

# The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

**August 2015**

**Issue 15**

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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**Veterans:** Vacant  
**Membership:** Mark Wilson  
**Apprentices:** Mick Koerber  
**Social:** Peter Barrett  
**Social:** Wayne Barber

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## Welcome

Greetings and welcome everyone to the fifteenth edition of the RAT newsletter. I apologize for the late delivery of the newsletter, the year has flown! I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

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## President's report

Since my last report we have seen three significant dates pass that were

highlighted on this year's calendar, the AGM, ANZAC day and midyear dinner.

At the AGM the majority of your committee was returned to serve another 12 months on your behalf. I would like to personally thank those members who are highlighted above and look forward to working with them during this term.

The 100<sup>th</sup> ANZAC day Commemoration saw in excess of 50 members marching behind our RAEME flag in Hobart. Record numbers were also seen at RSLs throughout the state.

This year's midyear dinner although light on numbers was an outstanding success and I would like to thank Pop and JL for assisting in preparation for the dinner and the Claremont Golf Club for the use of their venue.

It was pleasing to once again see our Col Comdt. Brigadier McGahey (Rtd) attend our dinner and update us on happenings within the Corp. Cathedral Rock was a challenge on the Sunday but well worth it!!!!!!!

Finally to survive as an Association we require your support, please make an effort to attend our BBQs and in particular the RAEME birthday in December, 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**

A warm hello to the members of the RAT and many thanks for the hospitality and welcome at your recent RAT dinner in Hobart. It was as always, great to see everyone again and to catch up with you all and hear how things are going in the RAT.

I would also like to thank Shirley, Shane and John for looking after me at Anglesea

and for dragging me up Cathedral Rock in near blizzard conditions on the Sunday so we could fly the RAEME standard at the top ( see photo).



On the Corps front, next month 9 Sep 15, we will have our national RAEME CHP book launch at the Australian War Memorial preceded by the Corps Seminar with lots of discussion about Plan Beersheba and equipment maintenance in the Multi Role Combat Brigade under Plan Centaur. As indicated at the dinner, I will head Plan Centaur as a reservist for the next three years.

On the equipment front we are now seeing the next phase of Land 121 following on from the successful introduction of the G Wagon light vehicles into service. The next phase of Land 121 will see the replacement of the Mack and Unimog fleets with MANN Mdm & Heavy Vehicles with Haulmark trailers and new RAEME Tech Modules for LT and MDM Vehs.

On the A Veh front, Land 400 has gone to market for a replacement for ASLAV and Bushmaster PMV. Follow on phases will look at M113 and Tank replacement with commensurate armament, comms and battle management systems across all A & Vehs. For RAEME under Plan Beersheba this means much more equipment in quantity and technical complexity held in all platforms even for the humble B Veh.

But as always we as the “Can Do” Corps will rise to the challenge of introducing and maintaining this new equipment into the Army across the next generation of warfighting and equipment evolution.

Arte et Marte

Dave McGahey

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**Treasurer’s report – Rolly**

Rolly reports that: our bank balance as at 31 Aug 15 is \$1181.06

Cash on hand	75.00
Stock on hand	\$100.00
Sub total	\$1356.00
Outstanding debit Port	\$300.00
Net Position	<b>\$1056.00</b>

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**Corps History  
Corps History Project (CHP).**

Report by

**Ross L. G. Grant**

**PD CHP**

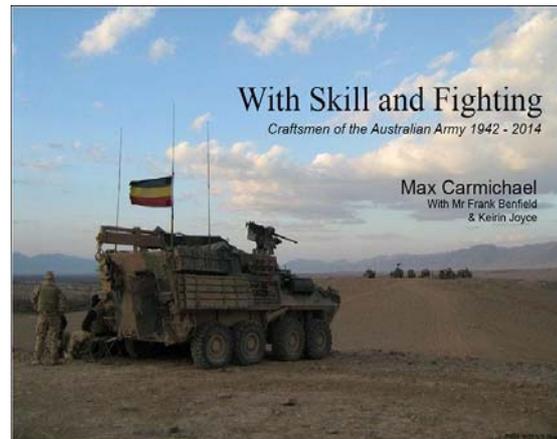
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**Corps History Project (CHP) – ‘With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014’.** At last I can report that the books have arrived at the Head of Corps Cell, Bonegilla, where our small team of volunteers has commenced distribution to those people who pre-ordered the book. Indeed, as I write this report, all the Limited Editions have been distributed, and some 400 Hard Cover versions, are on their way. This activity has created a renewed surge of interest in the book and orders are flooding in again. For those now interested in ordering a book, there are no more Limited Editions available – only around 1000 Hard Cover versions – therefore you are invited to purchase the 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 weeks upon confirmation of payment.

