



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**RAEME Association Queensland members – welcome to Edition 2-18 Spanner News.** Our first event for 2018 was the ANZAC Day March and the after-March “private” function at the renowned Port Office Hotel. This year almost 200 people attended, which was a wonderful turn-out despite several conflicting events in Brisbane. Sadly, numbers were down because many apprentices were attending their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities in Canberra – that was another very successful event held over three days in which your association was involved!

A major task undertaken in the first half of 2018 has been a review of the way our association conducts business, culminating in the rewrite of the RAQ Constitution. The review has seen valuable input from the committee and a significant number of other interested and willing members incorporated into the new draft constitution. That draft has been completed and distributed for members - the RAQ will vote on adopting the constitution at the next Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 1830hrs. All positions will be declared vacant and elections held, so please make the effort to be there, and enjoy the after-meeting meal with our members at the Kedron-Wavell Service Club, 21 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside, Brisbane.

Our association Secretary, Shad Marsh, has moved to Darwin with his work in the ADF, and to our great fortune, Reid Ossington, who not too long ago took on the Assistant Secretary position, stepped up to the role of Secretary and has been doing an outstanding job. To Shad, the committee wishes you all the best and thanks you for a job well done.

I look forward to another great year and hope to see you at one of our RAQ gatherings or functions.

**Jeff Maurice**  
**Chairman RAQ**  
[chairman@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:chairman@qld.raeme.org.au)



## FROM THE COL COMDT – COL TONY BORG

I'd like to begin with an acknowledgement of all who took part in this year's ANZAC Day events across QLD. RAEME representation across all the major cities in QLD and a number of smaller towns was exemplary – you should all be proud of your efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the RAEME Association Queensland for supporting another great ANZAC Day march and post-march activity.

Over the last few weeks, many of the RAEME ARA and ARES soldiers across Queensland have been taking part in Exercise HAMEL, and no doubt, have been extremely busy maintaining Army's equipment across a wide and harsh environment. Of particular note, has been the maintenance of equipment in support of the highly publicised amphibious missions that took place during the course of Exercise Hamel. Operating in this kind of environment poses significant challenges to the maintenance of equipment across extended lines of communications and highly corrosive environments. The article on page 13 gives you a sense of what units are required to do these days on exercises. Significant preparations would also have occurred to ensure that equipment availability was maintained at a high level.

By now most soldiers will have returned to base locations and are now in the process of preparing for the next phase of the force generation cycle (FGC). Additionally, a number of RAEME soldiers are about to deploy in support of operations in Iraq: we wish them well and a safe return from operations.

Lastly, it's almost time for Craftsman of the Year (COTY) nominations. To all commanders, I know it's a busy time of the year, but this task is also very important. I was particularly impressed by last year's contributions; however, the number of nominations was low considering the number of RAEME soldiers serving in Queensland. I look forward to seeing the 2018 QLD nominations very soon.

**Tony Borg**  
**COL COMDT – QLD**  
[tony.borg@defence.gov.au](mailto:tony.borg@defence.gov.au)



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## FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE RAQ.

In May I took up the reins as Secretary to the RAQ. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shad Marsh for his tireless efforts to the association over the last few years. Shad not only executed his role as Secretary with diligence, but he also assisted in many other ways,

including organising several RAQ events, most importantly our annual Birthday luncheon held in November.

RAQ is an incorporated organisation, and as such, it manages your association with sound governance under ASIC guidelines. Shad has been key to ensuring it operates as a professional and compliant organisation, and most recently, he initiated work to update the RAQ's constitution. That work is nearly finished.

Personally, may I thank Shad for his mentoring and preparing me for the role of secretary of the RAQ, and I wish him all the best with his endeavours in Darwin.

**This now leaves a position vacant for Assistant Secretary. The role is supportive and requires monthly attendance at our meetings and to stand-in as minute taker should I not be available. If you are available, please email [secretary@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@qld.raeme.org.au).**

If you want more information on what is happening in the wider Army and RAQ? Connect with us on LinkedIn at RAEME Association QLD and come to our meetings regularly.

**Reid Ossington**  
**Secretary RAQ**  
[secretary@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@qld.raeme.org.au)



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**ASEME OJT Cell.** We have been featuring articles from the young men and women who are undergoing the final stages of their trade training at the OJT Cell at Enoggera. Here is another view on why a young person sought an opportunity to undertake technical training and eventually join the Corps – sound familiar? In this article CFN Ben Clifford tells us his story:

*“Two years after completing my HSC and realising it was time to leave the nest, and not knowing how much more of the ridiculous customer requests I could take in the hospitality industry, I decided it was time to move on: ‘No, I’m sorry Ma’am, but I cannot make the Salmon taste less like fish.’ \*Face palm\*. It was also time to say goodbye to my life as a chef and my much-loved hometown, of Waratah, NSW.*

*I had always been interested in a career with the Australian Army, and with a strong desire to gain a civilian recognised trade and my interest in “hands on work”, I commenced my journey to becoming a Fitter Armourer.*

