

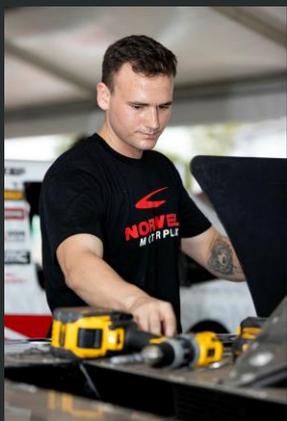
# SPANNER NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC

JULY 2021



*“Regiment before Squadron, Squadron before self”*



**2 CAV REGT SPT SQN & TECH SPT TP**

# Edition 2-21

## 31 Jul 21



### Spanner News

Published three times per year, "Spanner News" is the Official Newsletter of the RAEME Association Queensland Inc

#### Front Cover Images:

Top: 2 Cav Regt Spt Sqn and Technical Support Troop

Bottom Left: 2 Cav Live Fire EX 1 RAR WARFIGHTER May 2021

Bottom Centre: CFN Luke Hudson, affixes panels to a Super truck July 2021

Bottom Right: CPL David Seymour, speaks with Super Truck driver Toby Price Townsville 500 Supercars event. Photo: CPL Brodie Cross.



### Contact Us

[editor@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:editor@qld.raeme.org.au)

[www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au)

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PO Box 64 Ormeau Qld

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RAEME Association Queensland members – welcome to Spanner News Edition 2-21. We are well into 2021 and although we continue to feel disruption in our lives, thankfully we were able to gather and commemorate ANZAC Day in a fitting way. In Brisbane 180 pers marched behind the RAQ Banner and Townsville had 100+ turnout to march behind their new RAQ Banner. The Port Office Hotel in Brisbane and Flynn's Hotel Townsville provided a fantastic atmosphere and outstanding service for our respective gatherings. Congratulations to all the organisers and thank you to all attendees – it was a job "Well Done" and a credit to our Association.

In May, the inaugural Darling Downs Lunch was held at the "Spotted Cow" in Toowoomba, which was another successful and an enjoyable day. Peter Pile, our Darling Downs Convenor, had this activity ready to go in 2020; but it had to be shelved due to lockdowns and travel restrictions. So, after 12 long months, we are very grateful for his patience, his diligent work, as well as the wonderful support of RAMS, and the Australian Army Flying Museum (AAFM). It was a terrific contribution and a memorable weekend for all attendees. I'd like to personally recommend a visit to the AAFM if you haven't been to Oakey before. See details at: <http://www.armyflyingmuseum.com.au>

I'd like to take this opportunity to foreshadow the RAQ AGM to be held on 5 Oct 21 at the Kedron Wavell Services Club at 1700 hours. It will be followed by our normal monthly meeting and our routinely social and popular dinners. If you haven't been to any of these activities, please join us in October in our regular meeting place (and watering hole) and meet the new Executive. You will also hear about our plans for the coming year.

I'd also like to thank the OC 2nd Cavalry Regiment Support Squadron for his, and his Technical Support Troop's contribution to this edition of Spanner News – it is always good to hear from such units, especially ones going through much change and implementing novel ways to look after their interesting mix of combat platforms. I am sure that we will hear more about the challenges they face living up to the well-earned reputation of RAEME in support of Armour.

Don't forget the need to accept our personal responsibilities when socialising in Queensland – proper social distancing, masking up, using hand sanitizer, and most importantly, if you are unwell, staying home.

### Arte et Marte

**Jeff Maurice**  
Chairman RAQ

[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



### RAEME Association Queensland – What we are about?

The purpose of the RAEME Association Queensland is to promote and reinforce the spirit, reputation and image of the Corps through its past, present and future members.

The goals of the RAEME Association Queensland locally are to:

- promote the Corps' identity and reputation.
- recognise and celebrate achievements of members of the Corps; and
- provide a focal point for Corps activities.

To gain RAQ membership benefits, join for \$10/year, or upgrade to Life Subscription for \$100. All proceeds support and promote the goals of the Association.

### QUEENS BIRTHDAY AWARDS

The RAQ membership congratulates the following recipients of awards in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours:



**Lieutenant Colonel Ross William THOMAS – CSC.** For outstanding devotion to duty as the Staff Officer Grade One – Program Sustainment, in Logistics Branch, Army Headquarters. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas' exceptional skill and unwavering commitment has resulted in the development of financial and management strategies that maximise capability and sustainment outcomes for Army, whilst assuring depth and resilience in our land capability. His reform of the Army Sustainment Budget Cycle has significantly enhanced the sustainment of our Land Force capability in a period of transformational change.



**Warrant Officer Class One Andrew Jay BEAMAN – OAM.** For meritorious devotion to duty as the Artificer Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Brigade and 1st Armoured Regiment. Warrant Officer Beaman's outstanding performance and devotion to duty have enhanced materiel readiness and combat capability across the 1st and 3rd Brigades. His leadership and enduring meritorious service have been instrumental to the successful implementation of the Armoured Cavalry Regiment and Combat Brigade constructs. His technical mastery and extensive trade experience have provided an invaluable contribution to land force capability within Forces Command.



**Corporal Pierce Jordan HALLIDAY – CSM.** For meritorious achievement as the Landing Craft Maintenance Section Commander at 35 Water Transport Squadron, 10th Force Support Battalion. Corporal Halliday has enhanced the Australian Army's watercraft capability through superior technical acumen and innovative maintenance procedures. His creative application of maintenance skill and ability to coordinate complex logistic and maintenance effects, has improved watercraft interoperability between the Navy and Army. His leadership, innovation and devotion to duty have led to exceptional results which uphold the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.



**Mr Gregory Ian RUSSELL OAM.** For service to veterans, at the Kedron-Wavell Service Club, where he was recognised for his efforts including the following:

- Board Member, Club Committee, since 2006 and Minutes Secretary.
- Member, General Committee, and current Life Member, 2013.
- RSL Delegate, Sub-Branch Annual Conference.
- Senior Vice-President, Sub-Branch Committee, eight years, Pensions Officer and member since 1994.
- A Member, Queensland Veteran's Services Advisory Committee; Representative, Queensland Consultative Forum; and Regional Mentor, Region I - Queensland and Northern Territory.

## FEATURE ARTICLE ON 2 CAV REGT SPT SQN

**Introducing 2 Cav Regt Spt Sqn and Technical Support Troop.** This edition of Spanner News features another proud unit which has been through much change in recent years and has been very busy in the last few months in barracks and on exercise.



**The Regiment.** The 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2 CAV) is an armoured cavalry regiment of the Australian Army. Formed in 1965 as the 1st Cavalry Regiment, it is the second most senior regiment in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

In 1970, the regiment was redesignated as the 2nd Cavalry Regiment to differentiate it from the 1st Armoured Regiment, and was based at Holsworthy until 1992, when it was allocated to the 1st Brigade and relocated to Darwin in the Northern Territory. In late 2014 the regiment was transferred to the 3rd Brigade, and is now based in Townsville in Queensland. The unit derives its combat power from M1A1 tanks, Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) and M113AS4 APCs.

