

# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**January 2016**

**Issue 16**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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## Welcome

Greetings and welcome everyone to the sixteenth edition of the RAT newsletter. I trust everyone had a merry Christmas and a prosperous happy new year. Anyhow on that note I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

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## President's report

Welcome everyone to 2016 I hope all members and their families had a great

Christmas and welcomed the New Year appropriately!!!!

Since your last newsletter things have been quiet from a RAT point of view. This is not to say that we have been lament? We did celebrate our CORP birthday in the north and south. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Bob (Bluey) Gillow for making arrangements in the North and our Association members in the South. A report and photos on both days is detailed further in the newsletter.

March will soon be here. The first venue for the year is our our AGM followed by a BBQ. I encourage all members to attend to assist in planning our next twelve months, On that note, I'm sure you will agree, although we are a small Association as such, it is important that we continue to survive and rely on your continued support for this to occur!!! See you there?

Regards

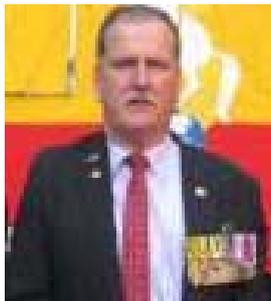
Shirley

ARTE ET MARTE

(Greasers rule OK)

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**2015 Message from the Representative Colonel Commandant RAEME & Honorary Colonel Victoria and Tasmania: Brig (Rtd) Dave McGahey, CSC**



Happy New Year to all members and families of the RAT. 2016 promises to be as busy and interesting as last year, the Army continues the process of reform and reorganization under Plan Beersheba.

The raising of mirror Combat Brigades in Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane continues apace with the latest instalment being the move of tanks to Townsville in Dec 15.

Plan Beersheba and the move of equipment across Australia will create new challenges for RAEME and in response the Chief of Army has commissioned me as a reservist to stand up Plan Centaur to take three year review and transformation of ground maintenance across the Land Army. Plan Centaur will look at current

policy and processes, infrastructure, IT, new equipment fleets, trade structures and maintenance contracting with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the maintenance structures in the Combat Brigade but particularly the new ACR structures.

2016 will also see the further roll out of Mercedes G wagon and Mann Mdm Heavy Trucks under Land 121 and the gradual retirement of Land Rover, Unimog and Mack platforms. The transition of old to new platforms promises to present a series of parts and technology challenges for the Corps.

On the A Veh front Land 400 will accelerate the replacement of the ASLAV fleet of vehicles and will look at replacements for Bushmaster and M113 vehicles. I look forward to visiting you all again this year and sharing Corps fellowship with you all.

Best regards

Dave McGahey

Brigadier (Retd)  
Representative Colonel Commandant  
RAEME & Hon Col Victoria and Tasmania

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**Message from the new Head Of CORPs (HOC) – BRIG Hadyn Kohl**



**BRIG HADYN KOHL – HOC RAEME 2015**

BRIG Kohl was recently appointed Head of Corps-RAEME to replace BRIG Andrew Mathewson. The content of the following article is substantially an email BRIG Kohl sent out to a wide RAEME distribution list introducing himself to serving members of the Corps amongst our readership. May I offer BRIG Kohl congratulations on behalf of the RAEME Association Tasmania (RATs).

*'As you are all aware, I have been given the honour by Chief of Army of being the new RAEME Head of Corps, effective 6 Sep 15. In my new capacity, I immediately want to recognise 'Matho' (BRIG Mathewson) for his efforts as Head of Corps over recent years, in particular, for all his work and strong support for the Corps History Book project and his work on Plan Pelican, the review of RAEME support to Army aviation.*

*I am very conscious that most of us in the HOC Cell are volunteers, or undertaking our Corps represented roles as extra-regimental appointments, and as a result, we can't do everything that we would like, to move the Corps forward. Indeed, 'Matho' told me that his single greatest frustration was not having sufficient time to spend on Corps matters that he would have liked. In recognition of this situation, I thank you all for stepping up to the challenge and if there is anything I can do to make the workload slightly easier, then please let me know.*

*As most of you would be aware, I am currently posted as the DG Land Vehicle Systems within LSD in the newly established Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) previously the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO). In this role I believe I am well placed to understand what equipment is coming down the line for our tradesmen to maintain, but I also know that a lot of my knowledge regarding maintenance in the field is dated, so I will need your assistance/thoughts to make sure anything I say from a Corps perspective is based on the realities of contemporary operations. This is especially so for the forthcoming review of the support RAEME provides to land materiel, known as Plan Centaur.*