*After 80 long days at the “Home of a Soldier”, 1 RTB Kapooka, I entered Bandiana to begin my Trade*

*Training. The first four weeks of Training was Common Induction Training (CIT), where I felt like I had stepped on the wrong bus to go to work and ended up at University! The four-week block included Mathematics, English and RAEME history. After a lot of assistance from both military and civilian instructors, it was time to start the 18-24-month long haul in the Arts and Crafts Wing (ACW).*

*I experienced a rather steep learning curve, and a lot of challenges throughout trade training, but I was well supported again by the very experienced ASEME instructors. The amount of experience and high level of training I was given at ACW gave me the confidence, that when I marched out I would be able to safely undertake my job to a high standard. Very soon, I was on a parade ground in front of family and friends marching out of ASEME, and quickly en route to the OJT Cell, Brisbane, where my real career journey was about to begin.*

*Starting OJT was incredible. I had a new OJT detachment every month to both military and civilian organisations. This provided me with a very broad range of learning experiences and a chance to test the skills learnt at ASEME. I also met many different characters from all walks of life which gave me a chance to establish some contacts within the wider Defence and Brisbane community. I have thoroughly enjoyed my detachments so far, and with my time coming to an end, I believe I have learnt much which will be useful in the next phase of my career.*

*To anyone looking to follow a similar career path, I can highly recommend this experience. Remember, OJTs is about learning and gathering as much knowledge you can from the people around you. Stay on top of filling out your Competency Log Book (CLB). It can feel overwhelming at times, but you just have to do a little bit every few nights. It will also be useful on completion of OJT as there won't be anyone to hold your hand and you want to be confident you are doing your job to the best of your ability.”*

**CFN Ben Clifford**  
**(on behalf of)**  
**ALLEN STEPHENSON WO2**  
**TTMO – BRISBANE ASEME**



PORT OFFICE HOTEL

## ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SCHOOL (RAMS) – ANZAC DAY 2018, OAKEY.

“With the going down of the sun .....”, so ends another ANZAC Day. This year Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School’s (RAMS) main effort was centred on the Oakey services. The day commenced with the mounting of a Catafalque Party, consisting of RAMS personnel, at the Dawn Service. Held in the crisp morning air of the Darling Downs, over 500 people attended the service, including RAMS members paying their respects. The Day Service was also a moving occasion, with approximately 20 floral tributes being laid by members of the public and family of those remembered. RAMS provided the armed body for the Day Service, with the CO RAMS, LTCOL B Nelson, as the reviewing officer. Approximately 700 people attended this service. RAMS also provided members for the AAvm Training Centre armed body at the Toowoomba Day Service and guest speakers for Dalby (CAPT J Squires); Goondiwindi (CAPT M Fairbanks-Smith); and Pittsworth (MAJ P Pile). As always RAMS members were proud to support local community commemoration of ANZAC Day 2018.



**Catafalque Party mounted for Dawn Service**



**RAMS Armed Body Campbell St Oakey**

**WO2 Brett Mesken  
SSM RAMS**

## COMING EVENTS

**PLACE THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDARS: RAMS WILL HOST RAEME 76<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WITH AN ALL-RANKS DINNER AT THE ARMY AVIATION TRAINING CENTRE ON FRI 30 NOV 18. DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**

RAQ EVENT	DATE
<b>RAQ Gold Coast Chapter Luncheon Mermaid Beach Surf Club</b>	18 Aug 2018
<b>RAEME ARES/CMF Annual Luncheon Sherwood RSL</b>	19 Aug 18
<b>RAQ Annual All Ranks Luncheon Port Office Hotel Brisbane</b>	11 Nov 18
<b>RAEME ACFT MAINT SCHOOL Annual Corps Birthday Dinner Oakey</b>	30 Nov 18
<b>RAEME Birthday Celebrations</b>	1 Dec 18

**RAEME GOLD COAST ANNUAL LUNCH – 18 AUG 18.** Recent Friday Files have provided detail on the next RAEME Gold Coast lunch. Your organisers have been in contact with the Mermaid Beach (AEME) SLS Club and have confirmed the following details:

- **Lunch date:** Saturday 18 Aug 2017
- **Venue:** Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Lifesaving Club
- **Timings:** 1200 hours till you get kicked out

The organisers of the 2018 Gold Coast lunch invite ex and serving RAEME people, their friends and partners to join us in an iconic venue, built by AEME people in 1945, to a pleasant lunch. Some 40 people have indicated their intention to attend the lunch, so far, and this final notice is a quick reminder of this popular event. Please get in touch with us by emailing your intention to attend to: [beans55289@iprimus.com.au](mailto:beans55289@iprimus.com.au)

**Ed (Beans) Bevans  
& Barry Skinner  
Convenors  
RAQ Gold Coast Chapter**



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## CORPS HAPPENINGS

**RAEME Corps Conference.** The RAEME Corps Conference will be held in Randwick Barracks, Sydney, from 23 to 24 Oct 2018. The Conference will discuss seven topics critical to the modernisation of Army maintenance. These discussions will provide the official Corps position informing Army's acquisition, sustainment, recruiting and training processes.

