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# CRAFTSMAN

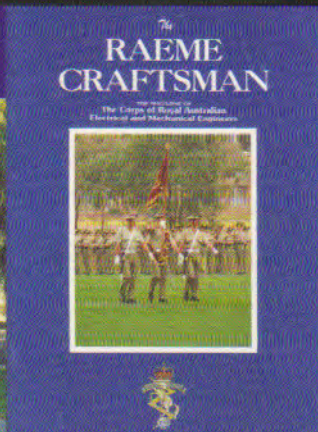
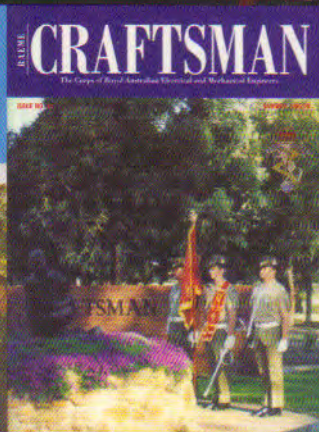
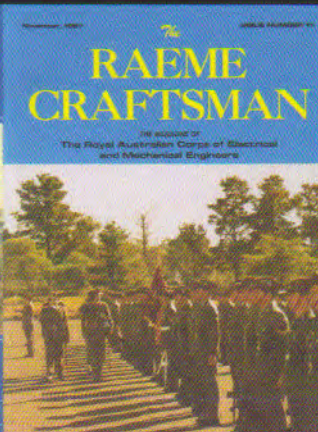
The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

ISSUE NO. 56

WINTER 2006

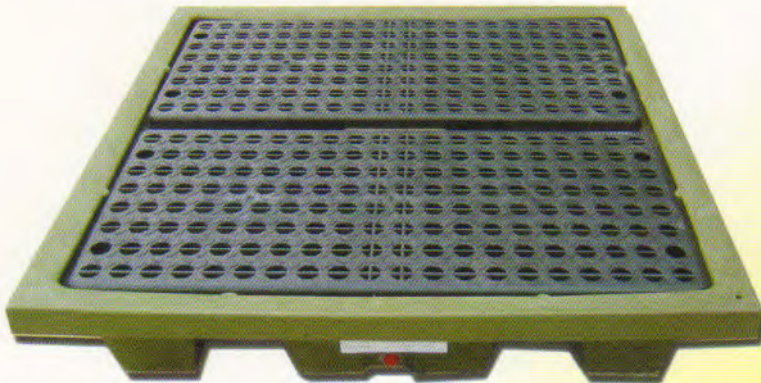


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The RAEME Craftsman

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23 September 2006

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RAEME

# CRAFTSMAN

The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

ISSUE NO. 56

WINTER 2006

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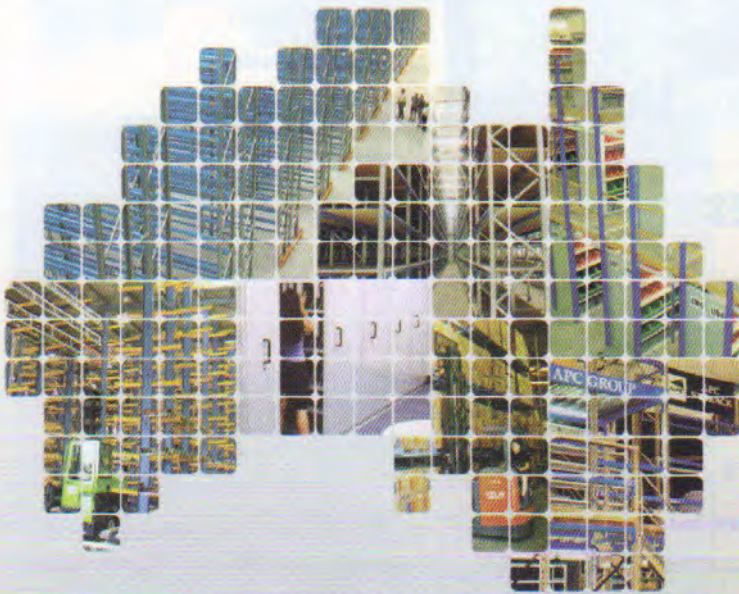


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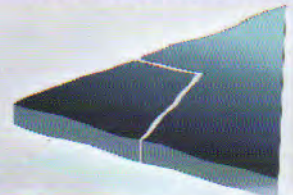
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# message *from* deputy head of Corps



*Deputy Head of Corps  
LTCOL Andrew Adams*

**H**ello all, we continue to live in exciting times. The vigour with which our ex-serving members are embracing the Corps is a lesson for us all; they have a clear desire to continue the relationships built up while in the service and are enjoying the opportunity to reflect and pass on the experiences they have had while wearing Harry. The same can be said for our regular and reserve members as they contribute to our strong history on a day by day basis. I have had first hand experience of this as I have travelled around the regions on my Deputy Head Of Corps tours. Both the associations and the unit members are passionate about making us as effective as we can be as a Corps, and ensuring that we are aware of the issues impacting on their respective organizations. I note that we have had a number of our senior members pass on over the last 12 months, and it is incumbent on all of us that remain to continue their legacy of providing outstanding service to our sister corps.

You would be aware that there are a number of initiatives within Army to improve the way we are doing maintenance, from the strategic through to unit level. A number of these have the potential to significantly change the way our daily maintenance activities are undertaken, acknowledging that the current processes are absorbing more time than initially envisaged. Importantly, the initiatives are supported by Army Headquarters, as maintenance remains a key element of capability. I again ask that you participate fully in any of the work contributing to making our lot better. Your input is important, particularly as it is on the workshop floor that our major gains can be found.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the work of our former Corps RSM, WO1 Tibor Fekete, who filled the position in 2004 and 2005. As the CO of ASEME and the DHOC, I

had the pleasure of many hours working intimately with Tibor. For anyone who had the opportunity to meet and speak with him, you would know that he was extraordinarily committed to his position and the Corps. I am confident to say that he will always be unique, and this was his appeal. He provided myself and many others with excellent advice and inspiration on a daily basis, getting excited about procedural issues that most of us would rarely find written, much less entertaining. Tibor has recently discharged from the Service and is currently residing in Canberra. We wish he and his family luck, and know that he will continue to contribute to our Corps.

Together with the HOC Cell, I look forward to seeing you all around the traps.

*Arte Et Marte*

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# SO2 Corps report

By Major Haley



**G**reetings for 2006 to the members of the Corps. It is great to be back and working issues on your behalf. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Major Graham Anderson for his efforts whilst I was away, and hope that he can slip into semi retirement as he had previously planned.

This year is a year of 'follow up' with a number of issues such as the Maintenance Value Units study, MMM profiling, OPSUP Production Clerk training, Standardised Vehicle Inspections, Bio Medical Training, the Land Material Maintenance Support Review and Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal pay case. I thank you all for your input on these issues in the past and ask that you continue to provide your comment in the future. This input ensures that a wide cross section of the Corps is involved with the day to day decision-making processes that effect us all. The April Corps Newsletter provided an update on where we are at with the above issues.

I will also take this opportunity to thank past RAEME Regional Representatives and welcome the new appointees to their respective positions. I encourage all members of the Corps to assist our Regional Representatives as they carry out

this very important Head of Corps function. Remember they are working on your behalf. A list of 2006 RAEME Regional Representatives is provided later in this edition.

The Corps Seminar theme this year is 'MMM in Support of ADF Operations' and will focus on the employment of MMM in the maintenance of operational availability, in particular the user profiles required by RAEME Officers and soldiers of all ranks. It is intended that outcomes of the seminar will compliment higher level work being done in the MMM Implementation arena. The HOC cell is also investigating the possibility of presenting the National Craftsman of the year awards in this forum to highlight the achievements of our junior Corps members.

Finally, the SO2 Heritage and I recently visited our RAEME brethren at the Pilbara Regiment. It was great to see how the ARA and AR lads up there go about their business and they should be proud of the esteem in which their unit holds them. By virtue of the distances involved, and unit CONOPs, they truly repair 'as far forward as possible'. As such the Pilbara is a posting of great opportunity and job satisfaction.

*Arte et Marte*

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# Corps heritage

## Corps Painting Poster Prints Now Available

**D**ue to popular demand we have recently completed a new production of quality poster prints of the Corps painting AFV Repair in the Light Green. I would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Melanie Wilson and Ian Morley from ESS Reprographics section at Latchford Barracks in ensuring colour matching and quality detail. The posters are available from the HOC cell or the Army Museum Bandiana at a cost of \$7.50 plus postage and packaging. The original painting by Mr K.G. McFadyen hangs in the entrance foyer to Army Logistic Officers Mess.



MAJ Anderson and Melanie Wilson proof the first print off the press

## Corps Medallion – Number Draw

**T**o those members who have subscribed to corps - on behalf of all members of the corps I would like to thank you for your contribution. You should all now be in receipt of your Corps medallion. For each edition of the Craftsman Magazine we will conduct a raffle from all the medallion numbers issued. The winner will receive the following prize.

For this issue the winning number is:

**174**

Congratulations to  
COL (Ret'd) Norman Hicks-Hall  
of Currimbin, Qld.



Prize – Corps Painting print, cap and Corps Port



## RAEME OFFICERS' (QLD) CORPS DINNER

*Serving and retired RAEME Officers and their guests are invited to attend the RAEME Officers' (Qld) Corps Dinner at the United Service Club, Brisbane on Saturday 17th June 2006.*

*This formal event costs \$69 a head, including drinks.*

*Interested? Please call Major Robert Sawford on 0416 0416 46 or e-mail [robert.sawford@defence.gov.au](mailto:robert.sawford@defence.gov.au)*

# HOC Staff Visit to Western and Central Regions

In March of this year the HOC staff conducted a visit to the Western and Central Regions. During the conduct of HOC visits the staff seek to meet and speak with as many members as possible, including full time, part time and where possible members of the regional RAEME Associations. The trip to the West commenced with a visit to the Pilbara Regiment head-quartered in Karratha. The team to the Pilbara consisted of the Colonel Commandant Western Region – **COL Mark Mackenzie**; Regional RAEME Representative – **CAPT Dale Whelan**; SO2 Corps – **MAJ John Haley**; and SO2 Heritage – **MAJ Graham Anderson**. The team was welcomed by the CO **LTCOL Nagy Sorial** and RSM **WO1 Shane Moyle** during the Tuesday evening training activity. At the end of the evening COL Mackenzie was invited to present SGT Darren Heaven with his Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM) in recognition of 15 years dedicated service. The Col Commandant also took the opportunity to present to the unit a framed print of the RAEME Corps painting *AFV Repair in the Light Green*, in recognition of the visit.



The Pilbara at it's best



COL Mackenzie presents DLSM To SGT Heaven



COL Mackenzie presents Corps Painting to CO, LTCOL Sorial



CAPT Dale Whelan and CPL Chris Dare discuss the virtues of TRF



MAJ Haley



COL Mackenzie presents SGT Austin with his DLSM

That evening COL Mackenzie presented SGT Michael Austin with his DLSM. SGT Austin along with SGT Russ Earle recently transferred from the ARA to the GRes and are currently employed by Pilbara Iron as maintenance managers.

The trip up to the Pilbara provided an excellent opportu-



John Klein (President); Clare Curtis (Treasurer); John Curtis (Secretary); Peter Humpston (REME); Joyce Gibbon (Assoc Member); Ross Bignell (Member) and Lyn Bignell (Assoc Member)





Ross Bignell; Lyn Bignell; Perry Beor (MAJ - Still Serving) LTCOL Adams (DHOC) and Lawrie Forsyth (Committee Member)



Fred Ordynski (REME); Tom Sands (REME); Don Horsley (1st Life Member); Ruth Horsley (Assoc Member); Clare Curtis (Treasurer) and John Klein (President)

nity to see first hand the exciting and challenging work and environment our RAEME brother's experience in this real time regional surveillance role.

Back in Perth the DHOC LTCOL Andrew Adams and the National Technical Training Manager Mr Wayne Allan joined the team. The Perth visit commenced with

a very enjoyable dinner with members of the West Australian RAEME Association. During the course of the dinner LTCOL Adams addressed the members. The following day included visits to SASR and 13 Bde units.

From Perth we travelled to South Australia where the Regional RAEME Representative MAJ Karel Dubsky and Members of 16 AD REGT hosted the South Australian visit. 9 Bde and other Adelaide based RAEME members were invited up to Woodside for a central presentation and BBQ hosted by the 16 AD Wksp members.

The HOC staff extend their sincere thanks to all of those involved in coordinating, administering and hosting the HOC staff visit.

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# Corps Warrant Officer report

*Warrant Officer Class One  
David Clarke*



I would like to start off by saying I consider it an honour to have been appointed the RAEME Corps Warrant Officer. As you may or may not be aware the previous Corps RSM, WO1 Tibor Fekete, has elected to discharge after 22 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Army and to the Corps.

## **RAEME Corps Warrant Officer**

Until recently, Corps Instruction (CI) number six stated that the RAEME Corps RSM is an Extra Regimental Appointment (ERA) for the RSM of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (ASEME), here at the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC). Unfortunately, after WO1 Fekete's departure there was not a RAEME RSM available to fill the RSM ASEME position and, therefore, the Corps RSM position. Therefore, WO1 Andrew Roberts, a RAAOC RSM, is currently fulfilling the ASEME RSM position and is there for a two-year tenure.

As a result, the Head of Corps (HOC) RAEME, BRIG McGahey, has amended CI number six to allow the establishment of the RAEME Corps Warrant Officer position. The RAEME Corps Warrant Officer will only be appointed in the event that the RSM of ASEME is not a member of RAEME and there are no RAEME RSMs available to take on the position. The RAEME Corps Warrant Officer will be a RAEME non-regimental WO1 who will fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the Corps RSM. As I have not completed the RSMs course, I can not be referred to as the Corps RSM.

Although there are currently no members of the Corps eligible to fulfil the Corps RSM positions rest assure that the position will remain and that eventually a member with a RAEME hat badge will once again carry the mantle. There are a number of members of the Corps out there who are filling regimental positions and will become eligible to do the RSMs course.

## **RAEME members doing us proud**

I would like to congratulate the members of the Corps that were and are currently deployed on operations. A letter from

LTCOL Roger Noble, CO AMTG1, to the 2005 RAEME Corps SNCO/WO dinner clearly articulated the efforts of his RAEME personnel and the pride he had in their performance. An extract from his message states:

*“We simply could not have done it without the spanners. This is not new to me and it is a lesson I have had over and over again since I was a LT Troop Leader. Their technical skill, work ethic and pride, coupled with the spanner sense of humour, has kept us on mission without a lapse.”*

LTCOL R. Noble 2005

I'm sure all the Commanders of our deployed troops would echo his comments.

## **Esprit de corps**

I would like to discuss 'Esprit de Corps' in RAEME. I tour with the DHOC on unit visits and I also deliver presentations to promotion courses coming through ALTC on trade issues. The feedback I receive on both the tours and during these presentations indicates to me that our 'Esprit de Corps' is alive and well.

