshop Platoon Reunion 15-17 November 2024 Cont.

It was decided to conduct a number of activities during the course of the day namely: -

- Tour of the new JLUV workshop,
- Celebrate RAEME Birthday,
- Cutting of the cake,
- (Should I mention it) AGM, and
- Introduce our latest honorary life member.



Gathering at Bluebell St



Members preparing to tour JLUV Wksp

A tour of the new workshop was planned and undertaken by Peter (Speedy) Barrett showing envious ex members the layout of the new workshop built to accommodate the Army's latest vehicles and equipment.

Two important events were held during the day, cutting of the cake and bestowing honouree life membership to our latest recipient, John (JL) (Lurch) Lennox. There is more on John further in the newsletter.

Hobart Workshop Platoon Reunion 15-17 November 2024 Cont.

Editor's note: This report was compiled last week, sadly John Lennox passed away on Sunday 13th April 2025. I have decided to honour Johns life by leaving the report as is RIP JL.



Cutting of the cake LCPL B Matton Johnson and John Lennox



COL Andrew Herbert presenting John Lennox with his life membership

Hobart Workshop Platoon Reunion 15-17 November 2024 Cont.

As mentioned it was without doubt our best day, a final chance to meet and chat. The numbers showed once again that we may be a small Association but we can still muster a great get together and most importantly RAEME is still alive and functioning as an Association here in Tasmania!!!

We did have our AGM and, surprise the old committee was re-elected unopposed.

New RAT Mascot

Going back in time when the Association was first formed, Peter (Phantom) McDonough nicknamed us the RATs which has stuck with us and is now mainly used as our Association badge. Last year our Webmaster Glen Hay came up with an idea and took it upon himself to painstakingly create the Associations new Mascot with his 3d printer, making its debut at the Sergeants Mess on our Meet and Greet night for the Hobart Wksp Reunion. He will be attending all future activities.



Our latest Honorary Recipient-John Lennox

Editor's note: This report was compiled last week, sadly John Lennox passed away on Sunday 13th April 2025. I have decided to honour Johns life by leaving the report as is. It was an honour to call you a friend and a great mate you will be sadly missed by Association members. Rest easy Soldier your job is done.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter John Lennox (JL) was made the fourth honorary life JL has been our Association Historian since its inception.

Army Career

1965-67 Australian Cadets at Elizabeth St High School

1968-70 Army Apprentices School, 23rd intake Fitter and Machinist

1971- 4 Base Workshop Bandiana

1972 – 2 Advanced Ordnance Depot Bandiana

Our latest Honorary Recipient-John Lennox Cont.

1973-77 – Hobart Workshop Platoon, Dowsing Point

1977-80 16th Field Battery LAD (ARES)

Civilian Career

1977-2015 Tasmania Police

2006-21 Consultancy- JLD Restorative Practices

JL was heavily involved with the Anglesea Barracks Museum for many years which also included being involved in the Arms and Military Collectors Guild including the Army Apprentices Association.

On behalf of the Association JL congratulations and just deserved.



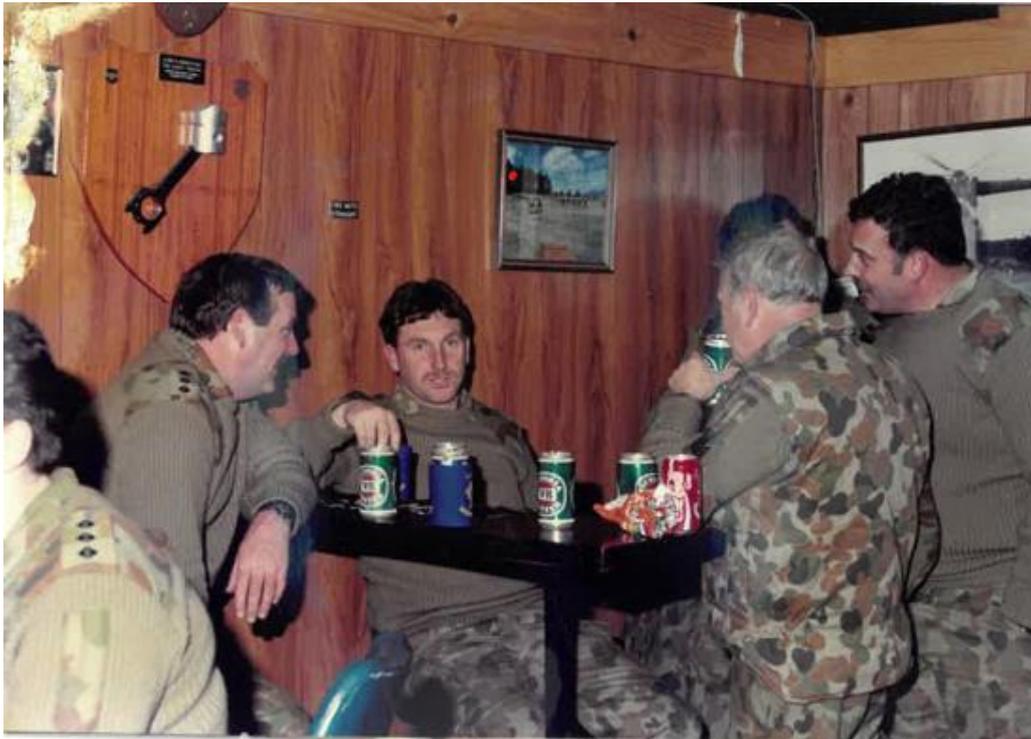
Elizabeth High School Cadets 1967 John Lennox 3rd from left

Photos from the past



Anyone help me? Antics in the Craftsman's Club (Booza) Circa 1990s

Photos from the past Cont.



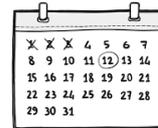
In deep discussion in the Booza circa 1990s



Engine change FRG 301 Fd Wksp K89

Calendar of Events until December 2025

Listed below are the proposed gatherings for 2025



Date	Timings	Remarks
25 April 2025	TBA	ANZAC Day
17 May 2025	1200	South Arm RSL
14 June 2025	1800	Lenah Valley RSL
17 August 2025	1200	Ross Hotel
8 November 2025	1800	Claremont RSL
30 November 2025	1200	RAEME Birthday
13-14 December 2025		Rivers Edge Camping Ground

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 30 September 2025