**Topic One** will review how the Corps can use the technical and trade knowledge of our personnel to influence the Employment Category Review within a rapidly modernising Army and its system of equipment maintenance.

**Topic Two** will develop potential solutions to the maintenance of system or systems, and other integrated capabilities, including the use of OEMs and contractors, intellectual property concerns, and the training required to support new maintenance systems.

**Topic Three** builds a Corps position on Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) and Repair (BDR). BDA/R is governed under the TRAMM-L and DEFLOGMAN, but they focus on who can authorise it – the CDF – and how it is governed when it is authorised.

**Topic Four** examines the fundamental relationship in a workshop – that of the Workshop Commander and the Artificer Sergeant Major and the tendency for the junior workshop commanders to be seen more as platoon commanders and administrators vs technical managers.

**Topic Five** is a proposal for a system to provide technical advice on trade matters taking into account Army's modernisation and strategic environment. A single POC for all technical trade matters will provide consistent advice aligned with Army's requirements.

**Topic Six** will provide a Regimental Pathway for Craftsmen that provides detailed guidance on becoming an RSM. Just as the Corps has officers that choose between command and technical professions, so too Craftsmen have choice between a trade and a leadership career.

**Topic Seven** addresses the issue of diversity (education and trade backgrounds, prior service and employment etc) within the Corps. How can the Corps assist Army's recruiting efforts to attract potential soldiers and officers? Is this primarily a matter for recruiting?

It is only through thorough research and wide-ranging discussion that the Corps will develop robust ideas for maintenance modernisation.

**Perri Hobbs MAJ**  
**SO2 Corps - RAEME | HOC Cell**  
**Latchford Barracks | Bonegilla VIC**



## **Plan CENTAUR Commencing Final Stage of Implementation.**

Plan CENTAUR, Army's reform program to improve Land materiel effectiveness, has been approved to undertake its final 18-months of work to implement reforms that

have been directed or recommended through the Program's lifespan.

COL Colin Blyth, Director CENTAUR, said that work undertaken by the Program to date has set the conditions for reform to occur and projects completed in previous stages have developed capabilities to enable structural changes to be made. Projects undertaken in the most recent stage of the Program include:

**Land Maintenance Strategy:** A strategic framework that articulates how Land materiel maintenance is performed was agreed by CASAC on 27 July.

**Activity Based Equipment Management - PMV Optimisation:** An analysis of Army's requirements for the Protected Mobility Vehicle fleet and developing options to address sustainment costs.

**Enhanced Maintenance Decisions Part 2:** Development of version 1 of a visual support tool to provide commanders and planners with future equipment demand and availability data fused from ACMS and MILIS.

**Maintenance Task Analysis:** Conducting and implementing Reliability Centred Maintenance (RCM) activities on selected systems and sub-systems for M1A1 Abrams.

**FORGEN Demand Part 2:** Defining the asset usage of major fleets across 7 Brigade.

Commencing in August and structured around three Lines of Effort (LOE), work on CENTAUR's final stage will include:

### **LOE1:**

**Enhancing Decision Making:** Tools that synchronise forecasting, usage and maintenance/reliability data to inform acquisition, sustainment and operational decision making.

**Strategic Asset Management:** Provide those responsible for delivering Land capability with synthesised data to support Army's development of the capability requirement, the allocation of sustainment resources and management of risks.

**Activity Based Equipment Forecasting:** Generate accurate and enduring forecast of Land materiel requirements that are aligned to the achievement of directed outputs to support efficient use and improved sustainment practices.

**Enhanced Decision Support Tools.** Provide improved visual support tools with business intelligence views to support daily decision making from unit to SPO on expanded fleets, with fused ACMS demand against MILIS actuals, and a predictive maintenance liability modelling function.

### LOE2 and LOE3.

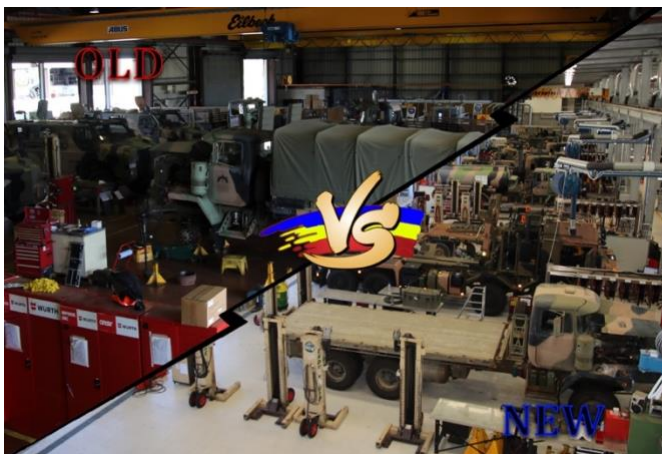
More detail will be provided in the next edition of Spanner News and in Friday Files on LOE2 and LOE3 on this important program for Army. In summary, COL Blythe, Director CENTAUR, said: “The reforms are designed to support a modernised Land Force and inform the decisions about introducing new capability – ensuring support systems are by design, not default. Army is also improving its Smart Buyer credentials to ensure capability risks are understood and that Land materiel is affordable in the future.”