Having also been the ASM of 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2 Cav Regt) in a previous life, I believe that 'Esprit de Corps' is a product of our professionalism and our professionalism is outstanding. All the RAEME members I served with at 2 Cav Regt from the CFNs to the OCs, were all proud ambassadors for the Corps and never missed the opportunity to show their pride in the Corps.

Having said that, it is up to all our RAEME Officers, WOs, SGTs and CPLs, to espouse our Corps ethos and pride to their members and expose them to our Corps history. More importantly, keep adding to our proud history as our members are currently doing at home and abroad.

## **Spanner Clubs**

Over the years and indeed the decades, an institution has evolved into what we know as the 'Spanner Club'. I challenge the ASMs and Workshop OCs to promote this institution and volunteer their Workshops to host a 'Spanner Club' function

and to ensure that they are a regular occurrence (every 2 – 3 months) on the local RAEME network calendar.

In these days of manpower shortages, increasing backlogs and long work hours, closing the workshop doors an hour early and letting your people mix in a social atmosphere is a good way to show your appreciation for what they are doing and to foster our 'Esprit de Corps.'

### Corps Subscriptions

I encourage you, as card or St Eligius badge carrying members of the Corps, to proudly declare your pride in your Corps whenever and whenever you can. Whilst you're at it, show your support for your Corps and get on board with RAEME subscriptions (and get your own St Eligius badge).

### Conclusion

As a former ASM of the 2 Cav Regt and as the current WO1 RAEME Trade Manager for ground trades, I believe I have a good understanding of the issues currently affecting the Corps and its members. As such, it is my aim and focus as the RAEME Corps Warrant Officer to represent you and your concerns to the Senior Leadership Group of the Corps.

I look forward to meeting as many members of the Corps as I can whilst I am filling this position. Hopefully, we'll catch up at a Spanner Club function in your area whilst I'm touring around with the DHOC. Don't be shy come over and introduce yourself!

*Arte et Marte*

# AEME RAEME Associations and Kindred Organisations

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steven.wilson5@defence.gov.au

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**RCEME Association**  
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Attention: Mr Rick Morgan

Secretary

**REME Association, Regimental Headquarters REME**  
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RG29NJ UK  
Attention: Capt G.M. Anderson RL

# RAEME Graduates

## RMC 17 June 2006



8216286  
LT Matthew Dugan  
145 Sig Sqn



8497639  
LT Julian Fleming  
3 CSSB



8233804  
LT Stephen Freilberg  
ASEME



8223379  
LT Michael Fry  
ASEME



8498355  
LT Ryan Louwen-Skovdam  
173 Surv Sqn



8497578  
LT Sarah Mooney  
1 CSSB



8247466  
LT Ryan Shirazi  
HQ 16 Bde (Avn)



8497701  
LT Matthew Wood  
4 Fd Regt

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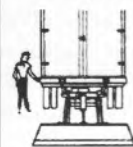
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## Reports from RAEME Association (Qld)

### The Association

As can be seen from our Calendar in this magazine, the RAEME Association Queensland, our sub branch in Townsville and the Unit and other RAEME Associations, are kept busy providing venues for all members and other associated with the CORPS, to come together and enjoy each others company and friendship on a common ground of understanding. This is a vital part of our role and a lot of effort is input by many to provide these services and activities. We want all to know that we are an all ranks organisation for serving and separated/retired members. We welcome you all.

Another of our roles is to provide a membership facility and contact listings to allow members and others to find old friends and buddies from years passed. This is only possible with the support of our financial members. Membership details and applications can be found at [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org). If you are living in Queensland or close by or plan to do so in the future please come and join us, you will be most welcome.

The Association when required and requested provides very important support and advise to members and family. We have RSL and DVA representation and support on our Committee, who can direct folk in the direction required to assist with any inquiry. Please do not hesitate in contacting us for support.

### ANZAC Day 2006

The day commenced for many RAEME members and families by attending the tradition Dawn Services around the State, then off to Gun Fire Breakfast and early morning reunions with old mates, friends and locals. It is interesting to observe diggers with no previous contact, acknowledging each other with a simple nod of the head or wink of the eye as they pass displaying their campaign medals and those of generations passed.

Some two hundred and thirty odd RAEME members then converged on the streets of Brisbane to march in the RAEME contingent lead by the Col Comdt Qld Region and Patron of



the RAEME Association Queensland Col Bryce Titcume and 2IC Maj Raymond G Norman OAM (Retd), the Chairman of the Association. ALTC Brisbane commanded by Capt Jeff Maurice, WO Stan Woods and Sgt David Furness provided a Guard of thirty-six uniformed soldiers. What a sight this was, RAEME once again making up the biggest post WWII contingent, a proud moment. The soldiers making up the guard are all Trade Trainee who are at various stages of completing their initial trade training. They did the Corps proud with their level of professionalism, and bearing throughout the day. A nominal role of the Trainees below.

At the completion of the march it was off to the traditional reunion at the Port Office Hotel for eats, a few drinks and most importantly a lot of catching up with many old friends. About two hundred and fifty Spanners attended, we were packed to the rafters and enjoying ourselves.

We were very honoured and delighted to have amongst us the two daughters; Tracy and Jody of our recently departed buddy Dave Rolfe. Tracy proudly wore her Dads medals and marched with us. We paused for a moment to remember our departed



# association reports



mates, all those that had gone before and importantly those currently overseas on deployment and away from family and friends. We salute them all.

The day would not have been so successful without the hard work of the Association Committee, particularly the main driving force behind ANZAC Day Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn. A great effort, a day to reflect and remember.

## Nominal Role of Trainees ANZAC Day

AITKENHEAD AR, ASHTON TR, BAILEY LM, CARLSEN MA, CROCKER, EDWARDS AC, ELLIOT AN, GADSDEN NC, HAPEL G, HASLAM BC, HETHERINGTON DP, JONES GS, KEMP, KEYS RW, KING JA, KUZMENKO KD, LOW WJ, LUND MD, MCGREGOR, MULLER GC, NEW JR, O'SULLIVAN JP, PEGORARO, PINNEY JS, PENNA T, SANDERSON BM, SCOTT AC, SHEARN BJ, SUES, TAYLOR AJ, TRUELOVE CT, WALKER M, WINTLE.

## Spanner Club 28th April 2006

The RAEME serving members from Enoggera held their monthly Spanner Club function at 9RQR boozier on Friday 28th April. This event gives all Spanners, serving within Enoggera, retired and RAEME Association members an opportunity to mix together on a regular basis and share stories and experiences on common ground.

The organiser Nicholas Shaw provided a great variety of raffle



prizes from local industries and also a climbing wall, where a speed-climbing event was held. See photo's below.

## QLD RAEME Association

### Calendar 2006

#### JUNE 2006

- 6th RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
- 6th RAEME Association AGM
- 11th Fitter's & Turner's (26th Intake) Reunion- Bulimba
- 12th Queen's Birthday
- 18th & 25th Reserve Recruiting Days
- 30th Reserve Forces All Ranks Dinner/Dance @ Riverside (Combined Services)
- 30th Spanner Club- 131 STA Regt- Enoggera
- 30th NQ RAEME All Ranks Dining In Night- RSL

#### JULY

- 1st Recognition Ceremony - Gallipoli Fountain Roma St- 1000hrs
- 2nd Reserve Forces Day. Marchers.
- Assemble cnr Adelaide & Creek Sts - 0900hrs
- 4th RAEME Association Monthly Meeting

#### AUGUST 2006

- 1st RAEME Association Monthly Meeting

#### SEPTEMBER 2006

- 5th RAEME Association Monthly Meeting



## Reports from RAEME Association (Vic) Inc

To keep all informed as to what we are about. In our last report I spoke of the meeting at *The Black Stump* of interested personal with a view to setting up a Sub-Branch of The Association there. The term Sub-Branch was later changed to Chapter and I can report to you we are well down that track now.

We had to make some changes to our rules to accommodate "Chapters" this has been done and blessed by Corporate Affairs and we are at this time preparing the Charter for the "Bandiana Chapter" as I write this and by the time you read it they will be a "full blown Chapter" (what ever that means!)

There was a meeting held at The Seymour Club on 1st March and a steering committee was elected to form a "Seymour Chapter" of the Association in consists of David Maddick Chairman with the assistance of John Phoenix, Ian Jenkins & Ron Fullerton

The "Vietnam Vets Southern" have a steering committee up and running too, their members are President Dennis Clarke, Secretary Bob Fuller, Treasurer Bill Slegers and member Jim

Saddington and are well down the track as well!

As you can see there are a lot of good things happening to our Association "down south"!

We had a very relaxing and enjoyable Melbourne Cup weekend away at Victor Harbour with the REME Association (SA) branch being our hosts this is a bi annual event taking turns in hosting each other.

To celebrate the Corps 63rd Birthday we assisted our Corps Commandant with a dinner at East Malvern RSL which was well attended by many serving and retired members and their partners.

March last saw our annual luncheon to honour our Widows and Life members held once again at Oakleigh Barracks.

In the pipeline for next Melbourne Cup weekend we are planning a trip to Myrtleford and looking forward to a number of members from the newly formed chapters joining us there.

*Arte et Marle,  
Peter Cartledge  
President*

## The RAEME Assoc. (Vic) Inc. – Bandiana Chapter

The RAEME Assoc. (Vic) Inc. – Bandiana Chapter is now a reality after an Inaugural General Meeting and the first committee meeting. The office bearers are:

President – Andy Turner

Secretary – George Reid

Treasurer – Mike Kusternig

Committee – Phil Stephenson and Alex Wolf

There are 114 on our contact list and we already have over 30 financial members.

It all started at the "Stump" Hotel in October when about 80 Bluebells turned up to meet old mates. A group of volunteers stepped forward to help Andy Turner form a chapter of the RAEME Association of Victoria.

On 29 January an inaugural RAEME Remembrance Day service was held at the Craftsman Memorial at Bandiana at the same time as services in Melbourne and Hobart. It was a very hot day yet 80 people braved the middle of the day for the service led by Chaplain Steve Cloudsdale. The RAEME Craftsmen from ALTC, forming the catafalque party and the address by our Deputy Head of Corps, LTCOL Andy Adams, made it a special occasion. Wreathes were laid by RSL presidents of Tallangatta, Myrtleford and Rutherglen and the Murray Border



Vietnam Vets all of them RAEME men. A wreath was laid by Andy Turner for the fledgling "chapter". All agreed that the Craftsman Memorial was a very appropriate place and a twilight service is being considered for next year.

## Vale Dennis Arnold Oakley

12/04/30 – 07/04/06

**S**/Sgt Dennis Arnold Oakley, better known to all his friends in the Army as “Annie”. Being a fitter - armourer and a sharp shooter he became known to us all in the terms of endearment as “Annie Oakley”.

Dennis was born on the 12th April 1930 in Melbourne, Victoria and passed away suddenly on the 7th April 2006 aged 75 and as you will note only five days before his 76th birthday.

He commenced his Military Career in the **A.R.A.** on the 7 July 1948 in **RAEME** and was posted to Southern Command Workshop initially, then to 3 Base Wksp Broadmeadows on the 21st September 1953, later to 20 NS Battalion on the 26th March 1956, then Bandianna Area Workshop, 13 August 1956 and finally Pucka Area Workshop on the 3rd September 1958.

Dennis's Employment Duties consisted of :- 6 months Recruit Training at Pucka, he then went on to qualify as a blacksmith and small arms fitter and that became his trade Posting.

- He was Promoted to T/Cpl with 20 NS Trg Battalion on the 22 June 1956
- Cpl also with 20 NS Battalion 10 August 1956
- T/Sgt at Area Wksp Pucka 29 October 1958
- And finally Sgt also at Pucka Area Wksp on the 1st January 1959.

Dennis discharged on completion of his A.R.A service on the 13th July 1960 as a substantive Sergeant and later joined the CMF (Now Army Reserve)

Dennis loving **RAEME** decided to stay with the Corp and transfer to the CMF and went along and joined 3 Base Wksp (CMF Component) on the 9th December 1960 and for some reason unbeknown to the writer he was enlisted as a Corporal and promoted Sergeant that

same day, but only soon after he again was promoted to S/Sgt, possibly he should have marched into the CMF as T/Wo 2 as his substantive ARA Rank was Sergeant? However, it was so long ago maybe I could stand corrected.

Once again Dennis in his CMF life supported mostly RAASC units within the Transport Workshops Companies (Now RACT) and they were as follows:- 7 coy RAASC, Coburg, 33 & 15 Tpt Coy RAASC Sth Melbourne and in 1970 he returned to Chapel East St Kilda where he served with the following RAEME units, 105 Fld Wksp and again 3 Base Wksp (CMF Component) towards the end of his career he moved to Gapsted in Victoria finishing his time at Pucka area Wksp. He discharged in 1974.

Dennis's military career spanned 25 years and even up to his death **RAEME** was never out of his thoughts. He joined the RAEME Association Victoria and was a member for many years and when the occasion arose he came along to various functions especially those that were held in the North East of Victoria in the later years and was thrilled to be amongst his service friends. After his service life Dennis moved from Melbourne and married his charming lady Margaret and they moved to Gapsted later purchasing a small property in Whorouly Victoria and finally moving to Myrtleford where he resided until his passing.

He was a great hobby man and such things as rabbiting and fishing with his friends in Myrtleford were great past times for him. In addition Dennis made allsorts of models from beer cans (All Vic Bitter) and some models now grace many of his friends bars and mantel pieces. Later as Dennis became a victim of arthritis he found a new hobby brewing his own beer again he became



expert at this. Although Dennis did enjoy his brewing he never missed a visit to his local pub to catch up on all the gossip around town, he played bowls for a while and followed his loved Whorouly football team for many years. During his years at the football club Dennis ran the bar and the story goes that his dry sense of humour and the gags he told during happy Hour bought the locals in each Saturday just to have a laugh with Dennis. Dennis was also a great cook and his Bacon and Eggs skills will be missed by all those friends and relatives that had the pleasure of being catered for by Dennis.

Dennis will be missed by his family and friends as he was a great example of that Australian Digger.

*Arte et Marte*

*Bruce Williams (Ex: Sgt. 33 Tpt Coy Wksp RAASC and 105 Fld Wksp RAEME)*



## Vale 58586 W01 Richard (Dick) Rae Pease Enlisted: Jan 1953 – Discharged: April 1975

**D**ick was an 8th intake Apprentice, Vehicle Mechanic, allocated to the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers [RAEME] and served the first 3 years at Balcombe Army Apprentice School (AAS) in Victoria. He served there from Jan 1953 to Dec 1955.

From AAS Dick was posted to Melbourne Area Workshops to Feb 1962. He completed the 4th year of his apprenticeship here and was detached for short periods of time to 1 Medium Wksp and 3 Base Wksp. During this posting he managed to complete all his corps qualifying courses at RAEME Training Centre, and was promoted to CPL.

Do not think for a moment that all his time at Melbourne Area Wksp was devoted to his army career. During this period not only did he meet, but won the heart and married the love of his life "Alice". Early in 1962 he was posted to Pucka Area Wksp until 1963. On the posting he was promoted to SGT.