*I know that Bill Myer (SO2 Corps Heritage, is planning for a Corps Committee Meeting in Melbourne and I am looking forward to catching up with as many members of the Committee, as I can on the day. I'm also keen to get out and about and meet the members of the wider Corps – so hopefully we can get to know each other, when I am in your locations. I certainly know that BRIG Dave McGahey, Project Director for Plan Centaur, and I will be speaking regularly as the momentum grows behind this important project; indeed I have already unashamedly plagiarised his presentation at the Corps conference, when speaking recently, as the figures he presented, speak for themselves.*

*Finally, I must take this opportunity to thank BRIG Ross Grant (Rtd), and his team for a stellar effort with the Corps History Book. I think the simplest metric that everyone would understand is that over 50% of the books have been sold in only two weeks – a success by any measure.'*

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### **Treasurer's report – Rolly**

Rolly reports that our bank balance as at 31 December 15	\$1095.26
Cash on hand	\$26.10
Stock on hand	\$215.00
Money owed for shirts	\$150.00

Net Position	<b>\$1486.10</b>
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### **Corps History Corps History Project (CHP).**

I am pleased to advise that the national launch of our memoir 'With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014', at the Australian War Memorial on 9 Sep 15, was a very successful event. For those who weren't able to get there, the launch was preceded by the RAEME Corps Seminar, where a key topic, was the commencement of Plan Centaur, a project to review the way RAEME conducts its business within a Plan Beersheba and CSS CONOPS force structure, on the modern battle field, as the Army introduces new equipment, but principally new armored and protected vehicles.



**BRIG GRANT at the CHP Team Leader responding to kind words from BRIG Mathewson**

Those that could attend the launch were welcomed by the HOC BRIG Andrew Mathewson; heard the Chief of Army speak about the Corps in glowing terms – he was most generous in his praise; and all enjoyed the hospitality for the Australian War Memorial (AWM).



**Chief of Army, LTGEN Angus Campbell, thanking the Project Team and the HOC on a job well done**

The AWM was the perfect spot for socializing and catching up with RAEME people (past and present) and the organisation of the day was a credit to the HOC Cell, the AWM staff and the generous efforts of KBR & Raytheon, facilitated by the COLCOMDT ACT/NSW, Tom Reynolds. Everything clicked into place, and it was a wonderful evening, regardless of whether you were participating, or a member of the audience of some 150 plus enjoying the hospitality.



**The Setting at the AWM for the Last Post Ceremony**

The launch was preceded by a Last Post Ceremony, at the AWM, which was not only well attended, but fittingly saw an address delivered by MAJ Ian Cook RAEME



**MAJ Ian Cook, after his reading for the AWM Last Post Ceremony, and his Mother, Mrs Heather Cook, at the Book Launch**

The atmosphere in the room was simply terrific. The book's sponsors were honoured – the RAEME Corps Committee, Aspen Medical, Raytheon Australia, KPMG, Airbus Group Australia Pacific, KBR and the DVA. The audience consisted of a broad mix of senior 9 officers and senior ranks, together with some more junior officers, NCOs and other members, who earlier that day attended the RAEME Corps Seminar. There was also a large contingent of retired folks.



**COL Tom Reynolds, COL COMDT ACT/NSW and Chair of the RANSW, Brendan Robertson, sharing a joke**

I wish to add my personal thanks to all that contributed to the project and the launch, but especially the project team, who were publically honored on the day by BRIG Mathewson; as well as the many others whom have been involved at specific stages over the last 5-6 years, or brought specific skills to the Corps History Project team.



**HOC, BRIG MATHEWSON, presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the CHP Team – prominent here is MAJ Keirin Joyce.**

Despite my attempts at the AWM to get around and thank everyone personally, I failed – there were just too many people at the launch to engage with in the time available. If I have missed anyone, who has made a contribution – great or small – I apologise; but I am extremely grateful for everyone’s support and assistance throughout, especially those who provided me with the occasional ‘morale boosting talk’, during the journey!

I understand there a few folks who are yet to receive their books, but they will come –

the HOC is doing its best with limited resources. If you haven’t ordered your book, details are contained on the last page of this newsletter, will assist you to do so. We have sold in excess of a 1000 books to date, of the 2000 printed, and orders have increased as a result of the national launch, so if you wish to order a copy, please don’t delay – it is unlikely that further books will be printed.