### Plan CENTAUR Team

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### 102 FD WKSP COY - OLD VS NEW FACILITIES

In April 2018, 3 CSSB transitioned into a new workshop which the unit shared with 9 FSB and 10 FSB. The new work bays are more practical with larger work areas and a LEAN set-up allowing easier access to POLs, air lines and power points. They also have much better lighting, air flow and access to computers. The electric roller doors are a vast improvement over the manual chain type, allowing the doors to be opened and closed efficiently to improve timely access.



The new workshop compound now accommodates all 3 CSSB sub-units' equipment, which makes it less time consuming when vehicles are “called-in” to the workshop for repairs and servicing. Having the operators close-by also allows them to obtain technical advice more easily and allows them to participate fully in driver-serving servicing and maintenance.

The new office spaces are larger, more private, and modern with improved ergonomics, when compared to the old workshop. The new facility boasts many more computers, printers and telephones to help conduct admin and facilitate liaison with units to affect repairs and maintenance with other modern technologies.



Overall, the new workshop facility will help build morale, steering the productive activities of the tradesmen in the right direction. Importantly, the new facility provides a better capability and builds stronger esprit-de-corps as a whole to better “Fight, Support and Enable.”



CFN Christopher Reid

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## ARMY APPRENTICES REUNIONS REPORTS

**Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) Reunion and ANZAC Day 24-26 April 2018.** The 2018 AAAA Reunion celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Army Apprentices School was a wonderful success held in a perfect location and with a terrific spirit of camaraderie. The reunion was held in Canberra and included, for all attendees, the honour of leading the ACT ANZAC Day Parade held within the Australian War Memorial (AWM) environs. While there were many formal activities over the three celebratory days, you can imagine that there were many other “informal events” enjoyed by the approximately 1400 army apprentices who attended.

The first event, a Meet and Greet function, was held on 24 Apr 18 at the Canberra Convention Centre and everyone had a demanding experience trying to recall faces from the past!

A large contingent of Apprentices swelled the 37,000-local people at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, in front of the AWM, for a very moving tribute to those who have died on active service over the many conflicts in which the ADF has been involved. It was a privilege to be part of that very large respectful group during our reunion.

The Anzac Day Parade was another impressive experience. To line up with some 800 other army apprentices and lead the ACT contingent was a most moving experience. To see the apprentice contingent stretching down ANZAC Avenue is a memory we will all cherish for a long time to come. As the parade marched past the dais, a spectator commented that it felt like the marchers would never end, which really does give an exact picture of the event. And of course, we still march as well as we ever did – even if some of us are a little bit dodderly!!



**This photo gives some idea of the mass of Army Apprentices stretching down Anzac Ave.**

The Reunion Dinner held on Thursday 26th April saw 100 tables set up to accommodate 49 intake groups. Approximately 1000 people (apprentices' husbands, wives and partners) attended and were provided with superb service from the Canberra Convention Centre staff as well as great music from the RMC Duntroon band. The night took on a wonderful celebratory mood, with the biggest problem becoming one of catching up with mates, while forming new friendships from the assembled alumni.

To Tim Wilde, and his band of helpers, may I offer on behalf of the RAQ attendees, a big THANKYOU for the Meet & Greet, the Gun Fire Breakfast on ANZAC Day, the organisation of the ANZAC Day march and the dinner finale. I was also pleasing to see Spike, and his team, do such a roaring trade in memorabilia. Congratulations to all on an amazing event!!



**Members of the first and last Apprentice intakes. 1<sup>st</sup> Intake in front L to R - Geoff Hawker, F&T; Douglas McCarthy, C&J; Max Brown, C&J; Keith Thomas, F&T. 49<sup>th</sup> Intake at back L to R – Paul Burton, Todd Williams, Jason Roberts, Terry Hill**

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**South East Qld Annual Army Apprentices Reunion 2018.** The annual South East Qld Army Apprentices Annual Reunion was once again held at the Bulimba Bowls Club on Sunday 3 Jun 2018 on a warm winter's day, under a perfect Queensland blue sky. This was the 19th Annual Reunion, and a most pleasant day was enjoyed by about 140 apprentices and their families.

The “olds and bolds” were led by Les Edis, 9th Intake ET, accompanied by his wife, Pat, closely followed by Mike Muirhead, 11th Intake Architectural Draughtsman and their wives. Rod Richards 40th EM was our youngest attendee. Our loyal cooks once again manned the BBQ creating a Master Chef sausage sizzle and 12

lucky raffle winners were able to take home a bottle of commemorative port.