Due to his out-standing service up to date, he was offered a posting to Papua New Guinea and as it included taking his family, he accepted. So from Nov 1963 until mid 1967, Dick was posted to Papua New Guinea Workshops. After almost four years of outstanding devotion to his duties he was offered, for the first time since joining the Army, a post-

ing back to his home State of Western Australia, and, surprise, surprise, it was accepted.

Mid 1967 to Oct 1968 Dick was posted to 5 BOD WA. Here he was given a married quarter to settle his family in as well as being promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2. The posting did not last long; in Oct 1968 he was asked to go to Vietnam and needless to say, being the soldier he was, he could never refuse to go where his service was required. He said his farewells to his family and joined his new unit, 106 Field Workshops. His posting to 106 Field Workshops was from Oct 1968 to Oct 1969. As part of the 106 FD Wksp advance party, Dick set about preparing the area for the arrival of the remainder of the unit. As in all his previous posting, Dick carried-out his duties in Vietnam to the highest possible standard not only bringing credit to himself, but to his unit and the Corps as a whole.

On return to Australia, Dick was posted to 2 Sig Regiment, Victoria. He arrived at 2 Sig Regiment in Oct of 1969 and had a relatively short stay when he was again posted in Jan 1970.

Again his effort was of such a high standard that in Jan 1970 he was again posted, on promotion to Warrant Officer Class 1. This time it was back to Melbourne Area Wksp as the Artificer Sergeant Major, [ASM]. He held this posting from Jan 1970 to Jun 1973. This

was the first time I had worked in the same unit as Dick. It was not long before I came to realise that his reputation was well deserved and he was, in fact, a credit to the Corps.

It was a sorry day for the unit when Dick was posted back to WA because of his father's ongoing illness. In Jun 1973 he was posted back to Perth Workshop Company. This post he held until his separation from the Army in Apr 1975. Dick was kept busy as the ASM of the unit. All this while he was settling his family in married quarters and then into the new home they had bought at Mundaring. Dick's life was very busy as he was doing all he could for his parents at the same time.

In Apr 1975 he came to the conclusion it was impossible for him to give his best to both his family and the Army. So he decided to take his discharge and it was then that the Army lost one of its most devoted members.

Dick passed away at Hollywood Private Hospital at 0600 hours on 07 March 2006. His battle is over and a mighty fight he fought. Dick will be sadly missed by all that knew him. He was the lovable larrikin that nobody ever forgot.

Rest in peace, Dick. Your fight is over.

*Don Horsley  
Lest We Forget  
Arte Et Marte*

## Vale Mr R (Reg) S.J. Glass

**I**t is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of one of our Honorary Life Members of the AEME/RAEME Association of South Australia Inc., Mr.R. (Reg).S.J.Glass (Regimental No.42133), who passed away on 11 March 2006, aged 76 years.

Reg was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the AEME/RAEME Association, SA Division, in 1991 for "his work as Corps Historian in SA". It was

presented by Vice President COL Vern Claxton (Rtd).

MAJ A.N.MacLeod, DADEME Central Command from August 1961 to November 1964, was nominated as officer responsible for compiling the "History of the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in South Australia" for the period to August 1965. Reg was "given approval to gain access to Commonwealth Archives

and A.W.M. to extend his research on the History of RAEME in South Australia (Reference: 534/15/8 HQ 4MD 9 June 1983" and has updated the "History" to June 1978. He continued to collect information until he retired as Association Historian in 1999.

*David Turner  
Hon.Secretary  
AEME/RAEME Association of  
South Australia Inc.*

## "A Day To Remember"

By COL Terry Beaton

Sunday, 29 Jan 06 will go down in Corps History as a "Day to Remember" for almost 200 dedicated RAEME personnel and family who braved hot oppressive weather and the attractive distraction of an unofficial extra long weekend to attend the "Inaugural RAEME Day of Remembrance", with services simultaneously held in three separate locations in two different States. The overwhelming success of this new regional initiative enabled those gathered to commemorate the loss of RAEME Training Centre, through the appointment of LTCOL H.L.C. Martins as the first CO/CI, and the sad loss of members to their families and the Corps in recent years. Reports from each location follow:

### Melbourne Shrine

Incredibly over 80 attended the Service, undeterred, despite the added complications associated with a Cycle Race isolating the Shrine of Remembrance. This remarkable attendance far exceeded the anticipated crowd of between 20-30. The Banners for the RAEME Association of Victoria, the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association and 1 Fd Sqn Wksp Association were proudly paraded in front of their respective groups, led by 14 uniformed RAEME personnel (All Ranks) representing 4 CSSB, as well as representatives from HQ 4 Bde. A weathered National Flag, which had flown over the Remembrance Garden at RGH Heidelberg, from early 2005 until 24 Jan 06, lead the parade up the Shrine steps and into the Inner Sanctum. This flag had been recently presented by the long standing Veterans' Liaison Officer, Mr Robert Winther, on a day when a RAEME Veteran with BCOF (J) service and a RAEME Vietnam



Veteran were undergoing treatment in the RGH for war-caused disabilities. It therefore symbolised all Corps members who had sadly undergone treatment at RGH since WW2 and was proudly carried by the youngest serving RAEME Craftsman from 4CSSB in attendance.

Inside the Inner Sanctum, a Catafalque Guard was provided by ex-ADF members of the Shrine Guard. Three official wreaths were laid during a short but memorable service, skillfully assisted by Rev Bryan Nicholls (a RAEME Vietnam Veteran) who had travelled from Ballarat. The echoed words of hymns and prayers, and the eerie reverberating sound of the Last Post will be remembered by all those who participated in this rare privilege. The group then moved to the RAEME Memorial Tree in the Shrine Gardens, where a moving service was conducted. After an formal blessing by Rev Nicholls, a further two official wreaths were laid beside the old plaque, which first dedicated this tree on 26 Nov 64 as the Memorial Tree for the "Royal Corps of Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers". Afterwards 19 white crosses, marked with names and bearing RAEME tri-colours surmounted by a poppy, were laid for those we had lost in recent years. The Colonel Commandant, as senior member present, laid the cross for BRIG H.L.C Martins, representing the loss of RTC, whilst Sheila Beaton laid the cross for Mrs Audrey Martins, who sadly passed away in Aug 05. It was an honour to have Valarie Robinson, Dianne Stevens and Leonie McNaught, assisted by family, lay crosses in recognition of their late husbands' contribution to the Corps. The other fourteen crosses were laid by WW2, Vietnam and Long Serving Army Reserve Veterans on behalf of those Next of Kin who could not attend. Stirring





addresses were given by the Presidents of the RAEME Association and RAEME Vietnam Veterans Group. On behalf of BRIG John Dean – whose health had been adversely effected by the recent heat – all those in attendance were most gratefully thanked for their valiant attendance under most testing circumstances. Over 60 then adjourned to the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne, to replace much of the fluid that had soaked their clothing throughout the Service. Many new and old friendships were rekindled over the ensuing three hours with discussions over past service experiences accompanied by a well-earned beer! Many would say – “This is what “Mateship” and being a member of the “Best Corps” is all about!”

### Bandiana

Andy Turner reported that remarkably over 80 had attended the Service at the Craftsman Memorial, despite extremely hot and unpleasant conditions at 39 degrees C in the shade, prompting thoughts of a twilight service for next year. He also confirmed that the ashes of 15 former RAEME personnel had been previously laid to rest at this sacred location for the Corps. In addition, embedded in a rock beside the Memorial are listed the names of former Army Apprentices who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in time of war. Their service to the Corps had been truly remembered on this special day. An excellent address was reportedly given by LTCOL Andy Adams, as Deputy Head of Corps. Chaplin Steve Cloudsdale's conduct of the service was superb and very much appreciated by everybody. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the RAEME Association and by the Presidents of the three local RSL Sub-Branched, as well as the President of the Murray Border Association of the Vietnam Veterans. Notably, all four Presidents were RAEME. The Catafalque Guard, provided by trainees at the School, was then memorably marched off to the



rarely heard tune of the RAEME Corps March. A BBQ and light refreshments were partaken in the Memorial Park, with many taking the opportunity to visit the EME Exhibit at the Army Museum, prior to departure for the cooler more inviting comfort of their homes.

### Hobart

Russell Clark (President of the newly reformed RAEME Association of Tasmania) has advised that the third simultaneous Service at Derwent Barracks was attended by an impressive 26 members and family from their small band of “Bluebells” widely spread throughout the Apple Isle. An old “Inter” Twin Boom Wrecker had been strategically positioned for the Service, which was held at the Memorial “Piston” beside the 2 FSB Pheonix Club. Fortunately, the temperature in Hobart was a little more pleasant. After their service, which had followed a similar format to that at the Shrine and involved the laying of wreaths at the Memorial Piston, all who attended then signed a copy of the Order of Service and had a group photo taken in front of the Wrecker for historical purposes. They then adjourned to the Pheonix Club to continue the commemoration in true RAEME style.

### Summary

It is incredible to realise that nearly 200 people attended the three Inaugural services, despite the difficulties and short notice. Feedback from all three sites has confirmed the huge benefits gained by those who attended, as well as the strong desire by the majority for the Day of Remembrance to become an annual event. It is anticipated that future services will witness a dramatic increase in numbers as the word spreads about the success of this year's “Day to Remember”. Moreover, the ability to re-schedule the Service next year to the First Sunday in February, will reduce a number of the problems faced this year. Though it was agreed that regardless of the date set, it will always be inconvenient to some genuinely motivated members and that others will find an excuse for not attending anyway. For those in the Melbourne area, next year's service will be on **Sunday, 4 Feb 07 at 1100 hrs.** Issues related to mandatory training for Reservists will be directed to Formation Headquarters for requested dispensation. Having now created Corps History by successfully completing the “Inaugural Service” simultaneously in three separate locations, the conduct of services in the other two locations is now placed under local arrangements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved with this history making and most memorable activity, and congratulate you all on a job well done!

# trade matters

By WO1 RAEME (Ground) TRADE MANAGER WO1 David Clarke

**H**ello again, if you have read my RAEME Corps Warrant Officer article. EME Cell at Development Group ALTC has hit the ground running this year with a number of very pressing Trade Management issues being tackled already. In this edition of the RAEME Craftsman I would like to address some of the current Trade Management issues we are dealing with.

## DFRT

You should already be aware that the RAEME ground trades are going to be put to the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) this year. After a few false starts the current schedule continues with a DFRT Site Visit (this will probably occur in Darwin) on 24/25 October. The actual DFRT hearing will be in Canberra on 7 December.

One of the biggest things that we hope will come out of the DFRT hearing is a change to the naming conventions of the trades to allow easy identification of the differences in the skill sets of RAEME ARA and Army Reserve (AR) members. I will give you updates on how the case is progressing in this column throughout the year.

## Manning

It is no secret that RAEME, like the civilian sector, has been experiencing problems attracting people to the trades. A number of ITT Fitter Armament and Vehicle Mechanic courses have been cancelled in the past twelve months because of undersubscribed panels. This is a tragedy for the Corps because we will experience real problems in two years time when we don't have these members finishing their OJT and marching into our units.

There are a number of initiatives that Army is undertaking to try and address these problems.

Firstly, we must look after our people and keep them in the Army. There are other options apart from taking discharge (trade transfers may be an option, even for RAEME tradesmen).

Secondly, talk to the people in your unit; you would be surprised how many RAINF, RAA, RAAC, RAE etc members are qualified tradespeople and thought they would do something different for a while. Once, reality sets in, and they realise that they want to do their trades again, they can Corp transfer to RAEME.

Thirdly, talk to the people in your unit that are considering getting out and ask them whether they have considered getting a trade. If they are interested, they may want to Corps transfer to RAEME and do a trade. They will be required to do psychology assessments and testing to ensure that they meet the required General Aptitude Score (GAS) and Technical Aptitude Score (TAS) for the trade they are applying for.

Fourth, sell trades in the Army to your civilian friends. If they indicate they are interested in joining and meet the required GAS and TAS, tell them to insist that they want to enlist into RAEME.

We are our own best advertisement and we have to be proactive and do something about addressing the shortages of tradespeople ourselves.

## RAEME Regimental Postings

There has long been a lot of confusion about RAEME Regimental postings. Firstly, let me state that RAEME does not have a RAEME Regimental trade. A regimental posting is considered to be a normal part of a soldier's career progression. All RAEME members may be selected for service in a Regimental position, either by Service Need or by Personal Request. RAEME personnel serving as an instructor within any Training Command establishment or in a regimental para line within a unit are considered to be filling a regimental position.

The main points regarding RAEME Regimental positions that will be outlined in the Employment Specifications are:

- Regardless of career aspirations, all members must complete all RAEME promotion courses.
- RAEME CFN through to SGT are expected to alternate between trade and regimental postings in order to maintain proficiency in their base trade. It would be unlikely that a member would complete two regimental postings in a row;
- For RAEME personnel being considered for regimental positions from SGT to WO2 rank, it is preferred that a previous regimental posting has been completed.
- In order to be considered for the RSMs Course, members must have completed or be filling a SSM/CSM position at WO2. Members will be considered based on merit and previous posting history.
- For RAEME personnel being considered for a RSM position, it is mandatory that both a SSM/CSM posting and an RSM's course have been completed.

The bottom line is that RAEME has a requirement to fill a number of regimental postings. These postings should be seen as an opportunity to influence new recruits and young Officers and educate them on why they should be joining RAEME.

As such, the Employment Specifications for RAEME Regimental postings are being written and will detail the requirements for filling these positions and the process that members must follow in order to be appointed as an RSM within the Corps.

## Army Reserve 421s

In my last article to the RAEME Craftsman, I discussed the ECN 421 conversion. In this article I neglected to explain what the requirements are for AR ECNs 419, 420 and 422. I would like to take this opportunity to rectify that situation.

Firstly, here is some background on the AR 419, 420, 422 trades. Historically, RAEME has had problems attracting civilian tradesmen to fill these ECNs. This was largely because we wanted our electronics tradesmen to have a very broad range of skills and qualifications. Combine this with the length of our electronic courses, and we have found it difficult to fill these positions with qualified civilian personnel. Hence, most of

these AR positions have been filled by ex-ARA 419, 420 and 422s. It is hoped that the new ECN 421 training regime will make it more attractive for civilian electronic technicians to join the AR and make it easier for them to do further training.

In future, an AR 421 will have to complete the Combat Net Radio (CNR) Light Maintenance Course. This will mean that all AR 421 will at a minimum have a communication background and be able to inspect their units CNR equipment. Hence, any 419s out there now (that have CNR quals) can be converted to ECN 421 straight away. ECN 420 and 422 must complete a CNR Light course (PMKeyS no 120137) in order to be converted to ECN 421.

As we are cognisant of the trouble AR members have getting time to do courses, we have developed a number of 2-week specialist courses that AR ECN 421s can complete. Once they are converted to 421 they can do the Night Fighting Equipment (NFE) course, the Optical and Electro-Optical Instruments Course or the Angle Measuring Instruments course. These courses have been designed to give AR 421 members the ability to do courses that would have previously been unavailable to them because of their duration. It also allows AR 421s to be able to start off with a communications background and gradually expand their knowledge and expertise.