To provide the Regiment with its integral maintenance support (1<sup>st</sup> Line) it is established with a Support Squadron, which includes a Technical Support Troop (TST), which may be supplemented from its supporting Combat Service Support Battalion, in this case, 3 CSSB. Support Squadron is equipped with L121 vehicles, ASLAV and M113 logistic variants, and recovery vehicles (M88 and 45M).

**Spt Sqn.** After a COVID affected 2020, this year saw the Spt Sqn and TST make up for lost time and continue to develop their combat effectiveness and field deployment practices, commencing with EXERCISE SIDON. This Squadron-directed troop-training activity saw the TST deploy to Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA) to test and enhance its SOPs and establish a strong foundation, enabling maintenance and recovery support to BG EAGLE. It also provided an opportunity for the SQN and TST to trial dispersed hides, thus increasing survivability and achieving SPT SQN's mission to closely support the Regiment – hence the Squadron motto “Regiment before Squadron, Squadron before self”.

The Spt Sqn is made up of two troops: Distribution Troop – consisting of protected Land 121 vehicles of differing variants including fuel modules, water modules and cargo capabilities; and the TST - consisting of 40M crane variants, HX77s for RPS and specialist tooling, and an M113-AS4F as an FRT vehicle. The HQ consists of PMVs, 40M stores trucks and G-Wagons.

For Spt Sqn, the aim of EXERCISE SIDON was to establish new SOP in situations where the squadron concurrently conducts a replenishment task and an FRT task, with the

new vehicle capability. TST quickly adapted to the new situation using the different variants of vehicles effectively within the troop. TST achieved the objective to occupy hide locations by day and by night, using break-hide drills in the event locations are compromised. The drills allowed the operators and commanders to establish a better understanding of the L121 fleet of vehicles, and their off-road mobility by day and by night.

The concurrent activity for TST during SOP development involved the maintenance and enhancement of basic soldier field-craft and JNCO skills. The squadron implemented various tasks and training tasks which included fire control orders, weapon drills, use of mud models and FRT/occupation orders.

EXERCISE SIDON also saw the first live task of our most recently qualified recovery mechanic, CFN Fiscaro, supporting the recovery of a neighbouring unit's PMV roll-over on the Hervey Range Road by night. This complemented tasks in the broader exercise scenario – the TST is now established and capable to continue supporting the Regiment through the next major exercise.

May 2021 saw TST deploy to TFTA to support 2 Cav Regt's involvement in EX 1 RAR WARFIGHTER, conduct further Squadron directed troop-training in preparation for EXERCISE TALISMAN SABRE 2021, and support the Regiment during their subsequent squadron training. SPT SQN and TST seized this opportunity to further enhance capability though two specific phases – Vehicle Operations Phase and a Live Firing exercise.

The training allowed the development a full understanding of the best employment of Land 121 fleet of vehicles. Key training outcomes built on previous FRT planning and execution, replenishment, methods of movement, individual vehicle craft, re-deployments and break hide training, both by day and night. The employment of two dispersed hides, with commensurate capability (FRT, rations, water & fuel) demonstrated an increased requirement for TST soldiers to be confident in the use of L121 and understand the capabilities of other logistic trades, in particular pertaining to replenishment.

The highlight of this exercise was the live fire phase, qualifying members of TST on Mag 58 and .50 Cal machine guns, both ground and vehicle mounted, by day and at night using Night Vision Devices. Additionally, the training included individual battle runs (IBR) in a PMV to develop the lethality and survivability of the TST.

The remainder of 2021 will see the TST deploy on EXERCISE TALISMAN SABRE 2021 in July before transitioning to a Bde courses period to prepare for 2022, with the obvious inclusion of multiple ASM Golf Days and RAEME Birthdays celebrations!

**Arte et Marte**  
**CPL Closter and CPL Gale**

## 106 FIELD WORKSHOP COMPANY – TRAINING TO SUSTAIN 2021

After the year that was 2020, plagued with several obstacles from bush fires to COVID19, 106 Field Workshops Company stepped cautiously into 2021 knowing that taking every opportunity to improve production and conduct training would be critical.

The commencement of the year saw a large change in key leadership positions of 7 CSSB. LTCOL Ross Thomas (RAEME) posted in as the new CO, with WO1 Nathan Carpenter (RAAOC) assuming the position of RSM. The unit farewelled the command team of OC, MAJ Angela Langdon and CSM, WO2 Ryan Leslie in 2020, and welcomed in MAJ Zach Lambert and WO2 Joshua Frankcombe, both on promotion.

The lost ground and minimal opportunities to conduct whole unit training was regained with several training packages and exercises commencing from the first few weeks of 2021. Each step of the program was carefully planned to ensure that the Unit was ready to achieve the required standard when under assessment during EX Diamond Dagger, at High Range Training Area in September. The lead up training included EX Echidna Crawl, EX Echidna Walk and EX Diamond Walk. The primary outcome of the training was to enhance survivability of the unit's logistic elements whilst maintaining CSS support to dependencies in the AO.

Concurrent with preparations for EX Diamond Dagger, 7 CSSB committed up to 80 personnel to support OP COVID Assist for the Government's fight against COVID-19. This support saw personnel provide aid to hotel quarantine staff across three locations in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.

EX Echidna Crawl series has been developed and refined by 7CSSB Training Warrant Officer, WO2 Bruce Harvey (RAInf) since January 2019. This has been delivered in two phases and elicited good results from the soldiers:

- **Phase one** involved a round-robin activity with ten stands designed to refresh basic soldier skills and knowledge and qualify them in additional weapon systems and new equipment. Sections of 8-12 persons moved from stand-to-stand undertaking tasks such as: section formations and attacks; sand bagging; fire control orders; first aid; navigation; weapons training on EF88, MINIMI and MAG58; night fighting equipment (BNVD and LAID); Army Combative Program ACP; quick decision exercises and personal ethics discussions lead by the Padre.
- **Phase two** involved formal training in weapon systems (MINIMI, MAG58 and 9mm pistol) and Night Fighting Equipment (BNVD and LAID). These formal periods of instruction were delivered by unit NCOs over the duration of a week with confirmatory range shoots in the weeks following.

Spanner News

Training moved to the next level with EX Echidna Walk. The exercise incorporated the deployment of CSSTs into Shoal Water Bay Training Area (SWBTA) to gain experience in the delivery of close CSS to dependencies in a field. Two CSST were stood up and consisted of members from 106 Fd Wksp Coy, 6 FSC, and 5 Tpt Sqn. This exercise involved unit members practicing their specific trade skills in a deployed environment, but also included other critical disciplines of long convoy drives, living in the field environment for extended periods and practicing defence measures in a hostile environment.

As with most exercises, this one was hampered by rain from start to finish. The rain-soaked training area provided the opportunity for drivers to recall training in the perils of off-road driving that required vehicle crew self-recovery, assisted vehicle recovery and the development of much respect for the skill sets and work ethic of the recovery mechanics and their well-equipped vehicles. The recovery mechanic team were given multiple chances to exercise the new 45M's and prove their worth to Army. The situation also provided opportunities for the On-The-Job Recovery trainees to gain signoffs and move towards completing their technical qualifications.



**A satisfied group of recovery mechanics**

Throughout the exercise the Command Element tested every level of the CSSTs under arduous conditions and scenarios. The CSST members were exposed to long hours, multiple redeployments, plenty of digging of defensive positions and digging out of vehicles through the exercise. MAJ Lambert put his Command and Ops teams through their paces, which helped refine some processes to shape the way the CSST deployed and conducted logistic support in the AO.