**Background to the Book.** The book has been compiled by members of the Corps, and it is hoped the stories will inspire other members of RAEME to emulate, maintain and grow the proud traditions, both soldierly and technical, of a still young but vibrant Corps. It is also hoped that the stories will ensure our strong reputation continues to grow.



**Acknowledgement.** To say this book has been a considerable collaboration is an understatement. A small army of volunteers, supporters, contributors, sponsors, enthusiasts, together with a dedicated project team has been responsible for all stories in this book over a significant period. The team has worked tirelessly to organise and manage our work to: coordinate, compile, draft, and re-draft the stories; liaise with contributors; and proof read the stories to get them printed, published and distributed. The fact the book is now published and available is a testimony to the things RAEME does best – work well in teams and see the job through to a successful conclusion.

Those deserving of special acknowledgment are the members of the Corps History Project Team. They have stuck with me through the five-year journey and have never flinched in the face of the obstacles, or let their ‘day jobs’ get in the way of good outcomes.

Secondly, may I publicly thank some individuals without detracting from the extended team’s efforts: my deputy, Chris Mead, for his willingness to tackle anything that confronted us. His hard work and inclusive management style; working closely with the editor, Max Carmichael, the assistant editors, Frank Benfield, and Major Keirin Joyce, ensuring the momentum was maintained and only the best stories were included in the book. I’d also like to thank my story and repository manager and all-round ideas man, WO1 Paul Gibbs; his side-kick and story-chaser, WO1 Nick Rees; for their work to encourage contributors to provide stories and photographs, and store them safely, including the ones which didn’t make it into the book. Paul also developed the ordering and payment process with the Head of Corps Team making their lives comparatively easy and ensuring purchasers could order the books simply.

The former President of the RAEME National Association, Raymond Norman, also deserves a special mention for the Association’s full hearted support of the project, keeping the regional RAEME Associations Australia-wide in the network and developing the RAEME National Association’s new website. This difficult but complementary project was developed in harmony with his wide-spread and supportive national webmasters – this was truly a team effort on its own.

Also worthy of mention are the two Heads of Corps Cell staff officers, Majors Graham Anderson and John Halstead, and now Bill Myers, who over a long time have supported the volunteers in so many ways, but usually behind the scenes. Our other quiet achievers were our fundraising adviser and ideas man, Richard Kluckhohn; our COL COMDT ACT/ NSW, Colonel Tom Reynolds and his excellent liaison work with the Australian War Memorial; the REP COL COMDT RAEME, Brigadier Dave McGahey (Rtd), and his team of Colonels Commandants across Australia. Several serving officers, who should be acknowledged for their support over time, include the Commanding Officers and Deputy Heads of Corps of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Rotary Wing Aircraft.

Thirdly, may I thank the many contributors who were encouraged, or volunteered, to write their stories – without them there would be no book? It was somewhat of a relief the slow tide of stories turned in to a flood, and where at one stage we were suffering from too few, we later ended up struggling to decide on the best – we had plenty to choose from.

Equally there would be no book without the financial and moral support of the RAEME Corps Committee; the RAEME National Association and the State and Territory Associations – Queensland, New

South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory; Tasmania, a small number of private donors; the Department of Veterans Affairs through a grant under the banner of 'Saluting their Service'; and our wonderful sponsors listed in the front of the book.

The lead editor and author, Max Carmichael, deserves very special mention. He has laboured mightily to draw together the many thousands of pages of stories we received from a wide group of like-minded people and turn them into a coherent book. Some stories were received on the back of the proverbial 'fag packet', others were books in themselves. Most contributors ignored the writing instructions and waxed lyrical about their experiences, so Max had the unenviable job of trimming them to fit. Additional pruning was also undertaken by the team as a group in March 2014, at the Maroochydore RSL premises, but the most comprehensive edit was undertaken by Max's loyal supporters, Frank Benfield and Major Joyce, to produce a manuscript that could be presented to the publishers and printers for costing and eventual publication.

I am also indebted to the regional RAEME associations for assisting with the launch of the books, as well as the Australian War Memorial for the main event to be held on 9 Sep 15 at the AWM.

We have waited a long time for this book and I admire your patience. Those of us, who have read it from cover to cover, are equally patient, but more importantly, confident we have great stories to tell about the Corps and its members. These stories will not only be appealing, but rightfully promote the reputation of the Corps.

**Note:** I encourage all members to access the website and consider purchasing this great book – Ed

### **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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### **Welfare**

**Important Notice.** Are you a **CURRENT** or **FORMER DEFENCE MEMBER** who **RESIDED** in **CANBERRA** in the **1970s** or **1980s**? Please be aware that on **1 July 2015** the **ACT Government Asbestos Response Taskforce** released a register of residential addresses in the **ACT** affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation (also known as **Mr Fluffy** insulation).

