



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

October 2026

Issue 33

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

Office Bearers

President: Mark Wilson
Secretary: Russell Clark
Treasurer: Shane Rollins
Welfare: Vacant
Webmaster: Glen Hay
Editor: Russell Clark
Contact: rclark-7@hotmail.com

Sub-Committee Members

Historian: Nigel Fox
Veterans: Vacant
Membership: Mark Wilson
Apprentices: Wayne Cubitt
Merchandise: Mick Moran
Social: Russell Clark
Website: <https://tas.raeme.org.au/>

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

From the Editor's Desk – Russell Clark

Welcome, members, to the 33rd edition of the RAT Newsletter!

Once again, it's time to put the feet up, grab a cuppa (or something a little stronger if that's your preference), and have a look at what your RAT Association and Committee has been up to since our last edition.

There's plenty happening, so let's get into it.

One of the matters that has been keeping your Committee busy is the issue surrounding the copyright of our RAT emblem (see above). Unfortunately, it appears even our trusty old emblem isn't immune from the modern world of copyright!



From the Editors desk- Russell Clark Cont.

As a result, we will need to make a change to our emblem. Mark provides a more detailed explanation in his report in this edition, so make sure you have a read. Rest assured, while the emblem may be changing, the spirit of the RAT certainly isn't!

By now, I'm sure most members will have had the opportunity to access Ian Cooke's National Maintenance Matters newsletter. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to take the time to have a look. It's a great way to keep up with what's happening across our RAEME family and to see what our fellow spanners have been getting up to. After all, you can take the soldier out of RAEME, but apparently you can't take RAEME out of the soldier!

Our next gathering will be our RAEME Birthday celebration, to be held at the South Arm RSL on Sunday, 29 November 2026. Further details will be circulated as we get closer to the day. So, keep the date free, dust off the old stories, polish up those memories (where possible), and prepare yourselves for another enjoyable RAT get-together.

Our first gathering for 2027 is already in the planning stages. We'll be heading to Rivers Edge Camping Ground for a weekend away for members and their families on 27–28 February 2027. This promises to be a great opportunity to catch up with old mates, enjoy some time with family and, naturally, solve all the problems of the world over a few drinks around the campfire!

More information about the weekend is included later in this edition.

Well, that's enough from me.

So, put the chores aside for a while, make yourself comfortable, and have a good read through the 33rd edition of the RAT Newsletter.

As always, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition and to those who continue to support the RAT and keep our Association going.

Sit back, relax and enjoy the read — and remember, the older we get, the better the stories become... and the less likely anyone is to remember whether they were actually true!

Enjoy the newsletter and, as always, keep safe and keep in touch.

Presidents Report – Mark Wilson

Well Team, it's that time again, I am trying to get this to Russell after the first request and without any reminders, let's face it I have time now as I have finished working! We have another packed agenda for this issue that I will let Russell go into the details, however; there are two matters that I would like to bring to your attention:



One of our kindred associations had an issue with Copyright with the emblem that they use for their association and received a correspondence which I would prefer not to receive. To that end, I think you are all aware that we have been using Splinter on the RAEME badge and we do not have copyright for the use of Splinter. This was discussed at our last committee

President Report – Mark Wilson Cont.

meeting and it was agreed that we should look at using the Centrepiece created by Glen Hay as the image of our association going forward.

For clarity and for the sake of recording the intent of our proposed emblem I offer the following:

The image of the RAT presents the members of the RAEME Association of Tasmania, in my 23 years of membership we have referred to ourselves as “RAT” or “RATs”, the image of the RAT below with the spanner resting on the nape of the neck, gives one the image of “At Ease” which as the majority of the RAT membership are retired from service is an apt representation.

The Spanner – Regardless of your trade within RAEME, all other Corps within the Australian Army refers to RAEME as “Spanners” so we have adopted this universal symbol and dropped the Crown, RAEME Banner and Chain.

We have chosen the map of Tasmania rather than the world as this better reflects the sphere of influence the RAT Association has within the greater Corps.

Finally, the Lighting Bolt, whilst it is acknowledged and accepted that we are universally referred to as spanners it is important within the association that we recognise those electrical / electronic base trades by using this symbol.