EX Diamond Walk 21 saw the unit depart Enoggera early on 17 May 21. The purpose of the exercise was to consolidate and enhance the training already conducted during the previous two activities but on a larger scale. Approximately 80 personnel from the Wksp deployed on the EX. A Brigade Maintenance Area (BMA) was established in the training area incorporating all 7 CSSB subunits and with an attachment from 2 CER. Unit dependencies for the exercise included 6 RAR, 2 CER, 2/14 LHR QMI and 1 Fd Regt.

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With dependent units already in location in SWBTA, a few small FRTs were quickly deployed on arrival within the exercise area. The work included providing maintenance on a PMV for 7CSR at the Field of Dreams and a G-Wagon prepositioned at Camp Growl by 2/14 LHR QMI. With the final vehicle preparation (scrim and cam nets secured), issuing of weapons and controlled stores completed, the exercise commenced.

The BMA, which took up ground about the size of three football fields deep and eight football fields wide, provided younger / newer members in the CSSB with a valuable learning opportunity in the effective use of space; deployment of defensive assets; and placement of shared utilities such as the Field Power Distribution System (FPDS).

With the Command Post Modules on G-Wagon 6x6, housing many radios and communications equipment, providing power to the Bn HQ and all subunit Coy HQ was EIR PLs priority. The electrical power plan required the laying of multiple 35kg cables and distribution boxes to a radius of 300 metres from the generators in many directions, through medium density vegetation and over undulating ground. This was exhausting work for LCPL Russ Penn and his team of three "elecies". Even with extra manpower to drag cables and set up the FPDS, the team worked well into the night to meet the units' needs.



### Head down a#\*&# up as usual

During the exercise, the maintenance conducted by the vehicle mechanics in the BMA included the replacement of alternators in a G-Wagon, the replacement of a transmission on a G-wagon 6x6, coolant system flush on a PMV from 2/14 and oil sampling. A lesson was learnt when central locking caused vehicle keys to be secured inadvertently in a G-Wagon with the vehicle WOART, WO2 Ricky Solanki, resolving the matter with the skills that are acquired over years of exposure to automotive systems (or potentially his time in Townsville).

The fitters were also gainfully employed with weapon technical inspections and some ad hoc repairs on vehicles after several minor scrapes and minor collisions saw equipment requiring some minor metal-bashing to allow operations to continue. Damage to essential fuel and

water assets also kept the fitters busy with the dusty environment causing minor issues with valves and seals.

The recovery mechanics had a reasonably easy trip compared to EX Echidna Walk with only one recovery required. As recovery tasks were minimal, there was often a race to see who got the task and who in Recovery PL would turn up to observe and provide guidance when required. After a rocky start to the year for the M88 and spending a long period receiving maintenance, the WORM (WO2 Shawn Mahoney) was keen for it to be given a good run and providing it some well needed hours and lubrication through its systems.



### Armoured Recovery Vehicle on the move

The use of the MAN fleet of vehicles 40M, HX77 with associated trailers has proven to be a good capability for the Australian Defence Force. These relatively new vehicles have demonstrated their superb capacity in the field. The ability to load and unload the HX77 / Trailer in the field without the use of MHE (JCB/Merlo/Manitou forklift) has made delivery of cargo, stores on flat rack or in shipping containers more convenient and effective.

The size of these vehicles is still something being assimilated by commanders and operators alike, given the tight confines of the undulating ground exacerbated by the many trees in the workshops site. The sheer size of vehicles and trailers, combined with the increased turning circles of the trucks, often resulted in minor damage to side mirror and mud flaps.

The RPS and 6 FSC worked hard to quickly action spare parts request and demands for the repair load. This was achieved from the numerous parts stored in the Heavy Stores modules in location; being requested and obtained from Enoggera via sustainment runs; or from local suppliers in Rockhampton. Without these supply lifelines, the recovery of many more vehicles via recovery assets would have been required.

CSST deployment away from the BMA location was performed with the Lima Callsigns stepping off under the OC's control. With self-defence the primary focus, these CSST resumed the practices developed in EX Echidna Walk. The members now moved effortlessly from hide to hide, remaining undetected by the enemy (no matter how

hard they sought us) whilst providing continued support to dependencies.

With the dependency's redeploying to Brisbane approximately a week early, the consolidation of CSSB assets at Camp Growl got underway, together with refurbishment of all deployable vehicles to road worthy condition. Critically, 106 Fd Wksp Coy completed the training packages and exercise thus far in 2021 with the hierarchy more than happy that standards of service achieved by the workshop was at a high level. Although 2020 saw minor setbacks with training, 106 Fd Wksp Coy has demonstrated that it can still provide "the punch behind 7 Bde's fist" and is ready to step up to the demands of any task.

**Cameron McKenzie**  
**WO2**  
**EMEWO 106 Fd Wksp Coy**  
**7 CSSB**

### ANZAC DAY AND OTHER EVENT REPORTS

**RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School's (RAMS) ANZAC Day 2021.** ANZAC Day on the Darling Downs traditionally involves support to local communities for Dawn Services and the annual march through the bustling country town of Oakey. 2020 was the year for "driveway services" as part of *Light up the Dawn*, so we were unsure what 2021 would hold. Thus, unit staff attended the initial planning conference at the Oakey RSL, with an open mind.

With restrictions still in place, the plan was for a low-key affair involving a reduced Armed Party and limited participants for the Oakey march and day service. However, COVID restrictions were lifted just prior to ANZAC Day providing RAMS the opportunity to send a contingent to Warra for their Dawn Service, and to have maximum attendance for the service and march in Oakey.



With requests from outlying areas starting to flow in, RAMS took the initiative and volunteered for a significant number of activities. Sending soldiers and sailors (RAMS trains RAN maintainers on the MRH-90) to Warwick and Roma for pre-ANZAC Day services, it was left to the CO and SSM to speak at the local high school and host a service at one of the many nearby nursing homes. At the completion of the service at Oakey high school, the CO

**Spanner News**

and SSM sat to the rear, like Statler and Waldorf (the old blokes from the Muppets) and listened as two staff members and a trainee provided an impromptu Q&A on service life, RAEME and our support to Army aviation.

Congratulations to CFN Armstrong, CPL Muller and LT Gerrard for their input and presentation skills. From here we moved on to the CWA House, where the SSM conducted the service for the staff and residents. It was an honour to meet up with, and talk to, the residents at after the service, with no fewer than five ex-service personnel. Of note was Mr Garnett (Garney) Dillon, a WWII veteran, who weeks earlier had celebrated his 100th birthday.

As we prepared for the march through Oakey, we had a small setback when advised the High School band was not available. We were left with a solo drummer to keep us in step. A huge shout out to Mr Stuart McIntyre, the local drummer and piper, who kept the pace and the step for the contingent. On completion of the service, we handed back weapons and spent time with the local RSL branch members prior to dismissal and the inevitable game of Two-up and lunch.