**Barbara Daley surprised Brian with a birthday cake for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. He graciously shared his cake with family and fellow apprentices.**

Thanks to the apprentices and their families who supported the day and please note: **Date Claimer for the 20<sup>th</sup> AAS annual reunion: 2 Jun 19 at Bulimba Bowls Club, Quinn St, Bulimba.**

**Brian Daley**  
**AAAA Correspondent**



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**1st Signal Regiment RAEME Spanner Club.** On 21 Mar 18, the 1st Signal Regiment Workshop held the first South Queensland RAEME Spanner Club for the year at the “Bob Pittman Club”. It was mandatory for attendees to wear flamboyant Hawaiian shirts to celebrate the occasion. The bar staff from Electrical Section were serving an array of ice cold beverages, refreshments were kept cool through short notice fridge support thanks to 11 Close Health Company. Massive preparation went into making the slow cooked pulled chicken and gravy rolls, which were served, enjoyed and devoured by all.

Local businesses were invited set up trade displays or generously donate prizes to go towards a raffle. Sponsors included: BCF Keppera, Brendale Total Tools, Enoggera Auto Barn, Bridgestone Tyre and Mechanical Enoggera, RAEME Association Queensland and the 1 Sig Regt ASM's local watering hole - the Ferny Grove Tavern. The raffle consisted of prizes including; RAEME paraphernalia, a swag, UHF radio, power tools, and gift cards from BCF Keppera and the Ferny Grove Tavern.



**BCF Keppera Sponsors, Dana Petkovic and Brett Sayer, with Captain Matthew Crook and Major Glenn Ellis**

Other static displays included various performance vehicles from the Enoggera Military Area and the infamous bent wheel billy-cart from the 2017 RAEME Birthday celebrations.



**RAEME members around CPL Steven Gill's (2 GHB) Nissan Silvia Drift Cars in Hawaiian Shirts**

Apart from the terrible weather the event was a great success with a good turnout of both serving and ex-serving tradesman brought together to socialise and foster an unbreakable bond between members of the Corps. The 1st Signal Regiment boys definitely had fun hosting the event and are keen to attend another event in the near future. We would like to thank the sponsors and the RAEME Association Queensland for attending and we look forward to seeing them at future events.

**CFN Lemoine and CFN Wise**





## REPORT ON RAQ EVENTS.

**RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Annual Luncheon – Maroochy RSL 28 Jul 18.** Many would now be aware that the latest Sunshine Coast Chapter lunch was another successful event in our calendar with some 74 guests in attendance. All were treated to a wonderful talk from one of our younger RAEME officers, LTCOL Liz Stephens, who spoke of her recent experiences commanding 1 RTB and provided views on the young people now “graduating” from that long-standing recruit training institution.

Your luncheon convenors have received a record number of responses from attendees, who firstly, mentioned the wonderful presentation from our speaker, who was “inspirational”, “personable”, “interesting” and had a “wonderful story” to tell about her life and work in the ADF. COL Stephens explained her vision for the RTB and her teams’ leadership and management style and goals to enable improvements in the quality and quantity of recruits graduating. She also described the high calibre of recruits now entering the Army and their commitment as “volunteers” to the Army’s goals and principles. She also took time to get to know as many attendees as possible – she easily maintained the standard of speakers we like to have at our lunches.



### LTCOL Stephens Responding to Questions

Attendees’ responses also mentioned the quality of all aspects of the luncheon – that the room looked lovely, the Maroochy RSL staff, led by Jade, were very efficient, quickly solved minor crises (setting up IT and managing tables when several folks pulled out belatedly) and served our guests efficiently and politely. There were also many very good comments about the food and your convenors believe it was the best menu

selection we have had to date. The bar service was effective and efficient and all attendees were pleased with the wide selection of drinks available. Most importantly, we had a wonderful mix of people who enjoyed catching up after long separations, and many new faces, who had much to discuss with old friends – it was a wonderful day for all like-minded friends of the Corps.

**Mike Prain & Ross Grant**  
**Co-Convenors**  
**RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter**



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## OPERATION SPANNER PACK

Most readers would be aware of the RAEME National Networks (RNN) Care Pack program called “Spanner Pack” wherein comfort packs are sent to our RAEME soldiers on operations. We have received several letters of thanks in the last two months, one of which was published in the Friday Files of 20 Jul 18, but the following letter from SGT Kirkland, a NZEME soldier, says it all:

*“Good afternoon Ray (Ray Norman),  
Many thanks for your Spanner Pack. This one has landed in the very lucky hands of an RNZEME Kiwi soldier. Receiving such a package is huge boost for the morale of deployed soldiers and gives us those warm and fussy feelings of thankfulness for a job well done. We are enjoying a very hot summer over here in Taji, most days are 48-50 degrees Celsius. This quickly turns a pack of Tim Tams into one large Tim Tam, which by the way taste just as good, if not better.*

*NZ no longer has an EME Corps as it was replaced by the Royal NZ Army Logistics Regiment (RNZALR) 22 years ago. It is a real shame, especially seeing the Esprit de Corps of the RAEME boys here. However, we NZ tradesmen are more than happy to get behind and represent the Blue, Yellow & Red colours while we have the chance.  
SSGT J Kirkland”*

As many of you know, our packs are funded by donations from Head of Corps, Sponsors and individual RAEME folk both serving, retired/discharged. If you can contribute to this great program visit the RAQ Web Site [www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) and “Make a Donation”.