The CNR Light Maintenance course and the NFE courses are on the current TC-A schedule of courses and are run here at ALTC. We have designed the Optical and Electro-Optical Instruments Course and the Angle Measuring Instruments course and plan to commence them by mid 2007.

### Army Reserve Subject Four Courses

The most common question I get asked by AR members is about their requirements to do Subject Four (S4) courses. Do they have to do them, and how can they get qualified? The answer to the first question is yes. All RAEME members must complete S4 courses including the AR.

In answer to the second question, AR members can complete the current ARA S4 courses that are run at ALTC. Alternatively, we are currently developing an AR S4 continuum that will allow the AR members to do these courses in a reduced 2 week residential (with a bit of Distant Education required by the members prior to attending the residential). We plan to have these courses running by the end of this year.

### Recovery Mechanic Specialist Stream and Course Requirements

Most Recovery Mechanics would have been aware of the recent confusion in their trade as a result of the 2002 DFRT Determination. This was a result of a number of inconsistencies in the Employment Specifications (ES) and the Employment Category Standing Orders (ECSO). For instance, there was a occasion last year where a number of CFN were removed from their S4 CPL courses because they hadn't completed a specialist stream, and a waiver had to be granted to get them on the course. The ES and ECSO have since been amended, and this

requirement has been removed.

The ES and ECSO have also been amended to remove the requirement that Recovery Mechanics must have a Specialist stream before they can be promoted to CPL. The ES and ECSO now state that ARA Recovery Mechanics must have a specialist stream before they can be promoted to SGT. Another amendment was to remove the requirement for AR members to have a specialist stream. This was changed because most AR units do not have the specialist stream equipment, and the training requirements to gain the qualifications for AR members would be prohibitive.

The amended ES and the ECSO can be viewed in the publication folder of the DPERS-A website <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/sites/dpersa/>.

### Subject Four for Warrant Officer Class One

During the 1994 RAEME DFRT hearing, RAEME stated that it was going to develop a Subject Four Warrant Officer Class One (S4WO1) course. As most Warrant Officers Class One (WO1) would be aware, this course never eventuated. As such, RAEME was in contravention of the 1994 DFRT determination and should not have been promoting members to WO1.

The EME Trade Management Cell has since been successful in arguing that, although we did not develop this course, we have developed, and are delivering, the Artificers Course which is our Subject Four Warrant Officer (S4WO) course. As this course covers the required competencies that we said we would deliver on the S4WO1 course, and as such we have met the intent of the 1994 determination by delivering the training at the WO2 level.

### Refrigerant Gases

A number of people have contacted us here at the RAEME Trade Management Cell in regards to having difficulty getting refrigerant gases in their Unit/area since the introduction of the new legislation relating to refrigerant gases.

You should already be aware that Joint Logistics Command (JLC) approached the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) about the licensing requirements for Army/RAAF tradespeople and subsequently were granted a temporary waiver.

JLC is now seeking a Memorandum of Understanding with the DEH so that Defence can be issued with a permanent trading authorisation and tradesperson waiver.

Joint Logistics Command has a temporary trading authorisation for the purchase of refrigeration/air-con gases which is valid until 1 Jul 06. As JLC holds the authorisation, all purchases of refrigeration / air-conditioning gas for Army/RAAF units are to be coordinated through the Regional Fleet Managers (RFM) located at each of the Joint Logistics Units (JLU).

The Australian Defence Force Logistics Manager (ADFLM) for refrigeration gases and JLC want the following process to be adopted, as we now have to report to the regulator all purchas-

es and returns of reclaimed gas quarterly. A discussion paper will be issued by the ADFLM on this change in process at some stage in the future.

The process for purchasing refrigerant is as follows:

1. A Unit raises a request with their local JLU for refrigeration gas
2. The JLU will ask the unit if they have an existing bottle to be filled or recovered gas to be returned.
3. Depending on the outcomes of the above point, the JLU will then contact BOC for the procurement of refrigerant (only 22kg bottles are to be procured) and supply the unit. If the unit has recovered gas this should be returned to the JLU.

The JLC trading authorisation number will not be issued for Units to directly procure gas for themselves.

JLC have a list of locations where Army/RAAF units conduct work on refrigeration/air-conditioning equipment and the leak detectors/reclamation units etc. We do not have to provide names of trained mechanics at this point in time.

If you have any trouble with the process above or any other problems relating to refrigerant and Air conditioning gases take it up with your local JLU and they should then contact JLC for clarification/rectification of the situation

### Operator Supply

All IET Operator Supply (Op Sup) ECN 294 that have come out of ALTC since Jun 2005 have had MMM training and can

be employed in Workshops doing MMM (in Basic EMEOPs functions). This is providing Units have OP Sup positions on their Workshops SEDs. Development Group (Dev Gp) ALTC is currently reviewing MMM training for the RAAOC Op Sup ECN 298 CPLs and SGTs.

Dev Gp accepts that the training for these members may still have some way to go and they may require some extra MMM training in the Units. However, we have got to agree that it is a step in the right direction to have these members doing a lot of the mundane MMM data entry and not tradesmen. They can also do a lot of the TRF QA tasks and SCA control.

All Op Sup MMM training is being validated by Dev Gp and we (RAEME and RAAOC) are doing our best to ensure we provide the Army with the best possible product.

### Conclusion

In closing, I would like to assure everyone, that the members of EME Cell here at Development Group ALTC are doing our best to resolve the outstanding issues with the RAEME ground trades as well as taking these trades forward to the DFRT at the end of 2006. If you have concerns about your trades and can't get an answer your happy with at Unit level, feel free to give me a call or send me an email (my details are in the Defence Telephone Directory) and I will get back to you with an answer. However, I can't promise it will be an answer you like.

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## "Crafty Moments – "The Royal Corps"

The last "Crafty Moments" touched on the changes to our distinguished Corps Emblem and hat badge. Although surmounting of the "horse forcene" with the **Queen's Crown** occurred in 1955 – (over three years after her coronation in Feb 52) – there has been one further significant and sad change. Few serving today will know that our current hat badge was introduced in 1972, when the former 1955 format was altered to display a much larger Queen's Crown in compensation for the loss of our "prestigious" title as *"The Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers"*. From 1948 until 1971, our Corps was the only one in the Australian Army with this elite title, granted by King George VI on 10 Nov 48 for our dedicated services during WW2.

Sadly, the loss of our "unique" title resulted directly from the Hassett Committee Report<sup>(1)</sup> released in 1971, which recommended a complete restructuring of the Army, due to the changing face of warfare learnt on the battlefields of South Vietnam. Our new title as the *"Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers"* was granted by Queen Elizabeth II and gazetted in 1971. The Hassett Report instilled the new Corps of RAEME with the responsibility for the repair and maintenance of all of the Army's equipment. It also saw the formation of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT), but at the demise of the *Royal Australian Army Service Corps* (RAASC) and the movement of "Watercraft Transport" from RAE to the newly formed RACT. The cover of Issue No 51 of "The Craftsman" (Summer 2003/4) showed that the Corps was 55 years old with the granting of "Royal" in 1948. But this was slightly inaccurate! In Dec 03 "the Corps" as formed on 1 Dec 42 was 61 years old. Its title as "AEME" lasted less than 6 years (1 Dec 42 to 10 Nov 48). Its title then as *"The Royal Corps"* lasted 23 years until

1971. Whereas its current title as "RAEME" has now been in existence for 32 years. As such, RAEME will celebrate its 35th Anniversary on 1 Dec 06, but "The Corps" will celebrate its 64th year since its formation.

The Corps, and in fact the whole ADF, faces one further major change to all emblems which incorporate a Queen's Crown. Some time in the future a "King" will sit on the throne. It took over three years for Australia to change all emblems from a King's Crown to a Queen's Crown with the death of King George VI. How long will it now take with clothing contracted out and the whole of the Australian Government faced with the same problem. Will this be an opportunity for the republicans to argue that it is time to cease our observance to heritage and the Monarchy. Regardless of the argument, it is still going to cost the ADF a large sum to change all insignia, from a Queen's Crown to either a King's Crown or a new image.

Many readers will not be aware that the Corps has a "Memorial Tree of Remembrance", which is growing on the St Kilda Rd side of the serene gardens of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. It is a Spruce Tree and was planted during a dedication service in Dec 1964, when the Directorate of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering (DEME) was located with AHQ Melbourne at Albert Park Barracks, before the advent of Russell Offices in Canberra. *The Memorial Tree* is marked by a dedication plaque acknowledging our prestigious title as *"The Royal Corps"*. Next year as part of the RAEME Day of Remembrance Service on 4 Feb 07, the Corps Memorial Tree will be re-dedicated and hopefully a new plaque, identifying the Corps with our current title as RAEME, will be placed next to the older historical plaque – which will now commemorate the loss of our prestigious title as *"The Royal Corps"*.

In Issue No 55 of "The Craftsman" under "RAEME Matters" readers were briefed on one of our premier Corps artworks titled "AFV Repair in the Light Green – Vietnam November 1969". At the time the painting was released in 1972, it was controversial and created argument over a number of issues. One such issue was its reference to the "Light Green". At this point, it is important to realise that the painting has always been solely an "artistic interpretation" by Mr K.C. McFadyen of an FRT activity that may have occurred in SVN. It was BRIG Bendall who had suggested that a painting "depicting repairs to a tank by a FRT and with a helicopter delivering a spare engine might be suitable". (As quoted in the article on page 21).

Speaking to several "blackhats" who served in SVN from 1967-69, it seems that the topographical maps of the Phouc Tuy Province were marked with two shaded areas in green near the Long Hai Hills. One was a smaller shaded area of "light green" representing light bamboo jungle with few trees to the east of the hills. The other was a "long" elongated area of "dark green" representing thicker and more heavily wooded vegetation to the southeast. Somehow in 1968, it became more common practice to refer to these two areas on the map as the "Light Green" and the "Long Green", though these terms were never officially adopted as operational zones. Yet none of these veterans saw the scene in the painting depicting the "Light Green", let alone the "Long Green"; especially as it shows a completely open paddy field, instead of the forests of bamboo that they had driven armoured vehicles through in the real "Light Green" mapped vegetation area.

Moreover, the description states "the final drive assembly was lifted in by CH47". The painting's description needs amendment, as it can be easily seen that the assembly under the CH47 is a "Merritt Brown Epicyclic Gearbox",

which is the same assembly seen at the rear of the disabled tank, **not** a final drive. None of the veterans could recount a Centurion MUA being flown in by CH47 for a disabled gun tank. However, all veterans could readily remember it happening for M113 power packs and MUAs, but then recalled that the power packs had come in their shipping containers for protection during flight, not as an exposed assembly, as depicted in the painting.

It is therefore safe to say, that Mr McFadyen has done a wonderful job to "*artistically represent*" an Armoured FRT activity **anywhere** in the Phouc Tuy Province at **any time** in SVN. Not necessary the "proposed" incident in 1969, as detailed in the supporting description.

Lastly, the Corps lost one of its true "identities" with the sad passing of Major Bruce Thomas Leonard last year. Born in 1923, he had joined the Militia in 1939 at the age of 15, due to a doctored Birth Certificate. He earned the nickname "Mick" after the American Boxer

Mick Leonard, due to his own boxing prowess. He transferred from the Infantry to the Armoured Corp when he joined the 2nd AIF in 1941. After three years with the Armoured Corps in Australia, Mick joined 13 Small Ship Company in an attempt to see active service. He was now a member of RAE and saw operational service in Bougainville and New Guinea. With the amalgamation of technical trades into one Corps, Mick joined his fourth Corps "RAEME" on 10 Dec 50. He attended the first "18 month long" Vehicle Artificer's Course at Ingleburn. He then served in the BCOF No 2 Base Workshop at Hiro, Japan during the Korean War where as a WO1 he had to supervise "Japanese tradesmen" and was later elevated to fill a Captain's position.

Upon his return he served in Bandida, Brisbane and Townsville, where he accepted a commission and was posted to the Trials and Proving Wing at Monagceta in 1963. Two year's later he was OC 1 Armd Regt LAD, but

did not see active service in SVN. Instead he was later sent to AHQ Melbourne at Albert Parks Barracks, until given the unique opportunity as a Major to supervise the construction of the Vehicle Rebuild Workshop near Bangkok for the Royal Thai Armed Forces under a SEATO Cooperation Project<sup>(3)</sup>. Returning to AHQ Melbourne, Mick retired on 13 Dec 74 after 36 years of service, in four different Corps - 24 years in "RAEME". I am told that any former RAEME members who knew Mick, will still be warmly welcomed by Fay at any time at their home in Taree. Farewell to a great character who saw so many changes to the Corps, including the planting of our Memorial Tree in 1964.

**Footnotes**

1. General Hassett was the Chief of General Staff (CGS) at the time.
2. In 1988, when I went under the DCP Project to upgrade facilities at VRW, senior Thai Officers still fondly remembered Mick and his contribution to the workshop.

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## Out of corp posting

I have just completed 2 years posted to an out of Corp Posting, which to most spanners is a scary thought to leave the comfort and protection of the brotherhood. I was fortunate enough however to secure a posting to the Adventurous Training Wing (ATW) at ARTC Kapooka and spent two whirlwind years, which was possibly the most rewarding posting in my career.

However, it was not all beer and skittles (some weeks we never even saw a skittle), as all members posted to a Training Command posting know, the tempo and standards required are very high. During the posting I was fortunate enough to combine my passion with my occupation, which is sea kayaking. I also gained qualifications as a Unit Adventurous Training Leader Instructor in roping, caving and rafting.

Whilst running these types of courses is very rewarding and

sometimes just plain enjoyable the administration of these courses and the management of risk, and OH&S is very demanding. During the past three years ATW has also had the onerous task of rewriting all of the adventurous training manuals for each of the disciplines and the Training Management Packages. With the assistance of Dev Wing at ARTC has produced some excellent publications that meet and exceed civilian equivalents.

SCMA was also successful in securing the posting position to ATW and a position for RAEME SNCO UATLs. So good luck to Tom Spironac who will be replacing me at ATW.

In short; a posting out of Corp is not a daunting prospect and an excellent opportunity to explore other aspects of the army, (and no SDSS).

**WO2 Wez Lynch**

The latest Craftsman Magazine highlighted Rapier BIM's demise. In 1967 whilst I was the OC of 1111AA BTY LAD as a WO2, I see now it is run by a Major, the Battery was called upon to select and send Gunners to the UK for training as Operators on the Rapier.

The Battery selected about 10 Gunners and Corporals that they considered ideal with better than most IQ's.

The major requirement was that the target (Aircraft) came up on the screen as a small pencil line and the operator with the aid of a joystick had to keep a circle around the indicated target.

Result, most of the so-called bright Gunners/Corporals failed

and were returned to Australia. It was found that they didn't have eye hand coordination to the level required to keep a small circle around a short line.

A test that highlighted eye hand coordination was carried out in the Battery, with the result that people that worked with their hands, GD's, sportsman, and the like, were ideal people to be operators.