To conclude the day the CO conducted a short address to the crowd at the Toowoomba Rugby League Match of the Round, between Oakey and Dalby, while the SSM presented the match ball (unfortunately the Oakey Bears went down to the Dalby Diehards). A long day was had by some, but the local community engagement was huge and will be replicated next year. Invitations have already been received for Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day.

**Jason Lehmann WO2**  
**SSM**  
**RAMS**

**Brisbane ANZAC Day Commemorations.** The traditional Brisbane ANZAC Day March stepped off around 11:15hrs to a perfect sunny Autumn Day. Lead by BRIG Ed Smeaton, our contingent flew the RAQ banner proudly, escorted by Crafties from the Technical Trainee Management Cell, ASEME, Brisbane Detachment, together with a total of 170 parade participants – a great turn-out by any measure.

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The streets were lined with thousands of cheering Brisbane residents, supporting what was one of the most remarkable parades held in recent years.



**ANZAC Day March Brisbane 2021 (Click on the image above to view the parade)**

Last year the RAQ had the pandemic to deal with, which saw commemorations become more of an individual tribute to our fallen. This year we were able to commemorate the sacrifices of veterans at Anzac Day commemorations collectively across the nation and Brisbane and Queensland. We had a stellar turnout to Marches and Functions from Brisbane, north to Townsville, with over 300 members and guests in attendance.

Our traditional “watering-hole” in Brisbane, the Port Office Hotel, looked after us again reinforcing its value as a great venue, providing wonderful service and the right atmosphere to hold our after-march activities.

Our thanks go to WO2 Nick Shaw and the soldiers from the Technical Trainee Management Cell, ASEME, Brisbane Detachment for supporting our parade, the Port Office Hotel for again putting on another great function, our committee members led by Jeff Maurice and Max Walker, and importantly all our members and guests who participated enthusiastically and in a truly great day.

Here are some of our members enjoying themselves – it is a recognition test also!





**Townsville Commemorations.** Townsville also saw large numbers of attendees turn out to commemorate in ANZAC Day in North Queensland. Despite some rain leading up to event, the skies held clear for the Gunfire Breakfast at Flynn's Hotel and the parade along the Strand which kicked off at 09:00hr.



**The New RAQ Banner proudly flying in the Townsville March (Click on the link)**

The RAQ NQ had over 110 members and guests attend the Townsville parade and proudly marched behind our new RAQ Association NQ Banner.



**March participants in Townsville**

Thank you to the staff at Flynn's Hotel for putting on a great function for our many attendees. Also, a big thank you to our North Qld Committee and again our members and guests for supporting the commemorations in North Queensland.

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**NQ OFFR/SNCO and RAQ Cocktail Party – Townsville.** The night was clear and warm, which meant the glasses were fully charged for the Annual NQ OFFR/SNCO and RAQ Cocktail Party held on Friday 18th June 2021 in Townsville. The room was packed with around 80 serving and retired members of the Corps, together with partners and guests.



**L-R: WOI Tim Costin, Mr Ian Joyce, WO2 Mat Fergusson, WOI Steve Cosstick, WOI Dean Goninan, LT Mick Li. (To view, click on any of the image)**



**WOI Arron Writer and Graeme “Ferret” Unmack. (To view, click on any of the image)**

As is the tradition at a special event, the opportunity was taken to present several companies supporting RAEME with certificates of appreciation for their continued support in North QLD. Those companies were:

- **DC Services** - Danny Cincotta (34<sup>th</sup> Intake)
- **Haulmark Trailers** - Kevin Flannigan (36<sup>th</sup> Intake)
- **Australian Expedition Vehicles (AEV)** - Mick McMillan (RAEME MAJ)
- **Graeme McLeod Mechanical** - Graeme McLeod
- **RGM Maintenance** - Brent Griffin

A big thank you to the Brothers Leagues Club and all the corporate event sponsors. The food and service were first rate with a wonderful selection of Canapés and ice-cold refreshments on offer.

**Tank Pontifex**  
**RAQ NQ**

[north@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:north@qld.raeme.org.au)



**Report on the Annual Southeast Queensland Army Apprentices Reunion 5 Jun 21.** This popular annual event was once again held at the Bulimba Bowls Club. Attendees enjoyed a typical SE QLD winter's day – sunny, fine and clear, and although the bowls club is having significant renovations, this did not detract from everyone's enjoyment. After last year's cancellation, there was a good roll-up of 120 people.

A couple of apprentices found their old ASM, Howard Thompson, who is the Bowls Master of the Club, and was busy organising a club game on the nearby rink. He along with Ian McVie, represented the oldest intake – the 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by Peter Lambert – 13<sup>th</sup>. The 14<sup>th</sup> Intake was well represented with 11 members in attendance. The most "Junior Intake" was represented by Jason Porter, a 45<sup>th</sup> VM. The largest numbers were 21 from the 30<sup>th</sup> Intake. The 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Intakes were well represented, bringing total numbers from the 30<sup>th</sup> era to 41 people.

Big thank you to Peter Thompson 21<sup>st</sup>, Phil Gibbs 24<sup>th</sup>, and Richard Pike 21<sup>st</sup>, who came early and assisted with the set up. Special thanks once again to Trish Richardson, Mary-Anne Bowyer, Debbie Gibbs and Barb Daley – these ladies did a sterling job ensuring everyone entered and were Covid compliant after signing in appropriately.



Our two BBQ chefs once again excelled themselves with their cooking, and their cleaning before and after the event – the assistance of Peter Henderson and Mick Caughey is much appreciated. Both are ex-Infantry WO1's and have supported the reunion for 20 years.

**Spanner News**



We were visited by Scott Richards from Urbis, which is a historical research organisation. Scott has been engaged to prepare a proposal to Defence for representing the heritage value and related aspects of the old Bulimba Barracks site, on behalf of the Shayher Group, which is the preferred developer of the site. Scott came seeking information on the Barracks and spoke to David Grant 14<sup>th</sup> VM and Ross Grant, 17<sup>th</sup> F&T, both past COs of 1 Base Wksp Bn, which was on site for many years. He also spoke with Peter Matthews 37<sup>th</sup> VM and Peter Thompson, 21<sup>st</sup> VM, who both served there at different times. Scott was impressed with the stories presented by these ex-apprentices and will continue with his research.

Nicholas Swadling, 24<sup>th</sup> C&J, spoke on an apprentice's initiative to build a retreat at Charleville for veterans and first responders, called "Back on Track Retreat" (Bon TR). The founders are all graduates of AAS, who have served their country in various ways. Their vision is to provide a retreat where apprentices, veterans and first responders may stay and find inner peace, recreation, rest, and be able to reflect on their experiences.

**Details.** Bon TR is open 24/7/365 days a year to these groups. Bookings are not required for either camping, or caravanning, but please advise Nick of your stay periods, so your comfort can be assured.

**POC contact.** Nicholas Swadling on M 0427106353 or by email at: [magpielanejns@outlook.com](mailto:magpielanejns@outlook.com)

**Home Address:** 235 Parry Street, Charleville, Qld, 4470.

**Directions.** Travelling from Charleville: turn right 15km from the Supa IGA into Percival Rd (Wallaby Track sign), cross the railway line, over the yellow grid with the white fence, continue along the dirt road for 4km to the Magpie Lane property sign – the gate may be open or shut on a dummy lock. Continue over the grid and follow the formed dirt road for 3-4km, take the right-hand sweeping corner, pull up near the shipping containers, and someone will be close by.