**Raymond Norman**  
**RNN Spanner Pack Co Coordinator**





## FROM AFGHANISTAN

BRIG Haydn Kohl, our former HOC, who has been serving in Afghanistan for the last 12 months, has provided some shots of local activities. Below are some pictures he has provided of the new Australian designed and built protected vehicle, “Hawkei”, that is in Afghanistan for ‘in-theatre’ trials. As you would expect, it has gathered a lot of attention from the various nations.



The other photo shows work being undertaken by Afghani tradesmen, who are increasingly caring for their equipment with support from Australian personnel and personnel from other allied countries.



## VALE

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

- **Busby**, Francis “Frank”, Frank passed away Nov 17 at the age of 79 years. RAQ has no other detail.
- **Poole**, Frank RAE (10<sup>th</sup> Architectural Draftsman), passed away in Canberra on 10 Apr 18 following a long illness. Frank had a long association with the AAAA.
- **Pearce**, Kevin passed away on 25 Mar 18 in Emerald after a battle with cancer.
- **Kennedy**, Grahame Duff passed away 20 April 2018. RAQ has no other detail.
- **Greetham**, Brian “Yorky” of Kallangur, Brisbane, passed away on 29 Apr 18. He was a member of 105 Fd Bty the LAD, RAA in Vietnam 65-66 (1RAR Group) & later 4RAR May 68 – May 69.
- **Sherry**, Peter “Pumpkin” (30<sup>th</sup> F&T) unexpectedly passed away at his home in Brisbane on 30 Apr 18.
- **Hicks**, MAJ Ian Edward (RTD), passed away suddenly 5 May 18 while gardening.
- **Fry**, MAJ Ashley (RTD), passed away in the Boston Medical Hospital, Massachusetts, USA, following heart surgery on 24 May 18.
- **Jackson**, LTCOL Roger (RTD) passed away peacefully on 6 Jun 18 in hospital after illness.
- **Hill-Smith**, LTCOL Graeme (RTD), RAA/AAAvn, passed away on 12 Jun 18 in his sleep. He would be known to many in RAEME who served with him in SVN and in the Army aviation capability. He was 83.
- **Baker**, Harold John (NS), passed away on 26 Jun 18. The funeral was held in Ballarat.
- **Onley**, Ken, passed away 1 Jul 18. He served with 102 Field Workshops Vietnam 1967-1968.
- **Hamilton**, Robert Ian (9<sup>th</sup> F&T) passed away on 2 Jul 18 at Caloundra.
- **Budgen**, William “Bill” passed away 24 Jul 18 whilst a patient in Greenslopes Hospital.
- **Dilger**, Mick “Mickey D” (23<sup>rd</sup> VM) passed away 31 Jul 18 at the Mackay Base Hospital.

## WELFARE

- **Moore**, Ray “George”, is recovering from surgery (stent insertion) in the John Flynn Hospital Gold Coast following a heart attack on 2 Apr 18.
- **Grant**, Ross Leonard “Drac”, surgery for cancer 15 Dec 2017. Recent CAT scans and review provide no evidence of any new lesions or metastasis in the lungs. More scans in Nov 18. Another PSA Test shortly. Currently Ross is deemed clear of both Prostate and Lung Cancer.
- **Nielsen**, Fred, recently had an operation on one knee at the Holy Spirit Hospital, Northside. He

may have to go back to hospital for another procedure.

- **Kingston**, John, MAJGEN (RTD) is recovering at home after a short stint in hospital after damaging his hip in a fall.

Please remember to contact me if you hear of one of our RAEME folks is unwell or in distress.

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



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### **QUEENS BIRTHDAY AWARD TO COL GABRIELLE FOLLETT (RAEME) AWARDED AM IN QUEENS' BIRTHDAY HONOURS**



The RAQ congratulates Colonel Follett, who was awarded an AM for exceptional service as Commanding Officer 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion and as a Staff Officer in the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force and Army Headquarters. The citation explains that "Colonel Follett has made an exceptional contribution to the improvement of logistics in the Australian Army and more broadly to the Australian Defence Force. An exceptional officer, she has displayed outstanding dedication, a remarkable ability to build consensus with diverse stakeholders and inspirational leadership in three successive demanding roles."