Just for fun I sent a couple of our Craftsman along for the test, F/T people and they were certainly candidates.

**Bob Thompson**

(41961 WO1 R.C.Thompson. (ret))

## RAEME Miniature Banner Limited Release



To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the presentation of the Prince Philip Banner, the Head of Corps has commissioned a limited edition framed banner miniature. Each miniature will be individually certified and numbered.

Size approx 320x370mm. Cost \$190.

Order forms are available from Major Graham Anderson, SO2 Heritage-RAEME, HOC Cell, Latchford Bks BANDIANA, Vic, 3688; graham.anderson@defence.gov.au; Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436

# article

## Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

News update 19 April 2006-04-19

**W**e are now official, the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc. This was largely the result of work by Gib Owen. However, there is still quite a way to go before we can call for membership, with a number of immediate procedural motions to be discussed and carried by the interim Committee, particularly membership issues and procedures, fees, mail address, bank account, committee responsibilities, membership communication, web site, welfare support, first Special General Meeting, Dedication of the Memorial Plaque at the AWM, etc.

One thing I left out of my last Update was the Objectives of the Association. These are:

1. To enable constant communication between members to promote the interest of members through the Association.
2. To promote the welfare of members and spouses.
3. To promote the maintenance of the Marine Gates, Mace Oval and the Parade Ground.
4. To create a record of the members' history, and that of the School.
5. Support of any related museum and

relics.

6. To promote the concept of Army Apprenticeships.
7. To recognise the contribution of members to Australia and the Army.

Our web site is now almost there, thanks to Glenn Jones. He is now waiting on me to provide further information for the site, but some of these changes hinge on the first committee meeting.

Last week I attended the dedication of a memorial plaque at the AWM to 32 Small Ship Sqn that had been organised by their Association, of which I am a member. This and the dinner that evening were very well organised and I now have a better idea of what we can do. We are fortunate to have a serving general (Lt Gen Ken Gillespie AO DSM CSM) and the Assistant Manager Events and Ceremonies at the AWM (Craig Johnson) as Apprentices and who will hopefully be in a position to assist in the organisation and conduct of the dedication.

I note that about 600 Navy apprentices are celebrating 50 years since the opening of the Navy Apprentices School and will be in Canberra for ANZAC Day. I

hope to be able to meet with them.

It has been brought to my notice that a new Anglican Grammar School is to be built at Balcombe, on land that is believed to include Mace, the Gates and the Parade Ground. I have been in contact with the developers to express our interest in the site and requesting further information. It is opportune that this has happened just as the AAAA has been formed as we are able to represent our views far more strongly. I will keep all advised of developments.

It is with sadness that I report that Geoff Beggs, 20th intake electrician, passed away last Wednesday after an 18 month battle with cancer. I am sure that condolences from us all go out to his family and mates.

I hope you all have a great ANZAC Day and renew old acquaintances. If you don't march then consider doing so, otherwise this great tradition will fade away or be swamped by groups who do not truly represent the ANZAC forces and our traditions.

Finally, if you know of anyone who is not on my email list and wishes to be, please have them send a note to me at [Frank.Poole@bigpond.com](mailto:Frank.Poole@bigpond.com).

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## Hueys in ASGW

**2**006 sees 15 years of Iroquois in ASGW. As I look in my AATTR the old and mouldy pages reveal an entry for 15 April 1991 – Flight Servicing Airframe and Engine, UH-1H Iroquois. Those were interesting times!

In late 1990 the Word filtered down to the workshop floor that these 20+ year old veteran aircraft from RAAF 9 Squadron were to be relocated to Oakey as part of the Army 'takeover' of RAAF rotary wing assets. A building expansion program had been under way for some time, a new Black Hawk maintenance facility was being built as well as new storage hangars and extensions to the Paint Shop. Army Aviation was coming of age and RAEME Aviation was being dragged kicking and screaming to the party!

Christmas 1990 came and went but still no presents from the Air Force. Then one day in early 1991 the distinctive sound of Hueys approaching the field from the east had us outside watching. It was an interesting day. The aircrew disappeared in a RAAF minibus and we were left alone to ponder these strange and rather large helicopters. A quick canvassing of unit personnel revealed only one person with Iroquois experience (Fraz – Bob Fraser) so 171 Sqn were called in to help hangar and after flight the aircraft.

Somebody must have made some phone calls because a few days later two RAAF maintainers, FSGT Anthony 'Steele' Lindsay and WOFF 'Nugget' Nugent arrived with a truckload of GSE and tooling and Iroquois Section was born at the western end of the ASGW hangar. It was a tight squeeze, we were still looking after Porter, Kiowa and Nomad then and the Iroquois placed a heavy burden on floor space. I have lost count of the number of times the hangar was reorganised to make best use of available hangar space. To make matters worse we had inherited 171 Sqn

Kiowas and we still had Black Hawk to come! But that is another story...

A smattering of Army guys posted in from 5 Sqn and the arrival of CPL Michael 'Dopo' Dopking from 9 Sqn formed the nucleus of the Iroquois maintainers but it was soon apparent that Hawker Pacific blue suiters would be needed to help maintain the aircraft. So it was I found myself in RAMS, along with an assortment of other Hawker Pacific and Army dudes under the expert tutelage of Steele. An intensive Iroquois course with the mandatory 30 minute coffee break every half hour saw us eventually signed up flight servicing.

3 moments stand out in that course. The first was the look on Steeles' face when we watched a Porter flying backwards over the airfield (ahhh...the old Porter Party Tricks), secondly, after a lengthy discourse on the Float Landing Gear and how ARMY will NEVER fly Hueys on floats, outside on the balcony watching a 171 Sqn Huey take off for Cooby with floats...again, the look on Steeles' face said it all. The third was watching a video of a Channel 10 documentary on 9 Sqn, concluding with the then CO of 9 Sqn lamenting how the transfer of the Huey to ARMY was the beginning of the end of Rotary Wing in Australian military service.

In the immortal words of Bart Simpson – Eat my shorts!

15 years later ASGW still maintains these old veterans in service and given the opportunity we would happily do it for 15 years more. The Huey has become part of Army Aviation folklore and those of us privileged to have maintained the aircraft here at ASGW are proud to have been part of the Huey's distinctive contribution.

Huey carved its niche with pride. Considered Dinosaurs by some, the Huey section of the workshop proudly became known as 'Jurassic Park'. The first priority was to remove the AIR FORCE signage from the tail and

replace it with ARMY. The national insignia on the tail, the Red, White and Blue fin flash, was modified. For many years ASGW Hueys unofficially flew with a Red, Yellow and Blue fin flash, the RAEME Corps colours. To say we were over zealous in our acceptance of the Huey into Army service would be an understatement!

Personally, the Huey has become my favourite. Despite working since 1983 on Kiowa (as well as Porter and Nomad), then on Black Hawk at Bankstown in 1988 and at Oakey since 1993, it is the Iroquois that has taught me real helicopter maintenance. Any aircraft in the sky at Oakey will make me want to stop and watch, but for me the irresistible Huey is poetry in motion. Knowing how all the rotating and vibrating bits are supposed to work in synchronicity adds to the mystery!

When it finally is put to pasture the Iroquois will be missed. Many Army and Contract tradesmen have cut their teeth on Huey, the experience and knowledge they have gained is invaluable to their future career in Aviation. The Huey has brought into ASGW many fine tradesmen from the RAAF, quite a few from retirement, their experience and contribution has been invaluable to the workshop as a whole, adding to ASGW's ability to change and adapt to new aircraft and technology.

### Martin Hillier

Martin (Spot) Hillier joined RAEME Aviation in 1982 as an Airframe Fitter on Kiowa, Nomad and Porter. Subsequent employment has been with Hawker Pacific in 5 Base Wksp Bn and its evolution since. A short soiree in Agricultural and General Aviation started in 1999 and in July 2004 he returned to Oakey with Helitech. Martin (Spot) is currently employed as an Aircraft trade supervisor on Black Hawk and Iroquois and coordinates activities in the Bay Service workshop at ASGW.

## "COMPO – Never Too Young"

By Terry Beaton (Pensions Advocate)

**C**onfused about your entitlements or how to claim compensation for your service caused disabilities – then join the long queue!! This article is therefore essential reading to provide a simplified explanation of both Military and Veteran Compensation entitlements.

### Crucial

It is imperative that all readers realise that you are “**never too young**” to make a claim for compensation or to at least ensure that all service related injuries, diseases or incidents are recorded – at the time of occurrence – especially on your medical records. It is even more advisable these days to maintain your own personal file with copies of all incident reports, routine orders (authorising the participation in civilian and service competitions), as well as copies of all related medical reports. Without such documentation or relevant entries, future claims may be rejected solely due to the lack of supporting evidence on your records, *unless you can produce your own copy*. Unlike the beneficial legislation of the *Veterans’ Entitlement Act (1986)* – where veterans with operational service are given the “*benefit of the doubt*” for any reasonable assertion, the new 2004 legislation has removed the provision to “presume” that the injury, disease or death is service related. Onus is now on the claimant to prove it happened, beyond reasonable doubt.

### Background

On 1 July 2004 the Government introduced the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (commonly called MRCA 04). Its purpose was to create a single, tri-service specific compensation scheme to meet the unique circumstances facing personnel serving in the current and future ADF. MRCA 04 represented the Government’s response to

the detrimental findings of the Inquiry into the Black Hawk disaster of Jun 96 and the lack of “just” compensation to victims, as a result of the controversial introduction of the Military Compensation Act in 1994. MCA (1994) not only depreciated the prior provisions of the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act of 1988 (SRCA (1988))*, but more significantly it totally removed the legislated entitlement of ADF personnel to claim compensation under the “*Eligible Defence Service*” provision of **Veterans Entitlement Act (1986)**, originally awarded by the Whitlam Government on 7 Dec 72. The fallout from the lesser benefits then available to the victims of the Blackhawk disaster, forced the 1997 Inquiry into Military Compensation, followed by the Tanzer Review in Mar 99. The latter investigated the wide criticism about the adequacy, equity between existing Acts and relevance of the existing compensation arrangements for the ADF in line with modern civilian compensation principles. It recommended the formulation of a single compensation system for the coverage of all types of ADF service and the removal of the dual eligibility under both *Veteran and Military Compensation*.

In simple terms, the passing of MRCA 04 by Parliament effectively terminated **any** access to all prior forms of *Military and Veteran Compensation* to any person joining the ADF, or for any injury, disease and death as of **1 Jul 04**. MRCA 04 is largely based on the provisions of SRCA (1988), plus key beneficial elements of the *VEA (1986)*. In short, although MRCA is “superior” to all previous forms of *Military Compensation*, it is not as good as the *Veterans’ Compensation* under the *VEA (1986)*, due to politically imposed cost reducing directives.

### VEA Bonus

MRCA 04 has however, had a significant

benefit for anybody who had enlisted in the ADF prior to **7 Apr 1991**, in that it has retrospectively re-granted entitlement to the “*Eligible Defence Service*” provision of the *VEA (1986)* previously removed by MCA (1994). In other words, if you enlisted before 7 Apr 91, any service related injuries, diseases or death which occurred before 1 Jul 04, can now also be claimed under the *VEA (1986)*.

### Date

In other words, the critical issue is “*the date of injury, onset of disease or resulting death*”. The date will determine which of the above Acts for *Military or Veterans Compensation* is applicable for your claim. Remember, only a claim for clinical worsening or aggravation of a service-related condition sustained **prior to 1 Jul 04**, can be claimed under MRCA 04, **not** the incapacity resulting from the date of clinical onset. As such, a claim for aggravation may be detrimental to those with eligibility under the *VEA (1986)*. It is suggested you seek “informed” advice prior to making your “once only offered” election. It can therefore be seen that “**Eligibility**” is a very complex issue and should be discussed with an Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Pension Officer in your local region, who has undertaken training under the Training Information Program (TIP) sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

### Entitlement

In the simplest terms, everybody who served or is currently serving in the ADF, has a right to receive compensation through the “*Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme*” (MCRS) for any condition where liability has been accepted under any form of legislation for *Military Compensation*. However, for

those who served prior to 6 Apr 94 and that service has been deemed "Operational or Peacekeeping" service, or who served in the ADF from "7 Dec 72 to 6 Apr 94" – they have an additional entitlement to claim their disabilities under the VEA (1986).

After the introduction of MRCA 04, those who served between "7 Apr 91 to 30 Jun 04" have retrospectively eligibility to claim under the VEA (1986), but can also claim under SRCA (1988) for conditions sustained 7 Apr 91 – 6 Apr 94 and MCA (1994) for conditions occurring 7 Apr 94 – 30 Jun 04. From 1 Jul 04 all new injuries, diseases or death can only be claimed against MRCA 04.

### Dual Eligibility

Recapping – all former members who had ADF service after 7 Dec 72 and discharged prior to 6 Apr 94, still have an entitlement to claim any service caused disabilities under **both** the VEA (1986) and SRCA (1988). This also applies to a dependant in the case of a death. Moreover, those who enlisted prior to 7 Apr 91 and are either still serving or had discharged between 1994 and 30 Jun 04 – now have an entitlement to claim under **both** the VEA (1986) and MCA (1994).

### Single Eligibility

Any condition or death suffered after 1 Jul 04 can now only be claimed against the single entitlement offered by the new Act (MRCA 04).

### One Benefit

Dual eligibility can be a **trap** to the uninformed. Personnel with such an entitlement may legally claim for the "same condition" under both the VEA (1986) and SRCA (1988), or MCA (1994), but any such claim **will be adjusted** to result in the same "total financial" benefit – had the claim been made solely against the VEA. In other words, "you can't double dip". Any lump sum payment made by MCRS will be deducted from the grand "predicted" total and your VEA disability pension payments will be reduced accordingly to offset monies "already received". Hence the reason why some veterans awarded a disability pension at the Special Rate (commonly called T&PI) under the VEA, suddenly find themselves on a **Part** Special Rate Pension, once a lump sum has also been paid out for the same claimed condition/s under MCRS. This could have major financial implications for future livelihood due to the loss of monies resulting from CPI increases on a

reduced total. Lump sum payments are practical when funds are immediately required to provide future domestic security to offset reduced earning capability due to physical incapacity.

### Rehabilitation

MRCA 04 is constantly being revised following its formulation over several years (since 2000) through extensive consultation with ESOs and the ADF. As stated, it has taken the most beneficial elements of the SRCA (1988) and many, but not all, of the beneficial legislation of the VEA (1986). The major difference between the VEA and MRCA 04, is that the latter has an increased focus on "rehabilitation" for those whose capacity for work is affected by conditions for which liability has been accepted under MRCA. In addition, all members assessed for medical discharge will be individually case-managed through the transition to civilian life. Early feedback on the Transition Management Service (TMS) suggests that this civilianised service is having teething problems. However, this is still a significant development in light of difficulties experienced by many former ADF personnel who were previously medically discharge with little or no assistance after discharged. As such, they had to rely heavily on ESOs and Service Associations for support to adjust to civilian life or claiming for just compensation.