If you think you may have been exposed to asbestos as a result of your employment and housing with Defence call **1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)** and ask to be put through to the **Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme (DAEES)**, or visit:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/Asbestos/>.

For more information regarding the **ACT Government Asbestos Response Taskforce**

please visit <http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/>.

A list of affected houses is available on the ACT Taskforce's website at: <http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/the-list>.

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**OTHER HAPPENINGS**

**Annual General Meeting**

The Association's AGM was held earlier this year at "the Lair". The following was put to members to vote and approve the following changes:-

Purchase of bank savings card to be used by two committee members for purchase of required goods for RAT activities in lieu of cheque book – passed

Inviting members outside of Association to mid-year dinner –rejected

Utilize facilities other than RSL establishments for mid-year dinner – passed

Nominations on Committee positions were put to the AGM and the majority of those positions saw the majority of the old committee returned and included Mark Wilson as membership member.

**100<sup>th</sup> ANZAC day Commemoration**

This year marked the 100 year anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli which saw record crowds at all venues. Well over 50 members of the Association marched in Hobart to the cenotaph which included the blessing of the eternal flame to commemorate this important event.

This led to lunch at the Customs house with our Engineer mates followed by a revisit to the Anglesea Barracks SGTs mess till stumps.



Flag bearer WO1 Tony Rich ASM 2FSB



RATs forming up



A fine contingent

**St Helens – report by Bruv**

Anzac Day 2015 memorial ceremony at St Helens in recognition of 100years since the Gallipoli landing, started with the Dawn Service. At this service which was well supported by our community and interstate visitors experienced a visual show of local world war veterans displayed on the Memorial wall during the service.

After the dawn service veterans, joined families and friends with the normal gunfire breakfast at the St Helens Ex-Servicemen& Citizens Club

The 11o'clock service started with march up the main street to the memorial park. Leading the parade was a Waler horse with its rider dressed in a world war

uniform, followed by the TS Argonaut cadets followed by descendants and relatives of World War I veterans. They were then followed by veterans and other community clubs.

During our service descendants and relatives were invited to lay memorabilia around the cenotaph in their honour



Our guest speaker for the service was Leut D Watkins a crew member of HMAS Tobruk, who was raised in St Helens joined our naval cadets unit here before enlisting in the Australian Navy, Darren gave an excellent speech. Other speeches were from the two students of the St Helens High School.

After our ceremony members of the Sub Branch conducted a flag raising service at our local football game.



A special note that an old RAEME stalwart Dennis Tucker, with his grandson attended our services on the day. He remarked to me he missed his side kick Peter Burns, as they had always been together for Anzac Day



### Lunch at Man of Ross

Last year a decision was made to hold an annual event at Ross to allow members state wide to meet at a venue mid-way for all to attend without the need to travel for a number of hours. This saw no one from the North West and only one member from the North. What's happened to the old north/south rivalry? The remainder (25) was from the south.

The challenge is out there for our northern members to exceed the southern number next year????

### Mid-year Dinner

This year saw the annual mid-year dinner held at the Claremont Golf Club. This was decided on after a decision was made not to utilize local hotels.

It was disappointing to see numbers down this year 29 electing to attend the night. This may be due to the fact that a large number of our members elect to go north to the warmer climates this time of year, therefore a decision has been made to have next year's dinner in November to offset this issue.

On a lighter note the venue was an outstanding success, the food, the venue and friendship saw a night enjoyed by all.

It is important at this time to thank the following people:

- ❖ Your committee in particular the following:
  - Pop for organizing the venue and the point of contact for RSVPs
  - JL for his PowerPoint presentation
  - Amy for conveying the Col Comdt to and from the event
  - Claremont Golf Club
  - Rolly and Mark Wilson
  - COL Comdt Brig Dave McGahey (Rtd)

Without the support of these people the night would not have got off to a start. I could mention myself but I am not one for frivolity.



**Mixed formal dinner 2015**

### **Where to from here?**

Our ultimate plan is to get as many of our members together for this event, this includes our northern members, therefore we plan to have it at a venue in the Hobart city area, and in November. This will be put to members at next year's AGM.

### **Polo shirts**

Mick Moran recently presented polo shirts with logos at the AGM. Should you wish to

place an order contact Mick on 6227 1050 or alternatively we will be taking orders at the RAEME birthday BBQ. Payment details will be advised on the day.

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### **Calendar of events 2015**

#### **December**

7 December – RAEME Birthday South venue TBA

7 December – RAEME Birthday North venue TBA

#### **Conclusion**

Well that's it bluebells, another newsletter done and dusted. If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 1 June 2015.









