



# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**January 2017**

**Issue 18**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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

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## Welcome

Greetings and welcome everyone to the eighteenth edition of the RAT newsletter.

I trust everyone had a great festive season and settled back into the groove in 2017. 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 it's a start

of a new year and the footy is just around the corner.

Since the last edition it's been relatively quiet for the RATS, with the exception of the mixed RAT Corp dinner in November, which was held at the Anglesea Barracks Officers Mess. It was without doubt a great night, a report and photos on the night is included in this edition.

With sadness we lost two members recently, Dave Hardman and Graeme Truscott. My thoughts go out to their families. Both will be sadly missed.

Your RAT calendar for 2017 is included with this edition and will shortly be posted on our website. Please take the time to mark these dates into your calendar/diary and continue to support your Association, the most important date is the AGM on Sunday 5 March 2017.

Finally, I have decided to not renominate for a committee position in 2017. I have been privileged to perform my time as President - it is now time for new ideas and new energy. I ask that you all consider the personal reward of serving as a committee member. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me.

Regards  
Shirley

ARTE ET MARTE  
(Greasers rule OK)

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**From the COL COMDT**



2017 is the shaping up to be a busy and rewarding year for the Corps of RAEME, first because it is our Corps 75th Birthday year and a time to reflect on the many achievements as a Corps both in our exemplary support to the Army in many theatres from our birth in the molten crucible of the deserts of North Africa through to today where our young men and women continue to serve with distinction around the globe.

Our Corp's over the last 75 years has been one of the great technical engine rooms of nation building for Australia. Over this time we have produced over 35 thousand tradesmen, artificers and engineers many of whom have gone on to become CEOs and captains of industry, artificers and owners of small to medium businesses that have significantly built the wealth of modern Australia.

The Corps Committee met last Dec 16 and has decided to run a number of 75th Anniversary events that will be supplemented from RAEME Corps Funds. The RAEME Association Tasmania can bid on this funding so please review your desired 75th Anniversary events and place a bid for supplementation.

Across the Army a number of re-equipping programs Land 12I ( B Veh replacement) and Land 400 ( A Veh replacement) will now see new and more complex equipment entering service shortly that will present new and more technically challenging repair issues for the Corps. Plus the size of the new equipment and the requirement for up armoured B Vehs has pushed up B Veh weights limits significantly. For example the new heavy 10x 10 MANN Wrecker which is up armoured, weighs more than a Leopard Tank. Challenging, I sure you will agree. In my day job as DG Plan Centaur, I am now taking a long term view of the Corps trade structure, repair contracts, trade training and work flow with a view to positioning the Corps for the next 30 years.

Many thanks for your gracious hospitality before Xmas, it was great to see you all for the RAT Corps Dinner".

Best regards  
David McGahey  
Brigadier (Retd)  
Representative Colonel Commandant  
RAEME &  
Hon Col Victoria and Tasmania

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**Treasurer’s report – Rolly**

Rolly reports that our bank balance as at

25 January 2016	\$543.00
Cash on hand	\$3.50
Stock on hand	\$210.00
 Net Position	 <b>\$756.50</b>

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**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



On 1 December 1942 the order declaring the creation of “AEME” was raised. In 1948 the dedicated performance of the AEME tradesman during WW2 was recognised by his Majesty King George VI when he granted the Corps the title "The "Royal Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers”.

We are proposing to have an event and merchandise items being released during the year to celebrate.

The RAT Committee look forward to Celebrating 75 years of support to the Australian Army from AEME to RAEME. Lets make 2017 a year to remember.

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**What’s going on in the CORPS**



**Plan CENTAUR Update.**

Welcome to this extract from the Plan Centaur e-Newsletter, Army’s land materiel maintenance reform program. This is the status of the project as of August 2016:

- The Phase 3 Preliminary Stage is expected to commence by mid-September and continue through to early October.
- This Preliminary Stage will further define the Phase 3 Stage 1 project scope and end-state.
- The Program Management Office (PMO), along with project leads, will be engaging with stakeholders to ensure the outcomes sought from each project are agreed and clearly articulated.