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### **DFWA INFORMATION**

**Inquiries.** In the last year, there have been over 12 ADF/Veteran related Inquiries/Studies initiated by the government. All required input/submissions by Ex Service Organisations. In the six-week period up to 31

July, submissions were provided on the following issues:

- **Bad side effects of Mefloquine having same symptoms as PTSD.** Drugs used for PTSD treatment exacerbate Mefloquine adverse effects and has caused grave problems, including suicide. (Defence UK have formally apologised to their troops in failing in their duty of care in use of Mefloquine.)
- **Productivity Commission Inquiry into Rehabilitation and Compensation of Veterans.** It covers among other things, veteran advocacy, support and transition. The DFWA submission was focussed on the need to provide effective support and that veteran benefits were not welfare but support required for incapacity caused by a direct result of the ADF doing the government's bidding.
- **The Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study.** Some overlap with the previous study.
- **Parliamentary Inquiry into Transition from the ADF.** More overlap with the previous study.

**Covenant.** DFWA has been lobbying the parliament to establish an Australian Defence Force Covenant for eight years. A bi-partisan Working Group has been established with DFWA/ADSO, Legacy and RSL (National) representation under direction of DVA. Legislation will be introduced in August and declared in Parliament for 11 Nov 18. A key point is to establish a principle that veterans and their families should not be disadvantaged in their access to services compared with other Australians. It is against this that new legislation and changes to existing legislation or government regulation will be assessed.

**AAT Cases.** The two AAT cases DFWA is supporting, concerning the taxation of DFRDB and MSBS Invalidity Benefits were due for completion on 1 Jun 18. On that day, the Commissioner of Taxation case fell apart at the Tribunal. The ATO requested a long adjournment. Justice Logan reluctantly granted the ATO request. He expressed anxiety that the ATO may get the government to change the Taxation regulations by Executive Council order and make the change retroactive, thereby affecting the current case. i.e. make lawful previous wrong decisions by the ATO.

The issue is simple. DFRDB and MSBS Invalidity Benefits (Class A, B and C) are not lifetime pensions. They are subject to regular review and can go up and down, even to zero on review. CSC and ATO treat them as if they are permanent. According to the Regulations, if the answer to any one of the following questions is



“NO”, then they must be treated as a lump sum payment with minimal tax requirement. You be the judge – check out the following:

- Is the payment is made at least annually forever? (No – it can go to zero on review.)
- Is there a “residual capital value”, “commutation value” or “withdrawal benefit” greater than 100% of the “purchase price of the pension”? (No. It has none of these and there is no purchase price as it was not purchased.)
- Are the total payments in a year at least... “purchase price x % factor”? (No purchase price.)
- Are payments in a year fixed, allowing only for specific variation including CPI? (No. Can be reviewed.)
- Can the payment be commuted? (No. Those on med discharge cannot commute.)
- Can anyone other than a spouse or child receive the benefit of the payment? (No.)
- Can the payment be used as security for borrowing? (No. There is no security of payment.)
- Many civilian schemes answer yes to each of these questions. Those that don’t, get more favourable tax treatment according to law.

The cases resume on 12 Dec 18. If the ATO loses, it will go to appeal, possibly to the High Court. Resolution, probably in 2020. Watch out for retrospective law changes.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Your association quickly got “into the groove” organising events and activities for 2018. The ANZAC Day March and post-march functions were clearly successful, despite many of us being absent in Canberra for the 70th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the Army Apprentices School, sponsored by the Army Apprentices Association (AAAA).

The main item I wish to mention in this editorial relates to the support I have received over a long time from my loyal “Spanner News” correspondents. This edition of “Spanner News” has an exceptional number of articles, which are “content rich”, and I had an embarrassment of riches when it came to good quality and interesting stories – may I sincerely thank everyone who

contributed to this issue. I had enough material for 15-16 pages, but chose to keep this edition to around 12 pages. I have saved articles for the next issue and passed some straight into Friday Files where timeliness is important. I am humbled and grateful for all your collaboration.

Such support is critical to the success of our association as is your attendance at the events we organise – well done to the volunteers, organisers and providers of articles – the RAQ Executive appreciates your efforts.

Brian Daley has written a good article on the Apprentices’ 70<sup>th</sup> Celebrations in Canberra, where your association was well represented and involved – for me the highlight was the last night dinner where over 1000 apprentices enjoyed dinner with our partners and many old friends.

In future editions of Spanner News, we will be providing a number of articles and information about veteran’s entitlements. This is an area going through change and I encourage you all to stay in touch with the many initiatives emanating from the Dept of Veterans Affairs. This is a topical subject not only for the many complaints we see in the press regularly, but also because I am staggered at the number of our serving and ex-serving colleagues and friends, who do not seem to know how to access their entitlements and make use of them to complement their lifestyle and well-being. We will attempt to bring useful and up to date information, but there is no substitute for informing yourself and acting in your own right.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the special article on page 13 provided by CAPT Matthew Crook, the TST Comd, 100 LSS, 1st Signal Regiment describing the unit’s recent experiences on EX HAMEL – a great example of our Corps’ activities in a modern context.