Our current RAT mascot

A good reason to continue without the RAEME badge in full is RAEME Corps Instruction 35 and advice to RAEME National Association from Army Brand Manager that Corps badges cannot be partly reproduced and shall be displayed in full. Hence the RAEME National websites have removed the previous modified RAEME Badge half symbol from all association web pages and the RATs splinter also had to be taken down.

I also asked Glen to look at a caricature of the emblem and he developed the image below with the assistance of AI, I like it, but not all committee members have my sense of taste when it comes to caricatures. So, I've asked Russell to get you; the members to decide at the AGM.



Our proposed new RAT Emblem

Presidents report-Mark Wilson Cont.

The second point that I would like to raise is that at a recent gathering I indicated that I had heard rumours around the replacement program for Veterans cards and that I would seek clarification from DVA on the process. I have contacted DVA and for the sake of clarity I offer the following:

- DVA is undertaking a card replacement program for all cards during the period Jul – Oct 26.
- DVA acknowledged that some card holders in the months of Jul and Aug were in a position where their existing cards expired prior to the new card being issued, whilst DVA will honour the card, some vendors did not accept the card as it was expired. Obviously, this may have caused heartache to any veteran who found themselves in this situation.
- As we are quickly approaching the end of the roll-out program the DVA representative urged me to pass onto our members that if you have a card that is currently expired then please contact them and they will issue you a new card.
- If you have moved from your address that the current card was sent to and you have not received a new card yet, please contact DVA to ensure that your details are up to date.

I would like to add that the DVA representative that I spoke to was extremely helpful and a delight to speak to, so may I ask that if you do need to contact DVA, be patient and polite and remember the person that you're speaking to did not develop the policies.

My final words for this edition is that I will be absent for the AGM and RAEME Birthday celebrations, as Jacqui and I will be in Paris celebrating her 60th birthday at the Eifel Tower. I have indicated to the committee that I am happy to run for President for a further 12 months if you the members wish to elect me during the AGM, and if you don't, please know that there are no hard feelings from my side. The ever-capable Russell (Shirley) Clark will be acting President in my absence and I know that you will all be in good hands.

So, grab your favourite refreshment, sit back, put your legs up and enjoy what we have prepared for you!

Cheers

Mark Wilson

President

RATS

From the COL COMDT –?

Watch this space – disappointment once again, no decision has been made by HOC on this position.



Treasurer's Report – Shane Rollins

Rolly reports that as at **21 September 2026**.

Bank Balance:	\$1646.30
Cash on Hand:	\$15.00
Stock on Hand:	\$2447.34
Net Position:	\$4108.64



Sick List

Vale

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



Oliver, Peter. (Phantom) SGT (Rtd) Peter passed away 24 August 2026. I have very limited details on Peters passing, other than he had been in a retirement home for a number of years. Peter served in RAEME as a B2 Store Sergeant in the seventies.

Harris, Chris. Chris CFN (Rtd) passed away on 12 August 2026. Chris was a British immigrant from East Anglia who served in the army there doing automotive engineering work. Chris was a member of 16 Field Battery Tech Support in Launceston in the 1980s. Chris is survived by his wife Liz.

Cocker, David. (Dave) COL (Rtd) Dave passed away on 26 August 2026 from leukaemia. A COL and 23rd Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic, Dave served 30 years after enlisting on 15 January 1968. Commissioned from OCS Portsea, he deployed to Malaysia (1985–86) and later instructed at the US Army Logistics Management College. His distinguished career included commanding multiple workshops and major logistic units. Dave is survived by his wife, Robyn.

Editors note:- Although Dave was not a RAT member, he served as OC Hobart Wksp PI in the early eighties

Welfare

RAT has been advised of the following: -

McKerrow, Bob. (Big Bird) continues to battle with his health since open heart surgery two years ago, Big Bird is making a steady progress.

Siepen, Garry. (Soupy) Garry has had recent surgery to his back and is making a good steady progress to recovery.

Strang, Tom. Tommy continues to fight on and is being cared for by his wife Irene at home.

Gillespie, Ian. Ian recently had a condition resulting in the need to be transferred to the RHH from Launceston by the Royal Flying Doctors service, He is now recovering at home and is on the road to recovery.