Planning is underway to conduct a second LEAN activity in Townsville to inform the wider LEAN roll-out in Phase 3 and continue momentum on this important initiative.

**Centaur ‘Quick Wins’ Update.**

DTR-A staff conducted a LEAN Six Sigma ‘yellow belt’ workshop for Plan CENTAUR PMO staff and Brigade Liaison Officers from 17-19 August. The aim of the training was to provide PMO personnel with a greater understanding of LEAN and Six Sigma principles, and to build a pool of staff to contribute to the roll-out of further LEAN workshops across 1, 3 and 7 Brigades in Phase 3.

The training was also attended by a number of maintenance personnel from 7 Brigade units to prepare them for 7 Brigade LEAN workshops. Two members of the PMO are also undertaking “green belt” training through the University of Technology Sydney to further enhance the LEAN workshop project delivery.



WO2 Mitchell, 7CSSB discusses process improvements during a Six Sigma “Yellow Belt” course last year

**Tools lead to productivity improvements in workshops.**

The tangible results of Plan CENTAUR are continuing to be seen in the Brigades, with multiple unit workshops receiving batches of new tools during August as part of a trial under Capability and Sustainment Group’s Commodity Reform Program.

The batch of more than 650 tools – including cordless drills, grinders and impact wrenches – are intended to increase workshop productivity by ensuring sufficient tooling is available, incorporating new tool designs, and reducing the need for infrastructure, such as power and compressed air, at the job site.



COL Ed Smeaton (second from left) hands over the productive enhancement tools to 20 STA REGT personnel

The procurement method trialled through the Commodity Reform Program also has

potential to reduce the time and cost to source new tools by reducing the steps required to place a demand and the time taken for delivery. The trial validated the practice where industry delivers high quality tools direct to Army units at an affordable price and in a short timeframe.

‘This trial has now provided \$99,000 in tools to 18 units, including 20 STA Regiment, 145 Sig Squadron and a number of other Brisbane, Adelaide and Townsville units,’ said COL Ed Smeaton from Plan CENTAUR PMO. ‘The feedback we are receiving from units so far indicates that the tools are meeting a need and are assisting with improving workshop productivity.’

Regards,  
**BRIG D.F. McGahey**  
**Program Director General**  
**Plan CENTAUR**

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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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**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](http://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>

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**Defence Force Welfare Association**



No report this edition

**Sick list**

The following members are in hospital or recovering from illness:

- **Parker Terry (Angry)** – is recovering at home after being admitted to hospital recently with an illness.

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**Merchandise Officer**

Mick reports the following merchandise is available for purchase:-

- 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.

**OTHER HAPPENINGS**

**RAT CORP Dinner**

Last year's RAT CORP dinner was held at the Anglesea Barracks Officers Mess on Saturday 26 November 2016 under the control of the dining president (Maj) Garry Byard.



King table

Once again we were honored with the presence of Brig David McGahey, Hon Col Victoria and Tasmania, and Col Andrew Herbert.

A decision by the Committee to have the dinner at the Officers mess although initially thought a gamble ended up an outstanding night with an increase in members attending the night. The history surrounding the mess says it all.

Members mainly statewide attended the night some as far as QLD.



Members and partners Gp photo



**Mess assembled**



**Dining President addressing the RATS**

Highlight of the night was our inaugural life member being offered to Wayne(Bruv) Cubitt, well deserved Bruv. Further details of Bruvs life membership is detailed further in this edition.



**Presentation of life membership given by Brig David McGahey to Wayne Cubitt**



**Watch the port**

Following the formal part of the evening gave way for members and partners to reacquaint with old friends and reminisce the good old days.

Special thanks must be go out to the committee for making the night an outstanding success.



**In deep discussion**

**Inaugural life member - Wayne David Cubitt**

It was with great honor that Brig David McGahey presented our inaugural life member to Wayne (Bruv) Cubitt.