### Payment

It is important to note that MRCA 04 has adopted the SRCA model of providing compensation payments, not the VEA model of a disability pension: – despite adopting the VEA processing system using the objectivity of the Statement of Principles (SOPs) issued by the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) to establish the **vital linkage** between service and the claimed condition. MRCA is therefore based on economic and non-economic loss payments, not on payments to compensate for reduced lifestyle and physical incapacity due to service reasons – even though they may have little effect on a veteran's ability to work and may not be permanent. Under MRCA, similar non-economic loss payments can be awarded once liability has been accepted for a claim, **but only** after the condition or impairment has been diagnosed to be *permanent and has stabilised* to allow determination of the level of compensation. Most importantly, any such determination will be **periodically** reviewed and may be reduced or lost

entirely (due to rehabilitative treatment). Whereas under the VEA (1986), accepted disabilities are not reviewed until a veteran lodges a claim for a new condition or an Application For Increased (AFI) Pension for an accepted disability.

### Notification

Another significant difference is that under MRCA 04, receipt of all claims by MCRS must be notified to the representative appointed by each Service Chief. This is obviously to provide greater visibility of the physical incapacity of all serving ADF personnel, so that individuals are not deployed with unknown claimed disabilities, as previously occurred under VEA (1986) or SRCA (1988).

### Claiming

Terminology has also changed in MRCA 04. Now "Wartime (WW2)" "Operational" and "Peacekeeping /Peacemaking" service have been redefined as "Warlike" and "Non-Warlike". Moreover "Eligible Defence Service" is now define as "Peacetime Service". Consequently, due to the changes in terminology and the complexity of the eligibility criteria for each new type of service, **it is strongly recommended that anybody wishing to make a claim, does not do it by themselves – but seeks professional support through a TIP trained Pensions Officer**. Those serving in Victoria have the ability to visit one of the 23 Veteran Centres, which have been established in this State to assist all serving and former ADF personnel with their claims, regardless of their eligibility to either *Military or Veteran Compensation*. Too often, through lack of knowledge, individuals badly "stuff" their own case, making it difficult or even impossible for trained volunteers to rectify. The golden rule is – "don't do it yourself, seek TIP trained assistance"

### Reduction

Lastly, should any condition be accepted under VEA (1986), and a disability pension received, once you discharge, your superannuation payment (DFRDB or MSBS) **will have no** affect on your disability pension. Under MRCA 04, once you receive your superannuation payments, any weekly disability payment received will be reduced by 60 percent, as the Government in 2004 deemed that future receipt of both superannuation and disability payments was "double dipping".

# article

## Operation Acolyte JTF 636 EME SPT



**O**n the 16th of January members of the 7 CSSB under the title of JTF 636 EME support element reported for duty at 7 CSSB HQ. For the next 10 days preparation for a 2 Month deployment began, the usual packing of vehicles, attending briefs and of course the numerous amount of forms that somehow was asking for the same information but in different formats. Our WO EME (HQ 7 BDE) deployed on this day to begin climatization and cultural assimilation or so he says.

The EME element consists of ;  
WO EME WO2 Deta Kerschat  
(HQ JTF 636) Vic Bks  
VEH SGT SGT Gary Cowan  
(LOG TG) Maygar Bks  
ELEC CPL LCPL Darryl Leeson  
(LOG TG) Maygar Bks  
VM CFN Jamie Harwood  
(LOG TG) Maygar Bks  
Fitter CFN John Marshall  
(LOG TG) Maygar Bks  
REC Mech CFN Craig Bannon  
(LOG TG) Maygar Bks

The JTF 636 EME support element is located at Maygar Barracks, Broadmeadows (3 BASE for the old and bold), we are part of the JTF 636 Logistic Task Group and our role is to provide formation level support to the JTF 636 GS fleet of vehicles and other support equipment organic to the other Task Group elements ie Engineers, Transport and Signals.

Our TSN Technical Support network consists of organic unit members and Local industry.

Our first task involved providing FRT support for the move to AO Melbourne



by 1ST FD REGT as part of 7 STU. We departed Brisbane by road on the 30 January with CFN Bannon departing by air on the same day as the advance party. Day one saw the road party arrive at the MUD Dubbo with a reported flat tyre and minor haemorrhaging from the vehicles. CFN Marshall next morning reported a case of frost bite to the extremities of the body due to a RAEME member switching off the oscillating mode of the air conditioner which resulted in cold air being directed straight onto him. (Sorry mate)

Next day saw the trip to Puckapunyal with the only casualty of the road trip an IIMV intermediate differential decided that 10 km's south of Dubbo was as far as it was going. The trip to Pucka also saw the other IIMV try and go out in sympathy but a missing fuel filter was hardly a challenge for the RAEME boys and Craftsman Marshall reported a comfortable night of rest.

The 3rd day saw the move to AO Melbourne and sadly this where we parted the Gunnies as they moved on to Point Cook we veered off for Broadmeadows.





Our past couples of weeks have been a series of lectures and briefings involving, Mandatory training, accreditation passes and our favourite the "OP ACOLYTE" show bag, which has a number of useful items including the standard issue on any operation, the brassard and patch. These items will surely gain in value in times to come so these bags are held under lock and key in the warehouse.

The colour scheme of the T-shirt, cap and bag would not look out of place in the Netherlands National Cricket team locker room.

We currently operate under a 23:30 hr curfew, and of course this rule just had to be tested soon then latter. For one week we had all privileges withdrawn and we then entered what we refer to as EX "EARLY NIGHT", this activity saw a week of afternoon parades (roll book marked) and IMT's (irritating minor tasks).

The troops saved up their money and rested up for an impending assault on Melbourne once we regained our privileges.

We have settled in fairly quickly and work is flowing in, the biggest issue is navigating around Melbourne and it's suburbs, a many a wrong turn has been taken and doing a U Turn in a GMV in less than 10 points is a challenge.

So far tasks have been to far off areas of Melbourne like Point Cook (great RAAF Museum), Watsonia (great swim-

ming pool), Melbourne docks (great big boats), Williamstown (great ice cream) and no trip to Victoria would be complete with out an FRT to Pucka Range (great camels).

We have worked on equipment from room fans to chainsaws, generators, trailers, Unimogs and Landrovers and some engineering equipment that even the engineers did not know what they were for.

We have no recovery tasks to date, which has been good, because the lack of a Tow truck could make it difficult. However Banno has been showing the boys his many talents, chopping wood is just one to mention.

Recreation time is a hit and miss affair at the moment, due to the constant weather changes that happen during the course of the day. During a recent trip to St Kilda beach, all outdoor events were cancelled, and were turned into indoor activities, which resulted in all types of weather being observed from a strategic location.

With the opening of the games now only 10 days away, the training endured by the security is now for real and the intensity is gaining momentum. Equipment levels have steadily grown with some 70 different equipment items now needing support.

The workload is steady with a 2 day turnaround from the workshop the average. Our supply pers headed by WO1



Barr are providing valuable assistance with all parts being supplied in very short time.

The MWD boys have headed home for their reunion travel, reducing the workshop manning to 50 % leaving SGT Cowan and CFN Harwood to kept RAEME boat sailing for 4 days. Have fun boys you deserve it. (Not and no smiling faces upon return)

On the 6 March we are expecting 2 Recce Mech's from the 3 Rd Recovery Platoon, big shoes to fill in Banno's absence but at least they will come with tools, like a recovery vehicle and trailer.



# article

## HRV Training Team

### 18 Mar 05 – 24 Mar 06

By WO1 P.J. Yates

**O**n the 18 Mar 05, the Heavy Recovery Vehicle Training Team was formed at Bandiana to conduct Introduction into Service Training for all ARA and AGR Recovery Mechanic's on the new Heavy Recovery Vehicle (HRV). The Team consisted of WO1 Peter Yates (HQ LSF), WO2 Shayne Gallagher (ALTC), WO2 Gary Ball (DMO) and Mr Shane Hodby from Mack Trucks Australia in Brisbane. Also as part of the Training Team were WO1 Glenn Huckle (DMO) and SGT John McCrone (ALTC) as reserve instructors.

Having received training from Mack Trucks Australia on the operation and

driving of the HRV the Training Team headed off to Darwin for a month to collect there initial training vehicles (205 229 and 205 230) and conduct the first of four courses for the Recovery Mechanic's in the north. On the completion of the training in Darwin the two training vehicles were issued to 1 CSSB and 2 Cav Regt.

From Darwin the team headed south to Sydney and collect two more training vehicles (205 238 and 205 239) which the team kept until the completion of the training in Perth in Nov 05. After the training was completed in Sydney the team moved on to Townsville, then Brisbane followed by Puckapunyal,

Adelaide, Perth, back to Brisbane and with the last course being conducted at Recovery Platoon at ALTC in Mar 06.

During this period, the Training Team conducted 18 courses of which, each course consisted of five days of training. This training consisted of winch and crane operation, driving and of course lift – towing of our "B" vehicle fleet, which was something we as Recovery Mechanic haven't been able to do for a long time with the Mack. All in all 153 Recovery Mechanic's both ARA and AGR were trained by the team which accounted for all ARA Recovery Mech's and most of the AGR.

## THE 2006 RAEME CRAFTSMAN PORT

The 2006 RAEME Craftsman port is being produced by 10 FSB.

The label is shown below. POC is LT Sebastian Aleksandrowicz of 10 FSB, Townsville



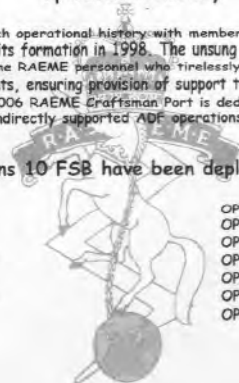
### Operational History

10 FSB has a rich operational history with members being deployed every day since its formation in 1998. The unsung heroes of ADF operations are the RAEME personnel who tirelessly respond to short notice deployments, ensuring provision of support to arms corps brethren. The 2006 RAEME Craftsman Port is dedicated to all who deployed on or indirectly supported ADF operations.

Operations 10 FSB have been deployed on:

OP SLIPPER  
OP CITADEL  
OP BEL ISI  
OP BASTILLE  
OP AZURE  
OP MAZURKA

OP TANAGER  
OP WARDEN  
OP ANODE  
OP SUMATRA ASST  
OP PAKISTAN ASST  
OP FALCONER  
OP CATALYST







Heavy Recovery Vehicle Training

# 1st Armoured Regiment Operations Support Squadron

By MAJ C.C. Lea and SGT A. Page (RAEME)

Photos: PTE R. Williams (RACT)

**O**perations Support Squadron (OSS) has been an integral hub of the 1st Armoured Regiment (1 AR) wheel since the unit was formed. 1 AR is one of the most equipment intensive units in the Army. As such OSS, not only in barracks but also more so in the field plays the pivotal role of maintaining the units' equipment and or capability.

The year of 2005 was a reasonably standard one in regards to maintenance and support to the Regiment. The members of OSS and new march-ins have returned in 2006 from Christmas

leave and hit the ground running, as the start of EX Southern Reach (EX SR 06) in Cultana South Australia, fast approached. Preparing for an exercise on the other side of the continent will always come with logistic challenges; however, nothing that could not be handled by the skilled and dedicated workshop members of OSS. The unit's equipment moved by rail as personnel had the luxury of flying with "Ronnie RAAF". Once in location and after the trains had been unloaded the workshop had a few days grace setting up in location before the masses of



Go the prowl



C Sqn Replen



Op Maintenance T-108 Cse



Deck Lift OC



Pack Diagnosis OC

armoured personnel moved in to begin the exercise. Along with supporting the line squadrons on the range it has also been good to see members gaining qualifications on MBT and M113 Crew Commander and Driver courses. A small portion of OSS members had been left in Darwin to support from the rear and also to participate in an ALTC organised Hull Maintenance course. With OSS providing both 1st and 2nd line logistic support to all elements deployed on EX SR 06, the tradesmen of the Squadron have faced numerous challenges of their technical skills, in repairing equipment promptly to support the high tempo of training across a wide range of equipment fleets.

Even though the year has started off very intensively Workshops have a swagger in their stride knowing full well that the Leopard Fleet of Tanks that have served the Regiment so well will soon be replaced by the more powerful and battle proven tanks, the M1A1 AIMS Abrams from America. Members within OSS and the Regiment have already begun preparations for maintaining and operating the Abrams and Hercules fleet of vehicles, by sending tradesmen to America to undergo training on the new equipment. Additional training will continue at the School of Armour (SOA) and ALTC commencing in late 2006.

The new M1A1 AIMS Abrams Tank is a 62 ton, gas turbine, 1500hp terra firma eating machine that will give the Regiment a heightened capability and greater firepower than the current tank. The M1A1 AIMS release has an improved level of reliability and a smaller logistic footprint than the previous editions of the Abrams Tank. This includes a state of the art engine and drive-train diagnostic system, digitised fire control and stabilisation systems. The vehicle also has the widest range of weapon systems on a single platform in the Army, including a 120mm smooth bore cannon, .50cal QCB, Mag 58 Coax AA, MBSGD,

as well as the crew's individual weapons. Plans for maintenance are currently focussed on 1st and 4th line repair and recovery, so for tradesmen hoping to get a taste of working with one of the best tank platforms in the world, a posting to 1 AR or SOA is a necessary pre-requisite.

An exciting time for the recovery mechanic trade also looms with the introduction into service of the M88A2 Hercules Armoured Recovery Vehicle. The M88A2 is a 70 tonne, 1050hp V12 powered recovery vehicle, equipped with a 35 tonne A-frame boom and winch, and a 70 tonne main recovery winch. The Hercules will come with its own logistic and maintenance support challenges for the recovery mechanics and tradesmen, as it is a very different system to the current Leopard ARVM, but is equally a fantastic recovery capability that will underpin the Regiment's ability to manoeuvre on the battlefield.



FRT OC



ARVM Track Change

OSS has also begun the arduous task of identifying current tanks within the Regiment that will be the first to be returned to Bandiana for disposal. As the year passes all members are keen to facilitate the process of disposing the old tanks as they can see the new tanks encroaching fast on the horizon. There are exciting times ahead for the Regiment, with an expanding SED for OSS to allow the Squadron to maintain the new capability. IOT allow the Regiment to be prepared for operations as a 'force of choice'. Tradesmen interested in a posting to the Regiment are recommended to start submitting their preferences via an AD148 to their relevant career manager at SCMA. Tradesmen with existing M113 Driver and Crew Commander qualifications are highly sought after as well.

*'Arte et Marte'*  
*'Paratus'*



OSS + C Sqn Replen



Engine Lift No 2 for T38



TLC Shoot Stg IV



8-Liner Tpt



Rail Tpt

# The Army Museum Bandiana



ARMY MUSEUM BANDIANA

**Museum Manager: Major Graham Docksey,**  
OAM (02) 6055 2833

**Collections Manager: Mr Neil Dailey (02) 6055 2234**

**Museum Shop and General Enquiries:**  
(02) 6055 2525 or Fax (02) 6055 2886

**E-mail: [bandiana.museum@defence.gov.au](mailto:bandiana.museum@defence.gov.au)**  
**[www.army.gov.au/awma\\_mus/default.htm](http://www.army.gov.au/awma_mus/default.htm)**

**Open to the public seven days a week from 9.30am until 4pm.**  
**Closed on Good Friday, ANZAC Day,**  
**Christmas Day and Boxing Day.**

## Vision

The Army Museum Bandiana will provide a leading edge focus for the interpretation and public display of Australia's rich Military Heritage, with a special emphasis on the history of the Army's logistic corps.