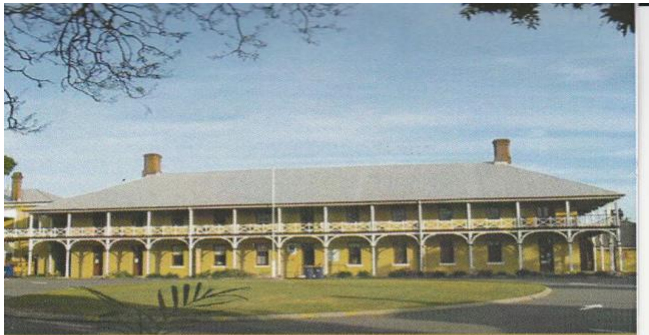
Finally, note the photo on page 13 of some well-known “olds and bolts” of the Corps.

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### Maintaining the Modern Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ)

Ex HAMEL 2018 saw the 100th Logistics Support Squadron (100 LSS) deploy to Tiger Hill in Shoalwater Bay Training Area for the period 28 May – 05 July in support of the DJFHQ and coalition partners. 100 LSS deployed as part of the 1st Signal Regiment, whose role is to provide Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) to the HQ. At its peak, over 600 personnel from across Army, as well as DFAT, Navy, RAAF and US Armed Forces personnel resided on Tiger Hill.

Amenities were provided through a contract solution and consisted of a 14-stall shower block with hot, pressurised water, 30 flushable toilets and a series of bucket showers (absolute luxury). Water was resupplied to the HQ by the 2nd Force Support Team, part of the Combined Force Support Group for the exercise, and consisted of 30,000L deliveries by Bulk Liquid Water Tanker (BLWT) to refill the nine 10,000L tanks in location. Water usage was approximately 22,500 L per day for the amenities and another 5,000L of potable water for drinking and use by the kitchen.

Technical Support Troop deployed a Forward Repair Group (FRG) consisting of, on average, 24 personnel (1/23). The FRG had the primary role of establishing and maintaining a Field Power Distribution System (FPDS) to supply:

- 80x canvas accommodation tents
- 38x Base-X 305 tents containing DJFHQ working areas (climate controlled)
- 49x 18 kW Environmental Control Units (air-conditioners)
- 309x 15A, four socket 240V, distribution boards
- >270x fluorescent lights
- A field kitchen including two brand new deployable kitchen containers
- 101st Signals Squadron
- A Role 1 Medical Facility in a Weatherhaven expandable shelter

The FRG fulfilled its enduring role of providing integral repair and recovery support to 1 Sig Regt, DJFHQ and assigned force elements. Essential support was provided to the deployed element by the Rear Echelon, consisting of 14 personnel, expediting repair parts and conducting liaison with JLU. The FRG conducted over 2200 hours of trade tasking broken down into the following areas:

- Electrical: >2000 hours in establishment, maintenance, collapse and testing of the FPDS
- General Engineering: repair and light fabrication work + numerous additional services of tradesmen in estate and facilities infrastructure maintenance roles
- Electronic and Instrument Repair: predominantly for the Commander's Tactical Party (four PMVs)
- Vehicle Repair: light repair to L121, G-Wagon and legacy B vehicle fleets
- Recovery: including manning a Recovery Post for the redeployment from 02-04 Jul 18
- RPS: both deployed and in barracks
- Volleyball: Daily, 1630-1730 h. An International Competition was conducted with the US 76th IBCT in the later weeks, the overall result being an agreeable draw.

The FRGs location at Tiger Hill enabled it to support (at least in some capacity) numerous Units and Formation HQ throughout the exercise including; 3 CSSB (3 CSST), 6 ESR, 16 ALR, 7 CSR, 7 Bde HQ, 2 GHB, 1 Avn, 20 STA, US 76th IBCT, 1 MP Bn, 6 CS Bde, 1 Int Bn, 10 FSB (2 FST) and BG Waratah. The FRG was also ideally placed to provide SME advice on a variety of topics to inform the following agencies:

- CASG - to inform L8120, L8140 and L8190
- FORCOMD G4 - to inform L8120 MHE
- QinetiQ and DSTO - to inform L8140 and Power and Energy requirements in general
- 17 CSS Bde HQ, Force Modernisation - to inform Catering capability and acquisition of more ARKS (CIS server containers) Army wide
- School of Artillery - to inform gun line (Battery level) power requirements and methods of supply and reticulation
- Divisional HQ J2 Cell - to inform SCIF container construction and design finalisation

Overall, Ex HAMEL 2018 was an excellent platform to progress power and energy related modernisation efforts and the 1 Sig Regt FRG made the most of any opportunity to influence future systems. The exercise saw a relatively small number of technical repair tasks completed and a large effort towards miscellaneous base maintenance, this is attributed to the both static nature of the DJFHQ establishment and the inherently substantial peripheral infrastructure.



**Leading the other 49 Intakes and taking Pride of Place on the 2018 ANZAC Day Parade in Canberra – 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Intake Apprentices. Front row L to R: Geoff Hawker, 1st F&T; Douglas McCarthy, 1st C&J; Keith Thomas, 1st F&T (pushed by Lyndon Brown), and Max Brown 1st C&J. Second row L to R: Herb Taylor, 2nd C&J; and Noel Cooper 2nd VM.**