We wish all our members listed above well.

Merchandise Officer – Mick Moran

Unfortunately, Mick is unable to provide a report for this edition of the newsletter, as he and his wife, Lynn, are currently enjoying some time overseas.

We're sure they are having a wonderful time and hope they return home safely with plenty of stories to tell us—and perhaps a few photos to prove they actually went!



To place an order for items, click on the link below;

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

RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – Nigel Fox

Second Federation Star- Nigel Fox.

I thought it fitting in this edition to mention Nigel recently was presented with his second Federation star for 45 years of service in the Army (that equates to 15,000 days of service).



Here is an extract of the certificate issued with the Federation Star.

Certificate of Appreciation

Craftsman Nigel David Fox

CFN Fox enlisted in the Australian Army on 13 January 1981.

At the completion of initial training, CFN Fox was allocated to the corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

CFN Fox has performed a wide range of duties across a number of units and served operationally in East Timor.

Congratulations on being awarded your second Federation Star for your commitment and dedication to the service of our Nation within the Australian Army. I thank you for your sustained devotion to duty throughout your 45 years of service.

Dated the twenty-first day of August 2026.

Susan Coyle, AM, CSC, DSM

Lieutenant General

Chief of Army



RAEME (Army) History Tasmania – Nigel Fox Cont.



CFN Fox being presented with his second Federation Star by COL Andrew Herbert.

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)**.

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



Links to other Resources Cont.

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

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/publications/raeme-craftman-mag>

Army News

The latest Army News can be found at:

www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews

Maintenance Matters

RAEME's National Newsletter - Maintenance Matters may be viewed online or downloaded by clicking on the following link:

<https://raeme.org.au/publications/newsletter>

Other Happenings

ANZAC Day Tasmania 2026

The weather gods delivered a perfect winter's day over Tasmania this year. ANZAC Day was commemorated in true RAT style, with members taking part in services and activities in Hobart, Launceston and St Helens.

In Hobart, members attended a number of Dawn Services before assembling at the Customs Hotel for the customary pre-drinks. Members then made their way to the 11.00 am service, held in unusually warm conditions for this time of year in Tasmania.

ANZAC Day Tasmania 2026 Cont.

Two of our members were interviewed by 7 News during the march. The interview was featured on 7 News on Saturday night, providing a glimpse of the RAT presence on ANZAC Day.

Following the service, members and friends gathered at the Hobart Worker (RSL) Club for lunch and an opportunity to reconnect with old mates. It was also a chance to catch up with friends from our own Corps and other Corps, with memories and stories of times gone by shared around the tables.

To finish the day, some members continued on to the Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess to participate in the traditional two-up games and spend more time reconnecting with old mates.

All in all, it was a memorable ANZAC Day, shared with mates, family and friends. The photographs below capture just some of those who supported and participated in the commemorations and the gatherings that followed.



Pre-drinks Shane Rollins & Mick Koerber 27th intake VMs



Russell Clark & Grandson Charlie at Customs House



RATs assembled Hobart



RATs on the march

ANZAC Day Tasmania 2026 Cont.



Julie Bourne & Ashley Bourne pre-assembly at Launceston



RATs assembled Launceston.



Lunch Hobart RSL



Lunch Hobart RSL

More photos can be seen on our website via the following link

<https://tas.raeme.org.au/gallery/anzac-day-new/view-album/tag-Anzac%202026>

RAT Lunch South Arm RSL Saturday 17 May 2026.

It was great to see the RATs out and about again when more than 30 members and partners gathered at the South Arm RSL for our May Luncheon. It was a welcome opportunity to catch up, share a few stories and, for some, catch up with old friends for the first time this year.

A special mention must go to those who travelled down from Launceston and the East Coast. That is a fair effort for a lunch, but as we all know, when RATs get together, the kilometres seem to disappear once the conversation starts!

The afternoon was another great success, with plenty of good company, plenty of chat and, of course, a good lunch to keep everyone happy. Members also had the opportunity to browse

RAT Lunch South Arm RSL Saturday 17 May 2026 Cont.

and purchase some RAT memorabilia – always a dangerous place for anyone who tells themselves they are only coming along for the lunch!