I will keep everyone informed on future events to ‘launch’ the book. Finally, I must say how wonderful it was to catch up with so many familiar faces at the national launch – young and old!

**Ross L. G. Grant**  
**PD CHP**  
**raemebookproject@hotmail.com**

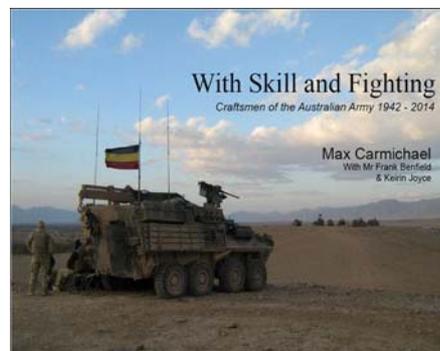
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**Ordering your Book**

Although I detailed this in our last newsletter ( issue 15) I thought it best to remind you if you are intending purchasing this fantastic book by going to: <http://www.raeme.org.au>, click on ‘Shop and then click on the **photo of the book cover**. Then follow the instructions shown on the screen for payment, including sending a payment of \$80.00 to:

**RAEME Corps Fund, Defence Bank**  
**BSB: 803205 Acct 20509705**

Once payment is made, send an email to [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au) and [William.myers@defence.gov.au](mailto:William.myers@defence.gov.au) with proof of payment, point of contact details and a **delivery address**.



The Team at the HOC Cell will dispatch your book(s) within 28 working days upon confirmation of payment.

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### **Australian Army Apprentices Association Reunion 2015 Report for Newsletter.**

Upon arriving in Albury for the Reunion, attendees were greeted by Albury Council's sign strung across Dean St (the main road in Albury) welcoming the Reunion to Albury. This was a very welcome sight after a long trip as one immediately knew the Reunion was on and well supported.

The Reunion commenced with the now familiar registration and Meet and Greet Function which were held in the Albury Entertainment Centre. Attendees were welcomed at the registration by the familiar friendly faces of Jeff and Jan Heron, who have been the welcoming party at numerous previous reunions. At registration, attendees were given their show-bags containing a 'Welcome to Albury' kit courtesy of the Albury Information Centre, the Reunion program and mugs & stubby holders for gentlemen and an inscribed plate for the ladies. Mugs from a previous reunion were offered as 'extras' and were eagerly snapped up. The Meet & Greet function was very convivial and attendees soon gravitated into their intake groups. Brian and Barbara Daley did a roaring trade on the raffle sales whilst Richard Pike also had a strong demand for AAAA Memorabilia.

The RAEME representatives were present to provide attendees the opportunity to purchase the recently released Corps History "With Skill and Fighting Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014". When it came to the formalities, and some attendees continued their own conversations, they were smartly brought into line by the Albury City Mayor who had a voice any RSM would be proud of. The response that was received when attendees were advised that the intake signs for the Saturday morning's Street

Parade were to be returned after the Parade indicated that it was highly unlikely many would ever be seen again, let alone returned. A number were seen again at subsequent Reunion events over the weekend as rallying points for various intakes. By now, I'm sure they are scattered far and wide around Australia.

Saturday morning began with the Annual General Meeting which was very well attended. There was some initial concern the AGM might run over-time and impact on the Street Parade. However, the AGM finished early as I suspect attendees really did not want to miss the Street Parade. The Parade was led by Australian Light Horse Association riders followed by the Australian National Flag, the Army Apprentices School flag and the flags of RAE, RASIGS and RAEME, being the three Corps that received most graduating apprentices.

When it was announced at the M&G the previous evening that transport for those unable to march could not be organized, the Mayor stepped in and offered to arrange suitable transport and assured us that one or two vehicles would be available next morning. A convoy of five vintage jeeps appeared for the Parade and provided transport for those unable to march. Once the intake signs were distributed, the attendees decided that they were going to march by individual intakes, rather than in four contingents as had been planned. The Army Band Kapooka attended the Parade and provided excellent marching music to help everyone to keep in step. As the marchers came past the saluting dais where LTCOL Andrew Hodgkinson, the last CO/CI of the Army College of TAFE took the salute, it was very evident that everyone was extremely proud to be marching behind their individual intake sign – their backs were straight, chests were puffed out and heads held high.