Bruv has been an avid member of the RAEME Association for as long I can remember him, and was instrumental in reforming the Association back in the late seventies. Since his retirement with his wife Andy to Binalong Bay they have both have been strongly associated with the RSL, Legacy, Auxiliary, and Naval cadets.



The photo tells it all!!!

Bruv instils **esprit de corp** to all serving and past members and is a true member of the brethren and brotherhood and is justifiably deserving in being the RATS inaugural life member.

Bruvs long and distinguished career in the Army is as follows:-

- Enlisted in the ARA as a 20 intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic - **20 January 1965**
- Posted to 3 base WKSP as a CFN - **1 Jan 1969**
- Posted to Hobart Wksp PI - **13 Feb 1969**
- Posted to 5 Coy RAA - **22 Jul 1970**
- Promoted to LCPL - **22 Mar 1971**
- Posted to Hobart Wksp PI - **22 Jul 1971**
- Posted to Tas Comdt Ordnance Depot - **18 June 1972**
- Promoted to CPL - **6 Sep 1972**
- Posted to 611 Sup Coy - **1 Jun 1973**
- Posted to 3 Fd Eng Reg Wksp - **14 Jul 1975**
- Promoted to SGT - **4 Apr 1978**
- Posted to Hobart Wksp PI - **11 Dec 1978**
- Posted to Singleton Wksp - **21 Mar 1983**
- Promoted and posted to HQ 2MD - **27 Nov 1985**
- Discharged from ARA in Tasmania and transferred to Emergency Reserve - **13 Jul 1986**

Discharged Emergency reserve and enlisted in GRES - **26 Apr 1991**  
 Posted to FRG 301 FD Wksp - **27 Apr 1991**  
 Promoted to WO1 - **23 Sep 1992**  
 Posted to LSF Wksp - **23 Feb 1993**  
 Discharged from Army - **8 Jan 2001**

**36 years' service**

**Awards**

- Vietnam medal - **1971**
- Vietnam Campaign medal - **1971**
- Defence Force Medal - **1984**
- Defence Force Medal clasp - **1998**
- National medal - **1998**
- AASM 1945-75 with clasp Vietnam - **1998**

Wayne is married to Andy, they have two sons Shane and Tim and have retired to Binalong Bay.

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**Vale**

It is with great sadness to advice of the passing of two valued members.

**David Hardman**

Dave passed away on 29 October 2016 after a valent battle with cancer. Dave served in the CMF/ARES as a Recovery Mechanic and was respected by all. Dave was known on more than one occasion to say "shit happens".

**Graeme (Baldy) Truscott**

Baldy passed away on 6 January 2017 after a valent battle with cancer. Baldy was an ex-apprentice, serving in South Vietnam with 106 Fd Wksp. Baldy always had a smile on his face.

RIP guys or thoughts are with their families.

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**The new HRV**

Here it is towrags, the new HRV, (10x10 MAN) for those that drawl over their wreckers its mean, I mean real mean.....



## Calendar of events till December 2017

Included with the newsletter is this year's calendar. You will note that the counter meal at Ross has been removed, but counter meals at respective regions has been included. As a reminder:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Timings</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
5 March 2017	1200-1500	BBQ and AGM - Griffins Lair Derwent Barracks
25 April 2017	TBA	Anzac day
17 May 2017	1800-2000	Counter meal TBA
18 June 2017	1200-1500	BBQ - Griffins Lair Derwent Barracks
16 Aug 2017	1800-2000	Counter meal TBA
17 Sep 2017	1200-1500	BBQ – Griffins Lair Derwent Barracks
25 Nov 2017	Tentative at the moment	Mixed dining in night Venue TBA
TBA	1200-1500	RAEME Birthday Northern element venue TBA
2 Dec 2017	1200-1500	RAEME Birthday – Griffins Lair

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### Conclusion

Well that's it bluebells. Please make an effort to attend our next important date the AGM on 5 March 2017.

If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 30 May 2017.