RAT members and partners enjoying the May Luncheon at South Arm RSL.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of a collection of old black-and-white photographs by Shane Rollins. The photographs had been found stored away in JLUV Headquarters and provide a wonderful glimpse into the past.

The photos feature members, both past and present, carrying out their daily duties at Tas Command Workshop and Hobart Workshop Platoon, as well as images from the AEME Association days. They are a valuable piece of our Association's history, and it is great to see them being brought back into the light rather than spending their retirement hidden away in a cupboard!

The Association will now have the photographs scanned and preserved, with copies to be placed in the Photo Gallery on our website so members can enjoy them for years to come.



South Arm Memorial Park

RAT Lunch South Arm RSL Saturday 17 May 2026 Cont.

A big thank you goes to Glen Hay for organising the event and bringing everyone together. And, of course, we must not forget Tony and the team at the South Arm RSL for once again putting together a great lunch and looking after us so well.

It was a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon, exactly what these get-togethers are all about – catching up with old mates, meeting new faces, sharing memories and enjoying each other's company. Judging by the smiles and the amount of conversation, nobody was in too much of a hurry to head home!



Plenty of conversation around the tables

More photos of the day can be viewed on our website

<https://tas.raeme.org.au/gallery/general>

RAT get together Central Highlands Lodge Saturday 15 August 2025

The Central Highlands Lodge was the perfect venue for our annual get together at a location central to all three respective regions for members and partners to meet. As a point of interest, and those who do not know, the Lodge is located at Miena adjacent to the Great Lakes in central Tasmania. The weather gods were kind to us for this time of year offering sun, a stunning back drop of clear blue skies and a sparkling lake.



Central Highlands Lodge

RAT get together Central Highlands Lodge Saturday 15 August 2025 Cont.

Though the turnout of 16 people was slightly down on what we expected, the event was still a success, bringing together members and partners for a memorable day.



RATs assembled Central Highlands Lodge

Two highlights of the afternoon were: -

1. Our latest merchandise item soon available for purchase, crafted "RAEME Association of Tasmania beer coasters" prepared by our webmaster Glen Hay, these were used as raffle prizes and will soon be available for purchase through our Merchandise Officer. Great job Glen the RATs thank you for your time and effort in manufacturing the coasters.



RAEME Association coasters now available for purchase through our website

2. The lucky door price and raffle. Congratulations to Mick Moran, Ken Dobie and Merv Simmons who were the lucky winners.

Finally, it was great to see some familiar faces and to welcome those who travelled afar for the lunch. Overall it was a very pleasant afternoon with great company and the beautiful lakes setting. It was a risk in planning the event at this location but it well and truly paid off.

RAT get together Central Highlands Lodge Saturday 15 August 2025 Cont.



Majestic view of the Great Lake from the Lodge

Warning Order Rivers Edge Camping Ground FRT Weekend 26-28 February 2027



Rivers Edge Camping Ground — plenty of room to park the caravan, pitch the tent and settle in for a relaxing RAT weekend.

Following the success of our first Rivers Edge camping weekend back in December 2025, it was decided that this was an event well worth repeating — and, hopefully, turning into an annual RAT tradition.

Warning order Rivers Edge Camping Ground FRT Weekend 26-28 February 2027 Cont.

So, with that in mind, three campsites have been tentatively booked at Rivers Edge Camping Ground for the weekend of 26–28 February 2027. For those who like to make the most of a long weekend, the sites have actually been booked from Thursday 25 February through to Monday 1 March, giving everyone the option of staying a little longer.

Rivers Edge is approximately 70 kilometres south of Hobart, at 1322 Lonnavele Road, Lonnavele. The sites are non-powered, with toilets and showers close by, and there is plenty of room for caravans, campers and tents.

More importantly, this weekend is all about getting together, relaxing and enjoying each other's company. It's a chance for members, partners and families to escape the usual routine, have a yarn, share a few laughs and perhaps reminisce about some of the good old days.

So, if you haven't already done so, put the dates in your calendar now! Further details about the weekend will be sent out in the new year.

We're hoping for good weather, plenty of laughs and, most importantly, a great RAT get-together.

RAEME Birthday Raffle 2026

What would a RAEME Birthday celebration be without a raffle? This year we're giving everyone the chance to take home a rather special prize!