## Mission

The Army Museum Bandiana is committed to best practice in the preservation, management, storage and display of its collections in order to protect and preserve Army's heritage and to promote its history to the public.

## Around the museum

Greetings from staff and volunteers, much has happened in the museum throughout 2005. The year saw a letter of appreciation from the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy to Mr David McCabe for his outstanding work in developing a working model of the 'Gallipoli Drip Rifle'. The display is believed to be the only 'working' model in the country. Well done David,

Many new displays were developed under the direction of Mr Neil Dailey the Collections Manager. These displays involved a large amount of research by Neil, graphic design work and printing by Mr Doug Fothergill. Outstanding results to date with work now underway on the Vietnam display. It is expected that Keith Payne, VC will open the new Vietnam display on Friday the 3rd of March 2006.

Warrant Officer Kym Lambert continues with the 'life long'

task of cataloguing all items in the collection onto the Army Heritage Management System.

The workload for museum staff continues to increase with requests for information from both the public and Department of Veterans Affairs on the increase, and the requirement to support various activities such as the Avalon Air Show and the VP Parade in Canberra.

Despite all efforts to secure funding for ten vacant reserve positions, no additional funding has been provided again this year. Accordingly a number of projects will be on hold until the situation is resolved. This is an unfortunate situation and is hampering the further development of the museum.

## The museum shop

The shop stocks a range of Corps items including plaques, ties, thermal mugs, Corps statues, coffee cups, mouse mats, Corps history books, stubby holders, tie tacks, tie clips, Corps prints, collectors tea spoons and much more. Ring Bryan on (02) 6055 2525 or check out the website.

**Special: RACT Ties – with badge \$25.00. Limited Stock.**



Bryan Anderson with a typical range of stock for sale

## Get to know the staff: CPL Mick Efford

Michael Efford enlisted in the Regular Army in 1975. After training as a Rifleman at the Infantry Centre was posted to the 8/9th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment in Brisbane. In 1981 he was posted to Norforce in Darwin. In 1983 he completed a Vehicle Recovery Mechanics Course and was Corps transferred to RAEME and posted to Headquarters 7th Military District Workshops. Subsequent postings have been: 21



W02 Kym Lambert working on data entry



Neil Dalley and Doug Fothergill proofing the next print

Construction Squadron, \_ Cavalry Regiment, 2 Cavalry Regiment, 1 Field Regiment, 1 WaterCraft Workshop, and 1 Field Regiment. Mick transferred to the Reserve in 1996 after 21 years ARA service.

Today Mick is attached to the museum where he works on the maintenance, repair and restoration of the historic vehicle collection.

'I am now working in the museum workshop and enjoying the challenge of repairing and restoring equipment that most people only dream of seeing let alone working on'.



CPL Efford working on the White Armoured Scout Car

### Get to know the volunteers: Mr Russell Johnston

Russell enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces in 1950 as a Rifleman with the City of Perth Regiment. In 1951 he was called up for National Service serving as a Gunner with the 3rd Field Regiment RAA. In 1953 he was selected as the Regimental Tailor for the 11/44th Battalion on promotion to Sergeant. In 1966 Russell transferred to the Regular Army as the Command Tailor at Swan Barracks Western Australia where he served for the next eight years. After serving another ten years in the West with the District Support Unit he was posted to the 31st Supply Battalion at Bandiana as the Sergeant Tailor in 1976. During this posting he was the Area Tailor, Instructor and Trade Testing Officer for the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Centre. Russell retired in 1986 to run his own business in Wodonga making tailor made uniforms for the Army and civilian attire. In 2001 Russell became a volunteer at the Museum where he continues with his trade skills by looking after the museum's uniform collection.



Russell Johnston at work in the uniform room

Russell thoroughly enjoys the work in the museum and recommends the experience to members who have retired and want to remain active. Volunteers are always needed and play an important part.

### Loan Item

The museum recently received on loan from Mr Rick Cove of Paynesville in Victoria, an Albion A10 three ton motor lorry. The Albion Motor Company in the United Kingdom made the vehicle in 1917. The Albion A10 was used at the Western Front by the newly formed British and Australian Motor Transport Units during the First World War. Of the 6,000 Albion A10's originally built for military use, it is believed that only five remain in the world. The Albion A10 was manufactured with a 4-cylinder gasoline engine. The truck is chain driven and has solid rubber tyres. The vehicle has drawn a lot of attention by visitors to the museum.



The Albion A10 3 Ton Motor Lorry



Development of the new display is taking shape

**The RAAOC display**

The total refurbishment of the display is nearing completion. Firm direction by Brigadier Banister and strong support from the RAAOC Corps Committee has seen this project turn into a reality.

**The RAEME display**

Colonel Terry Beaton (RAEME) has been appointed as Colonel Commandant for the Southern Region (Victoria and Tasmania). Terry is also the Corps Historian, congratulations Terry. Not wanting to let the grass grow under his feet Terry has already become involved with the museum and work has commenced on a refurbishment of the RAEME display.



Working already under way with the display layout

**The Medical and Dental Display**

Work is well underway on the total refurbishment of the Medical and Dental display. A new cabinet featuring the larger items from the collection along with the history of both Corps will be a feature of the new display.



Work is under way on the new display cabinets

Best wishes for 2006 from Staff & Volunteers of the Army Museum Bandiana.



The completed Korean War display cabinet



The completed British Commonwealth Occupation Forces display

## Colonel Commandant Vic/Tas Report

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Very Happy New Year. Issue No 44 (Mar 05) of "The Flash", published my "Vision" statement delivered as ColComdt-(Elect) at the 2004 Corps Dinner. It stipulated the importance of mateship, welfare to each other and regaining lost Corps ethos; especially as "Esprit de Corps" has no statute of limitation. It also promised to establish a database of all RAEME living in "my patch", increase pride in our past and create a system of widely disseminating information about Corps activities in the Region.

It has now been seven months since officially receiving my appointment by the Chief of Army and a good time to reflect on progress for my ambitious vision. At last year's Corps Dinner, I presented the motto for 2006, which was "To Establish". To say that the last six months has been hectic, is an understatement. Yet it can also be said that through the dedication of numerous people, substantial achievements have already been gained. With regard to the establishment of a database and dissemination of information – not only has project "Finding RAEME" already discovered the contact details for 868 "all ranks", from a seriously outdated list of 112 officers only; but through highly successful reunions held at "The Stump" on 20 Oct 05 and "The Seymour Club" on 1 Feb 06, motivated steering groups are working hard to establish local organisations to cater for the needs of RAEME in the Albury/Wodonga and Seymour/Pucka areas. These two new groups have joined Committee members of a re-invigorated RAEME Vietnam Veterans Organisation and are all working towards the establishment of autonomous 'Chapters' under the "Incorporation" protection offered by the RAEME Association of Victoria (RAV). I am deeply grateful to the incredible support given by Andy Turner and his crew "Up North" and by Dave Maddick and veterans in Seymour.

Despite these gains however, it is my belief that the establishment of these Chapters will still only capture 20 percent of former RAEME personnel living in the Region. We have a long way to go to find the remaining 3000 estimated MIA (Missing in Area) and bring them from the "dark side" of neglect and

bitterness to join the new proactive "Force" in RAEME in this region. Your help is therefore needed to rectify this sad deficiency by checking with your mates that they are **at least** on the Col Comdt's list, should they choose not to join one of the newly forming Chapters or the RAV itself.

The establishment of a cyber Regional Corps Committee called "EME Group" has brought representation from numerous Corps related Associations into a network of email addressees for maximum dissemination of information about future activities. Apart from reaching currently serving members through the RAEME Mafia network, efficiently run by Jeff Bruhn, former Corps members are currently being advised through RAV newsletters, email notices and established websites, like that run by 106 Fd Wksp. The latest inclusion to the Cyber Committee are representatives from the newly reforming Australian Army Apprentice Association (AAAA).

With regards to establishing pride in our past, not only has substantial development already been achieved with the EME exhibit at the Army Museum in Bandiana, but the "RAEME Day of Remembrance" on Sunday, 29 Jan 06 will go down in Corps history for its uniquely united Commemoration of the loss of RAEME Training Centre and our recently lost Corps members, which was simultaneously held in three separate locations in two different States. Despite heat, short notice and the complication of an unofficial extra long weekend, nearly 200 dedicated Corps members and family ignored distractions to attend services in Melbourne, Bandiana and Hobart. The success of this new regional initiative could be readily seen from discussions at the pub afterwards on how to improve next year's Day of Remembrance. Not only the Corps, but also the public were evidently affected by the "Symbolism of the Day", as crosses, poppies and wreaths laid around the RAEME Memorial Tree in Melbourne were completely untouched over a week later, much to the disbelief of the Shrine Guards and members of Staff.

Without doubt a most memorable highlight would have to be attending Corps Birthday Celebrations in Tasmania. As the first ColComdt to visit Hobart for several years, I also had the hon-



# association reports

our to represented the Corps at the 2nd Force Support Battalion (2 FSB) CO's Handover Parade attended by the Commander LSF, BRIG Kehoe. I am extremely grateful to Russell Clark (President), WO2 Steve Wilson and many of the hard workers of the newly reformed RAEME Association of Tasmania, (proudly shortened to "the RAT"), who made the weekend's Corps Birthday celebrations so successful. Despite being a small, widely spread group, their dedication is highly commendable and notably leaves other local Corps Associations in their wake! They further demonstrated their high level of motivation, when 26 out of the 50 plus membership attended their Day of Remembrance Service at Derwent Barracks - despite the long weekend!! Any RAEME travelling to the Apple Isle would be warmly welcomed by this Merry Band of Bluebells, but just watch out for Rolly's "Shed" and his home brew! This renowned bastion of RAEME hospitality - Tassie style - caused many of the Committee Members to depart the following day's Corps Birthday celebrations **BEFORE** the ColComdt - through obvious tiredness and other complications!!!

Over the remainder of 2006, efforts will continue to lift the profile of "The Craftsman of the Year" Award, to ensure greater unit participation in 2006; especially with Banner Miniatures at stake as this year's prize. This is being achieved by unit visits, to the Puckapunyal, Bandiana and Metro areas. The recent discovery of numerous ARA and ARES Craftsmen in Regional units, only serves to highlight the pathetic effort by most units in recent years for this once prestigious award, despite Max Moore's valiant efforts. Visits have already been conducted to JLU (V) at Puckapunyal and Bandiana, with

requests to teach Corps History to a Logistic Officers Basic Course (LOBC) on 22 Feb 06 and a formal visit to 26 Tpt Sqn Wksp (Pucka) in Mar 06. It is hoped that by 1 Dec 06, the COLComdt's list will detail over 2500 names, leaving an estimated 1500 MIA. Support will also be given to assist the 106 Fd Wksp Association to hold a successful "Back To The Heart Land" Reunion over 17-20 Aug 06. Upgrading the EME exhibit will concentrate on having all cabinets filled with items of historical importance to RAEME, which will be professionally mounted and with informative descriptions.

Throughout the year, wherever possible, I shall attend any Corps or Unit functions to which I am invited. Regrettably I will not be able to attend RAV's ANZAC activities and the Annual RAEME Mafia Dinner at Victoria Barracks SGTs Mess on 5 May 06, due to prior commitments associated with ANZAC Day Commemorations in Thailand and Burma. But actively encourage all to support these activities; especially Jeff Bruhn with his rare opportunity to enjoy a traditional formal 'All Ranks' dinner in military surroundings, as poor attendance could strip this annual activity from the SGT's Mess Calendar due to growing pressure to save costs with contract catering. In plain language - support it or lose it!

I will now leave you to judge whether my ambitious "Vision" is being achieved through the hard work of a dedicated "Band of brothers" who have the Corps in their heart and not just on their mantelpiece or wall!

*Yours - "With Skill"*

**Colonel Terry Beaton**

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## AMTG-2 Workshops (A2 & A1) Task Group Tiger

### Iraq Nov 05 - ??? 06

**A**MTG-2 has been operating in a forward area of Al Muthanna Province, Southern Iraq for approximately four months at the time this article was written. After a very thorough and demanding lead up to the deployment which involved numerous trade courses and about three different Mission Rehearsal Exercises, the workshop was ready to deploy to relieve the well worked AMTG-1 workshop.

Moving through Kuwait to receive further in country training prior to moving into Iraq itself, the workshop deployed to Tallil airbase in three separate sorties. From Tallil we were picked up by ASLAV and Bushmaster call signs for the trip to Camp Smitty (CSM), or Camp Smythe as is the proper Dutch name for the place.

The camp itself was well set up and a good handover was conducted by the departing head shed. At the end of the handover the rest of the AMTG-1 workshop flew out to a well earned break and AMTG-2 started accepting work from 10 Nov 05.

The work came thick and fast with the new Combat Teams and Training Team 5 conducting operator maintenance and producing a mountain of repair work for all trade sections both at the A2 and A1. A success story in the making has seen the Cav elements rack up over 250 000 km at the time of writing this article. This has resulted in two 10 000 km services per ASLAV during our operational deployment. Kind of blows the



CFN Sean Dempsey hard at work

mind when you consider back home vehicles are usually serviced once a year on time – not kilometres. This is testament to the reliability of the ASLAV vehicles and their capability to step-up to the plate. This has been closely followed by the accomplishment of the Bushmasters which have cycled through four 10 000 km and six 20 000 km services. The Bushmaster is proving to be an extremely reliable “Bush Taxi” and a dependable workhorse with few spanners being used in anger and minimal catastrophic failures.

All the boys have been getting out on patrols and FRTs either with the Infantry, Cav, or Training Team in the F's, R's and Bushmasters, and have really shown their worth to commanders at all levels by providing excellent repair and recovery while traversing the AO.

The Aussie Workshop boys have fostered a strong bond with their REME counterparts. We find most of the maintenance issues that annoy and piss us off, also apply to the REME boys in their fight to keep their dependencies mobile and operational. The 2 PARA LAD (that's Light Aid Detachment for us Aussies) has been busy maintaining a fleet of 90 vehicles, and you guessed it, with minimal tradesmen. As with RAEME, the impossible is expected before lunch and miracles performed by late afternoon. They have been lucky enough to have the added responsibility of conducting operator non-techs on



CFN "Bubba" Lee putting his gym time to good use

behalf of the dirt darts, who seem more keen to work on their tans in their 'suntan lounge' rather than working on their own kit.

Friendly rivalry has fostered strong relationships with our REME brethren, with RAEME defeating them at every turn. Competition on our Corps' birthday left no room for the Poms as they had their arses kicked in darts, Tug of War, good old "Near Beer" boat races and some bizarre Pommy game involving nails and suspenders.