In the afternoon, Reunion attendees had the opportunity to visit Latchford Barracks to view the trade wings and today's training methods. I understand from various attendees that these visits went very well.

On the Saturday evening, it was off to the Commercial Club Albury for the Reunion Dinner, which was attended by over three hundred people. A number of people subsequently said to me, that on entering the room their first thought was – WOW! The décor of the room combined with the table setting were excellent and indicative of a very good night ahead. Many attendees also advised me they thought the meal was excellent. The placemats designed by Jeff Heron were also a big hit and provided a memorable souvenir of the night. The Army Band Kapooka provided an ensemble for the dinner which played light music which was greatly appreciated by all. LTCOL Andrew Hodgkinson provided his reflections on what it was like to bring the Army Apprentice era to a close, and provided numerous anecdotes including the significance of the Duntroon bell to the last Crab night. The last RSM, WO1 Brian Hatfield, in his reflections of 1995, addressed as to how he handled the matter of the Duntroon Bell that appeared at Latchford Barracks on the last Crab Night, and that as a subsequent RSM at Duntroon, he kept a very close eye on the Duntroon Bell.

The Sunday morning began with a very moving Memorial Service at the Apprentice Memorial at Gaza Ridge Barracks led by Rev Alan Kelb OAM. The Service was followed by a visit to the Army Museum Bandiana and a BBQ lunch provided by Redback Mobile BBQ.

Based on the feedback, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and was able to catch up with old friends and also make some new ones. The weekend must have been a success, as I didn't get any 'pokes in the chest'! Overall, the weekend is best summed up by one response received: "I am sure everybody who attended had a great time and those that didn't make the effort are the poorer for not attending."

In closing, I would like to pay tribute and say thank you to the whole organizing committee, but especially to Jeff and Jan Heron, Richard Pike and Rev Alan Kelb OAM, who all contributed enormously, both

before and during the Reunion itself, to help make it the success that it was.

**Otto Aberle**  
**Events Manager**  
**AAAA**

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### **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](http://www.mates4mates.org) or call **13004 MATES (62837)**.

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### **OTHER HAPPENINGS**

#### **Vale**

It is with regret that we advise of the passing of Penny Shepherd on 8 September 2015 after a courageous battle with Cancer. For those who knew Penny, would have fine memories of her witty and colourful nature and most importantly a valued team member of 6LSC as a cook and an active member of our Association. Penny will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts go out to Nigel (Foxy) during this sad time.



Penny!

**RAEME Birthday North**

The RAEME birthday and BBQ in the north was held on Saturday 28 November 2015 at Ian Kershaw residence at Summerhill.

Although numbers were low it was a day to celebrate and reminisce the good old days.

Thanks Ian for use of your residence.



Gathering of the northern RATS



You remember when!

**RAEME Birthday South**

The RAEME birthday in the South was held at the Lair on Sunday 6 Dec 2015 with members from all over the state attending our special day which saw some old familiar faces come out of the wood work.

Once again the success of the day would not have happened without the tireless effort from the Association, in particular, Rolly, Amy, Speedy, Foxy just to name a few.



Gathering of the RATs



Cutting the cake Trever (Noddy) Martin and CFN Amy Britten



Some ex apprentices reminiscing – odds/evens?

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Class Appies re-union

Last weekend the Tasmanian 23 Class Appies got together at Lenah Valley on the anniversary of their joining the Army on the 23 Jan 68.



Steve Bramich and Dannie Reid taken back on 22 Jan 68 with Garry Evans and Robert Dinwoodie (dec)

shirt can you please ensure payment before pick up?

If you wish to place an order please contact Mick on 6227 1050.

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### Calendar of events till June 2016

#### March

- 6 March – BBQ and AGM – Griffins Lair Derwent Barracks
- 25 April – ANZAC day venues TBA
- 19 June – Counter meal Man of Ross

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### Conclusion

Well that's it bluebells. If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 1 June 2016.



Ex appies Paul (Pop) Barrett, John (Lurch) Lennox, Steve Bramich, Dannie Reid, Neville (Norm) Thomas and Jon Atkinson,

### Polo shirts

A number of members have taken the opportunity to order polo shirts and jackets at the RAEME birthday, these should be available late January. An email will be sent out once we take delivery of the orders placed in December. If you have not paid for your Polo