**Travelling from Cunnamulla,** you will find the truck explosion bridge site 28km south of Charleville, 13km south of Percival Rd, turn left into Percival Rd, then continue same as above.

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**Hint.** If traveling out west, check out Facebook (Army Apprentice Nomads). See the site map below:



**Date claimer:** The next Annual Apprentices Reunion will be 4 Jun 22 at Bulimba Bowling Club, Quinn St, Balmoral. **Enquiries:** Brian Daley M 0412 721 761.

**Brian Daley OAM**  
**RAQ Functions Officer**  
[functions@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:functions@qld.raeme.org.au)



**Report on RAQ Darling Downs Inaugural Luncheon and Visit to RAMS.** Many of you will remember the RAQ had locked-in the first Darling Downs function for May 2020, but unfortunately COVID put those plans on hold. However, on 22 May 21 those plans were put into effect with some 50 RAQ members and partners undertaking a successful tour of RAMS and the Australian Flying Museum, followed by the inaugural RAQ-DD lunch at the “Spotted Cow” pub in Toowoomba.

I was pleased to extend a warm welcome to our members and guests attending this first Darling Downs event – I was absolutely “chuffed” at the spirit which prevailed over lunch, but also the interest shown by everyone.

For those who hadn’t been to the Oakey Airfield before, or didn’t have an aviation background, it was quite an eye-opener as they were escorted around the training hangars at the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS). For those who may not know, this is where our soldiers and sailors learn their craft and skills for maintaining rotary winged aircraft. Displays included training aids to teach tradesmen and women all they need to know about Tiger ARH, MRH-90, Chinook, Kiowa and Blackhawk helicopters.



### Army Flying Museum Oakey May 2021

Many attendees also enjoyed the very well-presented Army Flying Museum, Oakey. One exhibit, which exemplified our Corps’ spirit, and our talented tradesmen, who served in 161 Recce Flt in SVN, was the aircraft they built in their spare time from “salvaged components” – **'Bunny II'**. The original aircraft was declared irreparable but was repaired. Finished and test flown in May 1971, the aircraft was shipped back at war’s end and sits proudly in the Museum.



### RAQ Patron BRIG Ross Grant AM (RTD) addresses the members and guests the luncheon

I’d like to express my gratitude to everyone who assisted me organise the event, as well as those who attended the inaugural RAQ-DD Functions. Also, a big thank you to the staff of the Museum, for their time and patience and organising our day. I believe that the success of the functions was due to a great team effort, and I would like to thank everyone who supported the event.

If you need to know about the happenings of the Darling Downs Chapter, or would like to assist me organise future events, please contact me at:

[southwest@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:southwest@qld.raeme.org.au)

**Pete Pile**  
**MAJ (Retd)**  
**RAQ-DD Convenor**



## STORIES FROM AROUND QLD UNITS

**The Spirit of Kokoda Lives On.** Defeat of the Japanese in PNG was achieved after many difficult and protracted battles over a 17-week period across the Owen Stanley ranges in PNG. The resilience of Australian soldiers who fought is legendary; and each year thousands of people make the pilgrimage to Kokoda to show respect for the fallen and gain a small understanding of what it was like to fight and survive in such treacherous and difficult terrain.



This year, led by CAPT Dael Liddicoat and SGT Martin Benn, members from the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) joined fellow members of the Training Centre and the Kokoda Challenge to learn more about the toughness displayed by our forebears. The challenge, run by the Kokoda Youth Foundation, was established to raise awareness for the Kokoda values of Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice by demonstrating to participants that by working together, looking out for each other, and showing commitment to a task, things that first seem impossible, can be achieved. The teams also conducted a fundraising exercise to support the Kokoda youth foundation. The money raised will fund a life-skills program for disadvantaged 15-17 year-old kids designed to stimulate personal growth and teach them the ever relevant and important Kokoda values.

The Kokoda challenge was undertaken on 17 Jul 21, to commemorate the initial defence of the Kokoda track, and saw participants covering 96km in under 39 hours in the Gold Coast Hinterland. It was a non-stop event with no sleep, and only short opportunities to stop and eat. The teams comprised of four personnel each, with members ranging from trainees to the CO. They stepped off from Mudgeeraba at 7am and didn't stop until they reach the Nerang Velodrome 96 hilly kilometres later.



While this challenge pales when compared with the efforts of the 39<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn, one of the units that fought

Spanner News

across the Kokoda Track – no one is shooting at us – it demonstrates our desire to understand the immense hardship members of that unit endured, and our promise to never forget their efforts. Each participant was more than happy to suffer a few kilometres of knee pain and blisters to show thanks for their service and sacrifice, but the trek did leave us feeling a little pain. However, we honoured their memory with “skill and fighting”.



If readers would like to show their support for a great cause, please donate to Kokoda Challenge, by visiting [www.kokodachallenge.com](http://www.kokodachallenge.com) and searching the team name “Clints”.

**Dael Liddicoat**  
CAPT  
RAMS

**ED NOTE:** *This article was originally written in “future” tense, by CAPT Liddicoat, but as the exercise was successfully completed, while this edition of SN was being prepared, I changed the tense to “Past”. I am advised trek was very tough, but the team triumphed despite the hardship endured.*

**Former United States Marine finds a home in RAEME.** It's been a long road for John Stripsky, but after decades travelling the world, he finds himself at home in Oakey. Born in the 1960s in the small coal mining town of Parkersburg West Virginia, John had effectively two options when he left school: become a coal miner, like his father; or join the military. John chose the latter.

Soon after High School John found himself at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina (John ain't no Hollywood Marine). It is at Parris Island where John would turn from a fresh faced 5-foot 2-inch 130-pound schoolboy into a 6-foot 3-inch 230-pound man of “twisted steel and sex appeal”. From Parris Island John would travel the world as a United States Marine upholding “freedom, honour (sic), loyalty... and the American way”.

In the 1990's, in a small town in Germany, John met a young Australian girl named Pam Parkins, and the rest as they say in the classics, is history. The two soon married and Pam and John decided that Australia was the best

RAEME Association Queensland Inc

place in the world to live, and after eight years in his beloved USMC, John left the service to become an Australian (good choice John).



John loved life in Australia, particularly the mateship, and as he wanted to serve his adopted country, he decided he'd give the Australian Army a go. In January 2001, he completed recruit training at 1 RTB. It wasn't Parris Island, but the course pressure, and the bond between mates, was familiar. John would go on to qualify as an Aircraft Technician in RAEME.

Asked why he chose RAEME, John will tell you it is because he loves the esprit de corps "which is without comparison". He will also tell you that he loves being at the cutting edge of technology and serving his adopted country with "skill and fighting". If visiting Oakey, you happen to hear a strange accent, say g'day it might just be the 6-foot 3 inch (190mm) ex-marine John Stripsky.

**Trent Groves CSC**  
**LTCOL**  
**CO/CI**  
**RAMS**



### **RAQ SUNSHINE COAST ANNUAL LUNCHEON – SAT 11 SEP 21.**

COVID permitting, this year's RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Annual Luncheon will be held at the Maroochy RSL on Saturday 11 Sep 21. We are pleased to announce our guest speaker this year is Retired LTCOL Ron Parello, who had a very interesting Army career, but who is still contributing to the ADF in his capacity as GM Dingo Defence, an Australian company which produces 'cloud-based predictive maintenance systems' – it will be another interesting luncheon and guest speaker.