Our **RAEME Birthday Raffle** will feature a bottle of **2025 RAEME Malt Whisky**, valued at **\$82**, as the first prize. It's certainly worth having a ticket or three in your pocket!

Tickets will be available from **1 November 2026**, priced at **\$2 each** or **3 for \$5**.

If you're unable to attend the Birthday luncheon, or you simply don't want to wait until then to get your tickets, you can purchase them early by contacting **Rolly** via email at sadagr@gmail.com

So, get your tickets, cross your fingers and, who knows, you might be the lucky one taking home the RAEME spirit!

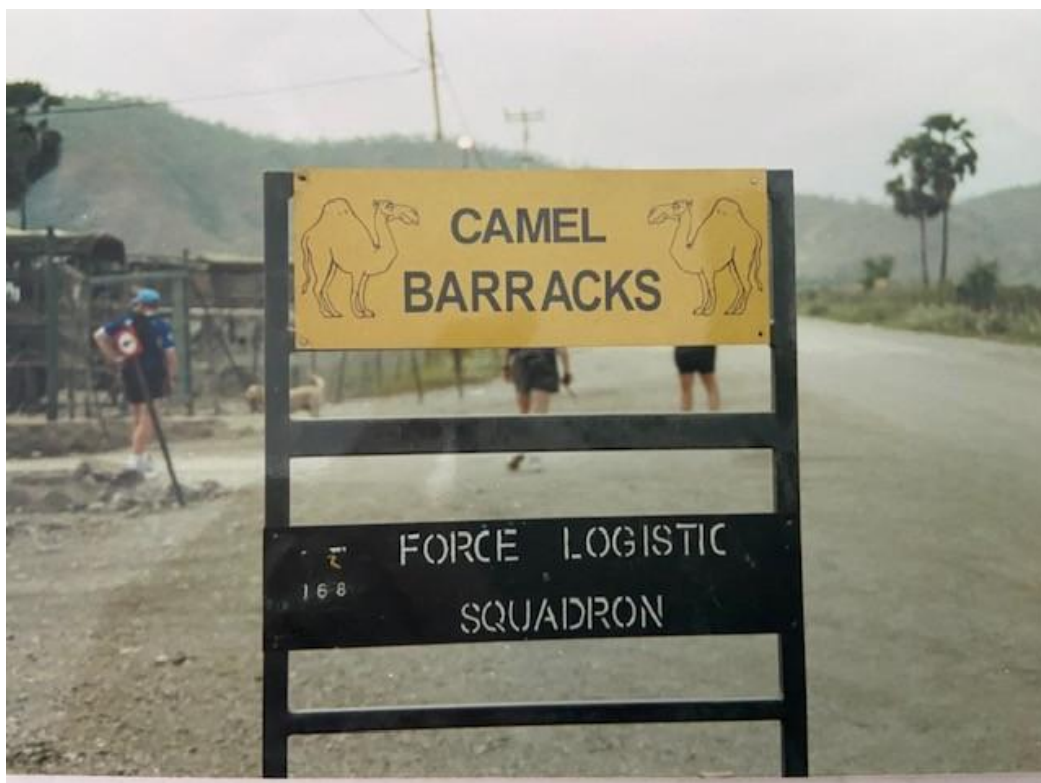


Photos from the past

Force Logistic Squadron 2 Wksp East Timor Dec 2000-Jun 2001



FLS 2 Wksp personnel



Camel Barracks FLS 2

Photos from the past Cont.



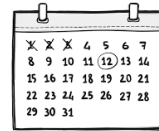
FLS2 Wksp



HMAS Bluebell Tasi Tulu boat race (Bluebell won the race and managed to destroy other Troop boat entries during the course of the race)

Coming Events

Listed below are the proposed gatherings for the remainder of 2026



Date	Timings	Remarks
29 November 2026	1200 for 1230	RAEME Birthday South Arm RSL 2972 South Arm Rd

Conclusion

Well that's another newsletter done and dusted! Keep in mind we still have one proposed activity coming up as highlighted above. Lock it in your calendar, and we hope to see you and your partner there?



If you have any photos or reports for the next newsletter please forward them to the editor NLT 15 March 2027.