The Maroochy RSL has again agreed to waiver the cost of room and projector/screen hire and offset the price of the lunch to the sum of \$10.00 per head for the first 80 attendees. The RAQ Executive has also agreed to subsidise our event to the tune of \$8.00 per head – t lunch for members and their partners will be \$40.00 per head.

Invitations will be despatch to members of the RAQ on 6 Aug 21, but feel free to invite newcomers, or members of the Corps who are in the vicinity of the Sunshine Coast

**Spanner News**

over the weekend of 11 Sep 21. Bookings can be made now via the [RAQ website](#).

We look forward to seeing you again on the Sunny Coast.

**Ross Grant & Mike Prain**  
**Lunch Convenors**  
**RAQ Sunshine Coast Chap**



### **RAEME RESERVE / CMF REUNION 2021**

The Annual Reunion is open to all serving and ex members of RAEME (Army Reserve/CMF or Regular Army) or associated Corps, who served with RAEME ARES/CMF units, their families and other people who were associated with RAEME, and who wish to renew past friendships. Ex cadre staff members most welcome. On the day you will be treated to:

- great raffles for books and vouchers,
- video clips featuring the presentation of the Prince Philip Banner at Bandiana 1986, and
- drinks at bar prices and many personal photos from private collections.

Date	Sunday 22 Aug 21
Venue	Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSLA Subbranch 2 Clewley St, Corinda (Next to the Corinda Railway Station)
Time	11:00 to 16:00 hours
Dress	Casual
Cost	<b>No cost- just buy raffle tickets</b>
Catering	BBQ
RSVP	14 Aug 21 – Please respond for catering purposes

If you know of anyone interested in attending who may not be aware of the function could you pass on this information and invite them to contact John Parfitt Tel: 33761778 Mob 0478897943  
[iparfitt@biqpond.net.au](mailto:iparfitt@biqpond.net.au)

### **RAEME NATIONAL NETWORK (RNN)**

**Message from the new National Chair/Coordinator – Ross Grant.** Since being appointed in April 21, I have been "reading" myself into the job and trying to identify where I can best use my time and knowledge. I have also come to terms with using the excellent national IT communications system provided by the RAEME National (Network) Support Team (RNST).

As a result, I recently sent an email to all State and Territory Associations setting out where I think I can assist them and what my focus will be with their help and advice. These areas include the following:

- **Roles of the RAEME Associations.** Focussing on the common themes of Corp Instruction No 31, which are outlined in full at paragraph 3, and include:
  - Promoting the Corps' identity and reputation,

**RAEME Association Queensland Inc**

- recognising and celebrating the achievements of the members of the Corps, and
- providing a focal point for Corps activities.
- **Role of the COORD RNN.** The role of the RNN Coordinator is to provide support, assistance and a focal point for the “RAEME Family”, including the RAEME Regional Associations, other RAEME affiliated groups, Head of Corps and RAEME serving members.
- **Membership and Membership Transference.** I am concerned more Associations may “wither on the vine”, so it behoves us all to work hard at refreshing, or growing, our membership - I routinely get enquiries on the RNN website about membership of Associations, so my most pressing need is to ensure these inquiries are directed to the right area. I am also concerned that current members retain membership when they move interstate.
- **Levels of Activity.** Each Association has, or should, determine an appropriate level of activity or operating model, to suit the specific needs of each association, region or jurisdiction – that is a given.
- **Communications.** I will make sure the various Association newsletters are passed on as best as I can, but we have a wonderful asset in the RNN website and IT system, so why not post newsletters there?
- **RAEME Craftsman Magazine.** MAJ Howell, the SO2 Corps in the HOC Cell, and I have discussed whether the Associations can help and contribute articles. He is very keen for that to happen, while considering options for distributing and publishing the magazine in the future. He will advise further.
- **Website Utility and Accessing Technical Support.** Alex Smithers, who resides in Perth, monitors the RNN IT network and with the assistance of Adrian Butcher, in Brisbane, and Morgan Cornelius in Melbourne, Dean Ellis in Townsville and the person who hosts our network data, Richard Legge, we have a dedicated team who are ready to help. I know Lyell Wedd in the ACT, and others, can be co-opted if necessary.
- **Funding Support.** Most Associations and unit members don’t know that the Corps Committee may subsidise some important Corps events, IAW CI No 3 “RAEME Corps Fund Charter – it is worth a read.
- **Miscellaneous Items** – there may be many miscellaneous issues and items you’d like me to consider – we still await the advice on a replacement COL in CHIEF RAEME with the passing of Prince Phillip.

Ross L G Grant AM  
CHAIR RNN



Spanner News

## SPANNER PACK – MAY TO JULY 2021

A further 30 Spanner Packs were dispatched to our soldiers on operations in May 2021 and another 20 were dispatched in July 2021. This now brings the total number of packs dispatched since Op Spanner Pack was formed in 2008 to 4782 packs (approx 9.5 Ton). As all would appreciate, as the numbers of packs dispatched decrease, fewer of our Corps members are on operations or in harm’s way.

This begs the question about the future of Spanner Pack Program now that most troops are home and that topic will be discussed shortly within the Executive of the RAQ, and more widely across the RAEME National Network.

As a result of the May despatch, I have received the following response from WO1 Jason McLinden, who was the OIC MEOMS at Al Minhad Air Base – United Arab Emirates:

*Giddy Ray,*

*Today myself and my team received our “Spanner Packs”. I firstly must extend a warm and hearty thank you to yourself and to the RAEME National Network, via the RAEME Association Queensland, on behalf of my team for these packs, these will go a long way to enhancing our day.*

*I have included a photo of the boys with their packs, you will notice we are not solely an ARMY team as we are a combined unit, and for the Workshop, we are a mix of Army and RAAF spread across two workshops maintaining the regular suite of Army equipment (weapons, Bushmasters, and a variety of electronic equipment) as well as Ground Support Equipment for the flight line.*



*Once again thank you for the Spanner Packs - they were well received and much appreciated.*

For readers, who may wish to assist, please note we do need your help, so if you can donate items, or money, please visit the shop on the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Website at [www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) where you will find a “make a donation” tag.

Arte et Marte

Raymond Norman  
RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator  
[RNN@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:RNN@qld.raeme.org.au)



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### RAQ COMING EVENTS.

The following are the key social events happening in and around Queensland for the rest of 2021. For further details on any events, please contact the RAQ Functions Officer at: [functions@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:functions@qld.raeme.org.au)

Event	Date
RAQ Gold Coast Lunch - Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC	31-Jul-21
RAQ NQ - Social Gathering - Thuringowa RSL	21-Aug-21
RAQ RAEME CMF/Reserve Reunion - Indooroopilly/Sherwood RSL Subbranch	22-Aug-21
RAQ Sunshine Coast Lunch - Maroochydore	11-Sep-21
RAQ NQ - Social Gathering Townsville (proposed)	Mid Nov 21
RAQ All Ranks Luncheon - Brisbane	5-Dec-21
79th RAEME Birthday Celebrations	1-Dec-21
RAEME Birthday NQ – Townsville	1 Dec 21

### VALE

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

- O'Day, Pat** (19<sup>th</sup> VM) passed away on 26 Mar 21. Pat served in various RAEME workshops, and after discharging, had a successful career in the financial sector. In recent years Pat recently suffered from pulmonary fibrosis which was compounded over the Christmas period when he contracted pneumonia.
- Pooley, Beverley**, wife of Harry, passed away in January. Our sympathies go out to Harry and his family.
- Ivanoff, SSGT (Retd) Alexander George**, passed away on 17 Mar 21. He served with 1st Div EME and 104 Fd Wksp. Memorial service was held 8 May 21 at Mt Thompson Crematorium, Holland Park.
- Webb, Robert (Bob)** (19<sup>th</sup> F&T), passed away on 18 Apr 21 in Blayney NSW. Robert served with 6 RAR on its 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of Vietnam, May 69 to May 70 and then extended his tour with 102 Fd Wksp from May to Dec 1970. A private cremation and memorial service was held at the Blayney RSL Sub-branch.
- Warwick, Barrie James**, passed away 2 May 21. Barrie served in 1<sup>st</sup> (Indep) Armd Sqn Wksp and 1<sup>st</sup> Armd Sqn Wksp in SVN between Jan 68 and Jan 69. His funeral was held on 5 May 21 at Victory Church, Bridgeman Downs.
- Rickards, Ted**, passed away on 26 Apr 21. Ted served in SVN with C squadron LAD in 67 & 68, and on his return, he served with 101 Fd Wksp. He had lived in Hervey Bay for many years until his death.
- Thompson, WO1 (Retd) Robert Charles "Bob"**, passed away on 5 May 21 aged 91, after a short illness. Bob came to RAEME from the RAAF, did conversion training and later an artificer's course. He was the first EIS WO at HQ AFV and later an artificer at 106 Fd Wksp. Bob was instrumental in raising the RAEME Info website which can be accessed via <https://info.raeme.org.au>
- Playford, MAJ (Retd) Rohan "Rusty" Paul** 33rd VM, passed away on 9 May 21 after a long battle with cancer. Rusty's funeral was held on 21 May 21 at Norwood Park Crematorium.
- Ellis, WO1 (Retd) John "Jack"**, passed away on 26 May 21 after a long battle with illness including cancer. Jack was born on 23 Jul 34 at Ipswich. He served in 161 Recce Flt and 161 (Indep) Recce Flt from 29 April 1966 until 26 April 1967 as the Sergeant in charge of the Electrical Section.
- O'Brien, David William** (14th F&T) passed away on 29 May 2021 in Wangaratta Hospital following a battle with several serious medical issues. David served in Vietnam with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt from 14 Sep 65 until 20 Sep 66.
- Caldwell, CPL (Retd) Henry Elworthy "Corky"** OAM, WW2 veteran, passed away suddenly on 11 Jun 21 aged 101 years. "Corkey" served in AEME/RAEME from 5 Sep 41 to 3 Apr 46. [See this link](#) for further details.
- Gibson, BRIG (Retd) Ken Arthur**, passed away peacefully on 14 Jun 21 surrounded by family. Ken had a long and successful career in RAEME culminating with his appointment as DGEME-A, from Jan 76 to Jan 78. Loved and respected by so many in the Corps. He was 95 years old. See this [link for more details](#).
- Maunsell, CPL (Retd) Maurice "Maurie"**, passed away 23 Jun 21 aged 98. He was born in Brisbane, Queensland. Enlisting on 8 Dec 41, as a skilled Instrument Mechanic, he became a founding member of AEME on 1 Dec 42. Maurice was a Life Subscriber of the RAQ and received a Chairman's Award in 2016 for his contributions to the RAQ. He was a regular attendee at ANZAC Day Functions and Corps Birthday functions. He was interned at Nudgee Cemetery, QLD.
- Lowry, MAJ (Retd) Douglas Milsom**, passed away peacefully in Wesley Hospital 27 Jun 21 aged 79. Doug fought a long battle with a blood cancer. He served in SVN with AFV Detachment, 1st Div Sup Tpt Wksp 19 Feb 68 to 25 Aug 68 and A Sqn, 3rd Cav Regt LAD 26 Aug 68 to 21 Feb 69. He was farewelled at Lakeview Chapel, Albany Creek Memorial Park, Bridgeman Downs, QLD.
- Kenefick, SGT (Retd) Kevin** (20<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away 5 Jul 21 in Hervey Bay. Kev served in the Army aviation capability most notably with 183 (Indep) Recce Flt PNG from 1974-76.

- **Smiley, MAJ (Retd)** Jack Irving (14<sup>th</sup> Elec Mech) passed away on 5 Jul 21. Jack was well known in the Corps as “Radiac Jack” from his time as OC RADIAC Calibration Centre 4 Base Wksp Bn.
- **Trigg, LTCOL (Retd)** Norman “Norm” Alexander passed away 15 Jul 21 following a period of hospitalisation. Norm was born in Warrnambool on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1928. Funeral arrangements are uncertain because of the Coronavirus lockdown in Victoria.
- **Rawling, SGT (Retd)** William “John” Rawling passed away on 10 Jul 21. John was born on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 37 at Mudgee, NSW. He was posted to 161 (Indep) Recce Flt SVN 14 Oct 65 until 19 Sep 66. John completed a second tour with 1st Fd Sqn Wksp from 25 Mar 68 until 4 Mar 69. A private family funeral service was held for John in Townsville, QLD.

## WELFARE

RAQ has been advised of the following:

- **Muir, Ken**, the RAQ has been advised that Ken has dementia and is now in Birkdale Regis Private Nursing Home.
- **Wilkins, Paul** “Pom” has been diagnosed with Parkinson Disease. If you would like to give Paul and Rosemary a call, their mobile numbers are 0407 363 922 or 0401 480 838.
- **Lidster, Paul** is in the General Rehab Section at the Baillie Henderson Hospital in Toowoomba recovering from a hip surgery and a mild heart attack. Contact phone for the Baillie Henderson Section is 07 4699 7086. Ask to speak with Paul and the nurse will check.

**As a reminder**, please advise me of any brethren and sisters in distress, or who have passed, with pertinent and accurate detail in a timely way. Email me at the address below with details of welfare matters in Queensland.

**Barry Shipway**  
**Welfare Officer**  
[welfare@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:welfare@qld.raeme.org.au)



## DFWA AND DVA MATTERS IN SUMMARY

**New Legislation establishing a Qld Veterans’ Council (QVC).** On 22 April, the Qld Premier and Minister for Trade, Anastacia Palaszczuk, introduced the QVC Bill into Parliament. The QVC will have three areas of responsibility as spelt out below.

**Anzac Square.** Currently the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council. In lead up to the Centenary of Anzac a project to rehabilitate ANZAC Square was initiated. A total of \$21.98 million was invested by the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments as well as

the Brisbane City Council. The project was run by a committee. Unfortunately, the square was literally a building site for most of the Centenary commemorative events and only the actual Shrine of Remembrance was usable. The QVC Act is largely focussed putting in place measures to ensure ongoing proper management.

**Trustees under the Anzac Day Act 1995.** This Act establishes ANZAC Day as a public holiday and manages grant schemes to support veteran organisations and maintenance of memorials and facilities. Four veterans drawn from the veteran community will assess grant applications.

**Advice to Government on Veteran Matters.** This was previously the role of the Qld Veterans’ Advisory Council comprising about 10 councillors selected from applications from veterans and nominations from the veteran community.

While supportive of the concept of the QVC, DFWA had strong reservations about some aspects of the Act. The focus of the Act was to address the shortcomings regarding ANZAC Square in the Centenary commemorations. This skewed the qualification requirements for members of the QVC. Eight members were to be appointed by the Governor as advised by Minister. Only two were to be from the veteran community:

In submissions to the parliamentary committee and subsequent hearing, DFWA raised several concerns, but especially:

- the view the Veterans’ Council, with only 25% veterans, lacked credibility.
- there being no indication that preference would be given to veterans for the four positions, requiring “bricks and mortar” and public works skillsets; and
- the skillsets and experience required to maintain and manage ANZAC Square were different from those advising and assessing veteran support issues.

Copies of submissions and transcripts and video of the Hearings can be found on the [Qld Parliament website](#).

Since then, DFWA has held discussions with the Premier, Leader of the Opposition, some Ministers and with opposition and government MPs. The Premier has now indicated that QVC will comprise at least 50% veterans as well as the Chairperson. The committee tabled its report on 11 June 2021. The Bill will be debated in Parliament in due course. It is expected to be in force by mid-2022.

**Taxation of Invalidity Benefits.** Members eligible for the new taxation treatment of their Class A or B pensions should by now be having their PAYG tax sorted out and receiving the increased payments as a result. The ATO is rolling out refunds of overpaid tax back to FY 2010/11 using a streamlined process. Recovery of overpaid tax in previous FYs requires individuals to initiate objections.

RAEME Association Queensland Inc

There have also been glitches due to very slow processing by CSC, especially related to meeting the requirement for two doctors' certificates. Links to information provided by the ATO and Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation are on the [DFWA website](#).

Any veteran receiving Class A or B pensions from DFRDB or MSBS should seek advice from an accountant or tax advisor.

**Senate Report into DFRDB Commutation, Indexation and Life Expectancy Tables.** The Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade (FADT) Reference Committee conducted an Inquiry starting in April into DFRDB. It effectively rubber-stamped the Ombudsman Report on the same subject and produced the following recommendations.

- The Australian Govt. is to improve the information provided about DFRDB and other military superannuation schemes.
- DFRDB members who claim to have been financially disadvantaged by information provided to them will receive assistance in lodging claims with the Dept of Defence under the Compensation for Detriment (CDDA) Scheme.
- DFRDB members who were unsuccessful in their claims, and any appeals under the CDDA scheme, may be eligible for some form of reparation payment instead.

Submissions and transcripts of hearings can be found [here at this link](#)

**John Lewis**  
President  
Defence Force Welfare Association



### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Readers may have noticed recent editions of Spanner News have grown from our usual 12 pages to bumper editions – as an editor I have an “embarrassment of riches”, which means I must cull some articles. It also means I have been very well supported by all my loyal contributors in Queensland – I thank you sincerely for your assistance. Our readership appreciates the information you provide about the activities involving our RAEME units and our local RAEME family.

Many of you will have already participated in several RAQ events in the first half of 2021. We have had large attendances at the events in Brisbane, Townsville, Toowoomba and Oakey and on the Gold Coast – this pleases the RAQ Executive because it means our family wants to get out and participate, Covid willing, but also means you value the efforts of our organisers. May I thank you for supporting our events – as you know a lot of work goes into organising such activities, so if you think you can help, please get in touch with the RAQ Executive.

Spanner News

With such involvement from the Executive and RAQ members alike, we truly think the RAQ is honouring one of our association's key goals – “celebrating our Corps”. We also understand, that after being somewhat restricted by Covid, you want to socially engage with friends and colleagues again after such a long break. Good on you!

The feature unit in this edition of Spanner News, 2 Cav Regt Spt Sqn and TST, is important because this unit has undergone significant change in recent years, and for those older readers with a background in supporting armour, you will note significant changes to the mix of platforms in an Armoured Cavalry Regiment. I appreciate the support from 2 Cav Regt despite their busy training year.

**Arte et Marte**  
**Ross Grant**  
Chairman Comms Committee  
[commschair@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:commschair@qld.raeme.org.au)



### ONLINE SHOP - NEW ASSOCIATION PEN

Pens are Back! We now have in stock new RAEME Association pens.



The new Stylus pen has a useful silicone nib on its nose. A click action pen which you can write with or which you can use on your tablet and smartphone.

- MEMBERS: \$2.70
- Non-Members: \$3.00

Click on the images above to buy now!

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## “WITH SKILL AND FIGHTING: CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1942-2014”.

For those yet to buy the Corps memoir, here is detail on how to obtain a copy. It may also be a great Christmas gift for someone who has served in the Corps. The Corps RSM, **WOI Scott Collard** and the acting SO2 Corps Heritage, **WOI Reinhold Dekrell**, are managing sales.

To purchase a book, you will need to make a deposit of \$40.00 by electronic transfer to the following account:  
 RAEME Corps Fund  
 BSB – 833205  
 Acct – 20509705

Once payment is made, please send an email to: [RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAEME.HOCCell@defence.gov.au) and add the CC address of WOI Dekrell, [reinhold.dekrell1@defence.gov.au](mailto:reinhold.dekrell1@defence.gov.au) together with proof of payment (a scanned receipt of deposit), point of contact details and an up-to-date delivery address. The HOC Cell will distribute the book upon confirmation of payment.

In the email, please ensure you include your name, delivery address and contact phone number. Should you have any queries, please contact the HOC Cell directly on (02) 6055 2274, prior to ordering. Books should be despatched within 28 days of ordering and every effort will be made to inform you of despatch details.

## Latest RAQ Merchandise

Now that COVID restrictions have improved for some, it's time to get out and about. For those golfers amongst you, why not keep cool on the course wearing an Association polo shirt along with a Corps cap, and whether it is hot or raining, a large umbrella in Corps colours – you will be the envy of your playing partners.

Perfect for the coming winter days, while refreshing your Corps knowledge and read an absorbing account of the Corps from our most recent Corps memoir, “With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014”.

All these items and many others are available through the RAQ website at: <https://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/shop> then go to the “Shop” section and select whatever you fancy.

Don't forget, if you are a flag-waving paid up member of the RAQ, you are entitled to a discount on the stated price.

# \$25 OFF\* RACQ Batteries

\*\$25 rebate on the purchase of any RACQ battery. Discount off RRP. Rebate is valid for QLD RAEME ASSC members only. Rebate is for the battery only. Redemption is to RACQ Batteries PO Box 4 Springwood QLD 4127. Member must post this voucher and a copy of the tax invoice from either RACQ or the RACQ Battery stockist clearly indicating the name of the supplier, battery part number, your name, address and ASSC member number only. A cheque will be posted to the address supplied. Voucher is valid for batteries purchased 1 May 2021 - 30 April 2022 and must be used by 30 June 2022.

13 1905 > [racq.com](http://racq.com)

**RACQ**