As with all deployments the workshops have been called on to fabricate everything from tent pegs to thermo nuclear devices to ensure that everything both in and outside the wire performs to its optimal level (all TRF compliant of course!). All the boys are working extremely hard to keep the serviceability and availability of the dependencies equipment at the highest possible levels. The usual applies, that if the work is on, it is worked on until it is completed. The boys have shown an outstanding dedication to duty and the efforts they have put in so far are very commendable.






From the land of sand, sand and more sand, floods, sandflies and the occasional indirect fire attack, we will see you when we get home.

### A2 ECH Members AMTG-2 Workshop

LT TROY WILSON (PL COMD)	CFN "BUBBA" LEE
WO1 STEVE GREENALL (REGT ASM)	CFN "YODA" MAHER
SGT MARC CRAIGIE	CFN "COOTA" McAINSH
SGT SHANE LAING	PTE COLIN MORRIS
SGT SQUIZZ TAYLOR	CFN ROB PARKER

SGT "WAL" WALLACE	CFN JOSH RELTON
CPL ADAM READ	CFN "SHITTY" HINGSTON
CPL "BIG AL" RIECK	SPR MATT RITCHIE
CPL JEFF SMITH	SPR "SQUIRREL" ROGERS
CPL "WAZZA" WARREN	CFN "RAT" STYLES
CPL ROD WILKINSON	PTE CHRIS TYLER
LCPL "VT" VAN-TUINEN	CFN JAMES WAKELY
CFN "OODA" ANDREWS	CFN "MAX" WALKER
CFN TOM BRUCE	CFN MATTHEW WEBB
CFN "DEANO" DEANE	CFN AARON BROWN
CFN BILL PALMER	CFN STEVE FARMER
CFN "RAZORARSE" DEMPSEY	CFN CLINT GARDINER

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COMBINED RAEME/REME A2 ECH, L-R, Front to Back: WO2 Mac McLennon 2 Para ASM, LT Troy Wilson, WO1 Steve Greenall, CPL Jez Foster, SGT Squizz Taylor, LCPL Parky Park, SGT Justin Wallace, PTE Colin Morris, CFN James Wakely, CPL Wazza Warren, PTE Chris Tyler, CFN Rat Styles, CFN Yoda Maher, CFN Bubble McDonagh, CFN Bubba Lee, CFN Steve Farmer, CFN Shitty Hingston, SPR Squirrel Rogers, SPR Matt Ritchie, CFN Ooda Andrews, CPL Cameron Mackay, CPL Rod Wilkinson, CFN Shaun Dempsey, CPL Jeff Smith, SSGT Craig Sinclair, CFN Rob Parker, CFN Gav McAlinsh, LCPL Nic Van Tulnen, SGT Charlie Dickens, LCPL Dave Dacre, CFN Clint Gardiner, CPL Adam Read, CFN Tom Bruce, SGT Marc Craigie, CFN Damien Deane, SGT Shane Laing, CPL "H" Hammond, CFN Josh Relton, CFN Matt Webb, CPL Al Rieck, CPL Lee Richardson, LCPL John Holden, CFN Rob O'Neill

## A1 Spanners – Combat Team Courage (A Sqn 2 CAV Regt)

The trip to Iraq for the A Sqn 2 Cav 'Spanners' began way back in March '05 with AMTG I, as we assisted C Sqn prepare to deploy, working after hours, weekends and Easter in order to ensure that all of the equipment made the boat in time.

Squadron level training began in earnest the week after they left, which was no easy feat due to there being little left in the Regiment in the way of equipment, tooling and parts. AMTG I was fastidious in ensuring that everything that wasn't bolted down went with them to Iraq. The exercise work rate was extraordinarily high, and due to there not being an A2 Ech in support, the RAEME boys were averaging eight hours sleep every four days in order to keep the vehicles on the road due to the continuous exercises at Pine Creek and Mt Bundy Training Area.

All too soon the date to stand up AMTG II rolled around, and on 01 Aug '05 the squadron complete moved into the 5/7 RAR compound to begin deployment training. Promises of training smart were at times questioned, as we conducted two Mission Rehearsal Exercises and attended countless briefs and lessons. With a huge sigh of relief, we eventually returned to 2 Cav Regt to commence pre-deployment leave.



**CFN Ken Wall:**  
Another sane day at the office

The move to Iraq was smooth. With a four day stop over in Kuwait, so we could conduct range shoots, get some rest, and enjoy the dust storms that were rolling in. It was an enjoyable experience, more comparable to pulling teeth, as there was nothing but flat terrain, glaring sand and Americans all around us.

Little by little our Battle Group began to filter into Iraq, with the majority of the A1 Ech taking the best part of an 18 hour day to fly and drive to Al Muthanna Province, to our own little piece of hell called Camp Smitty. We got to say g'day and goodbye to our C Sqn brethren, with lots of 'Near Beers all round.' This was a novelty that soon wore off – for blokes more used to drinking for effect; we just couldn't see the reason behind non-alcoholic beer.

For personnel used to the Top End, and having just left the Darwin wet season build up, the minus five degree temperatures were a huge slap in the face. We soon settled into life at Camp Smitty, which very shortly became Camp Shitty as the rain began to fall. What a bonus, bloody cold and wet! In no time did the rain turn the ground into thigh high mud, and the SAL sewage system, which couldn't handle it, broke. The Ech was able to claim they had water front views from their accommodation with the rapid formation of Lake Dysentery, albeit complete with 'Brown Mullet'.

Christmas came and went, as did the 'two cans per man', however the work rate remained constant with the ASLAV averag-



**CPL Gary Tucker, CFN Dave Evans, CFN Matthew Redwood**

ing a service a month due to the high kilometres being travelled. On several occasions call sign V18 topped the weekly kilometre state, which is exceptional considering we have one less car than the Cav patrols (and they reckon they get worked too hard). We have been happy to offload some of our tasks to the A2 Ech, as not only do we get a rest, but it is considered unmanly to cry in front of others when you are faced with yet another day long task out and about.

With the onset of the warmer weather, the games and practical jokes have begun to come out; such as 'No Sir, I do not know who stencilled V18 AMTG II on your car.', and 'Gee, how'd that feral cat manage to get into your room.'

We are now over the halfway point of the tour, and the lads are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. As always, the RAEME element of the Combat Team has maintained the highest morale and has remained adaptable. We're keeping the dream alive, so have a beer for us and we'll see you when we return.

*Arte Marte*



**CFN Mitch Lollback debogging a "Just as good as ASLAV"**



**V18A – checking the 'structural integrity' of the sand dunes. There wasn't any.**



**The Ace, CFN Dave Evans and CFN Wade Greenstreet**



V18B – SGT Bill Stoddart, CFN Steve Sheather and CFN Mitch Lollback at the Ziggurat



V18A – The Ace, CPL Gary Tucker and CFN Dave Evans

# The Recovery of V13E

By SGT Squizz Taylor

The night was young, 2030 h, I had just crawled into bed to read a recovery pam on the new HRV when the call came over the radio that there was a possible recovery task. I sent a warning order to CFN Gavin McAinsh, my off-sider, at about 2050 h. We were stood to as a part of the RRE. All the information I had received was that the vehicle, C/S 11E, had a bent McPherson strut, so I went the safe opinion and I took the Mack Wrecker and 20 ton (C/S 58W). After receiving a quick set of confirmatory orders from V14 we were off.

At about 2130h we approached the site, when we got about 800m out from 11E we went to blackouts, as we were about 2000m from a position that was suspected as the point of origin for the rocket attack that same day and the threat of another attack was possible and in the back of our minds. We had two ASLAV patrols who had established an inner and outer cordon.

We were then guided up to 11E where I saw the state of the damage. There was more damage than a bent McPherson strut; the first two wheel stations on the right hand side were nearly ripped out of the vehicle after hitting a concrete culvert at 40 or 50km/h.

Recovering the vehicle was not an easy task as we had minimal white light so our position was not as big a target. 11E was not playing the game either as it kept getting stuck or not wanting to go on the trailer straight. After winching it on and off a couple of times, an hour and half had passed before it went on



the trailer. With all four steer tyres hanging off the trailer and the bar armour protruding about a meter each side, we set off for a slow trip back to Camp Smitty.

On arrival at 1230 h there was a welcoming committee of eager VM's from the A1 and A2 waiting to fix the downed vehicle and get the first photos. They were bitterly disappointed when I suggested that we wait until day light to unload. So we all went to bed and came back at 0730 h to unload and inspect the damage in the day light.

On arrival back at the camp, people from every corner of Camp Smitty had come to have a look and take photos. As usual everyone was a subject matter expert on recovery – even the OC had his two bobs to put in. There were bets for slabs of coke and near beers being made that the LAV would end up on its side. I positioned the Wrecker out the back of the workshop and placed the A2's two LAV-F's winch ropes crossed over onto the front of 11E with the ropes from the Wrecker crossed over on the back. With CFN Parker on ROCTFA and CFN Lollback providing recovery support to a patrol in another part of the AO I had to have VM's operating the three winching vehicles. 11E came off the trailer slowly, it was a bit touch and go for a while, but the three crafties; Lee, McAinsh and Styles, did a great job on the winches.

Now 11E is in the workshop getting it into a state so it can be winched and steered onto the trailer again and shipped back to Australia for major repair work.

## AATTI-3 Maintenance Training Team Report From Iraq (Number 2)

By CPL David Eley

The second half of our deployment in Iraq has been just as interesting as the first. With a lot of help and guidance the Iraqi Maintenance Training Team have come a long way and are now instructing 100% of the present course. This is a large step forward for the Iraqi Logistic School. It has always been our goal to get Iraqis teaching Iraqis. We are now supervising each lesson and then giving the Iraqis some advice on their performance in order to improve them even more. As we are only supervising lessons now, there is no more running around madly printing off lessons and handouts or organising weapons and vehicles for the day. The spare time that this has created for us has not been wasted as we have concentrated on refining the course training package, which has been fixed, tweaked and checked.

Also, we have had more time to discover some of the beautiful countryside around the Taji area. Some of the highlights are the old Iraqi Army tank and artillery rebuild factories. The junk and old equipment that is lying around these places is nothing short of amazing. SGT John Kemp played tour guide for the rest of us and showed us through the old jet engine testing facility. Once again it is hard to imagine the facility running and it is even harder to imagine the Iraqis being able to run a jet engine testing facility themselves. All around the facility there are a number of timber boxes that have untouched jet engines in them. If only we could bring a couple of them home.

CAPT Matt Brodie also arranged tours to the 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd and 4th line workshops as well as their aviation workshops. These excursions have been interesting. The Americans do things a little differently to us. I think it has something to do with a thing called money. One point that came from our American counterparts was the lack of available parts. That old chestnut! Its good to see that we have some similarities with the U.S. forces.



RAEME Training Team visiting 3rd Infantry Division aviation workshops. From the left; SGT John Kemp, CPL David Eley, CPL Jim Beardsley, WO1 Jamie Hickinbotham, CAPT Matt Brodie

All the members from 9 FSB went out for a photo shoot around some of the old armoured junk. This turned out to be one of those times that you don't forget. We got the ASM, WO1 Jamie Hickinbotham to smile on camera for the first time in 23 years as you can see in this fabulous photo. Look at that Smile!



ASM's smile. From the left; SGT David Gregson, WO1 Jamie Hickinbotham

Later that day we went out and gathered around the RAEME flag for our own photos. We found an old armoured recovery vehicle which seemed to be fitting for a RAEME shot. Around this time the legend was born, SUPER JIM. Draped in blue, yellow and red of our flag he ran around in circles fist clenched and spanner in hand ready to repair all in his path (what a winner).

The training team has been holding trivia nights every Monday and the RAEME team are currently the overall champs with the most victories. The ASM and Kempy are the hub of our trivia team. CPL Dave Eley is without doubt the worst scribe for writing down answers. CPL Jim Beardsley and SGT David



**Super Jim, CPL Jim Beardsley**



**Dust Storm; CPL David Eley and CPL Jim Beardsley**

Gregson just do all the guessing, although Jim says that he is the guru of all poxy questions.

The weather here just gets better and better. Lately dust storms have become frequent and the heat is total. 54 degrees C has been about the warmest so far. Even at 10 pm or 2200 hrs for all you AJs, it is normal for the temperature to be as high as 40 degrees C. One of the favourite words that best describes the weather for Dave and Jim is, \*#\$\$@!

Getting around the area is always interesting, however there is extra entertainment when you get driving geniuses behind the wheel. Grego, Kempy and Jim all fall into this category. They have all jumped into the drivers seat turned the key to start the car and then tried to drive off without the engine running. Grego tried to get a Nissan Patrol to move forward one fine day. After spending around 2 or 3 minutes playing with the high/low range 4x4 lever and planting the accelerator to the floor he came to the realisation that the engine was not running. Yes, he is a vehicle mechanic!

The ASM has now left us as he returned to Australia with the rest of the advance party. After he had left Grego was given the nod to step up and fill the large hole that had been left. His first reaction was one of pure happiness as he tried to imagine just how many games of solitaire he could fit in for the rest of the deployment.

Moving onto the boss, CAPT Matt Brodie, I can't really deliver any stories on his behalf as no one has seen him do anything

at all. (Only joking sir). The boss has been continuing with many things including the Maintenance Officer Course the MMP and dealing with our Iraqi Team Leader Naqiib (CAPT) Jabbar.

We are now approaching the final stages of our deployment at Taji, Iraq. All of us on the RAEME Training Team have seen many interesting things. Starting with our American friends, what they do and have is amazing. Most of the Army personnel spend at least 12 months over here at a time and many are back for their second go. Their equipment is everywhere and there seems to be an endless supply of trucks, tanks, HMs and of course aircraft.

However, building a logistic school from scratch, developing doctrine, producing lessons, slide shows, finding resources and then instructing both Iraqi students and staff has been an experience that will remain strong in the memory of all on AATTI-3. When we first arrived at Taji and discovered the task ahead I don't think that any of us fully understood just how big a job it really would be. Of course being the professional RAEME soldiers that we are the school now has Iraqi instructors in front of the Maintenance Supervisor Course and the Maintenance Officer Course. This is what we set out to achieve at the start of our deployment and it is very rewarding to see our mission accomplished.

*Arte et Marte*



**The first and only Australian Army RAEME Training Team deployed to teach a foreign force.**

<b>Team Leader:</b>	<b>CAPT Matt Brodie</b>
<b>ASM:</b>	<b>WO1 Jamie Hickinbotham</b>
<b>Instructors:</b>	<b>SGT David Gregson (Vehicle Mechanic)</b>
	<b>SGT John Kemp (Vehicle Mechanic)</b>
	<b>CPL Jim Beardsley (Electrician), aka SUPER JIM</b>
	<b>CPL David Eley (Fitter Armourer)</b>

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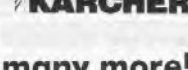
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# RAEME Corps Seminar & Annual Corps Dinners 19 - 20 Oct 2006

The Corps Seminar theme this year is 'MMM in Support of ADF Operations' and will focus on the employment of MMM in the maintenance of operational availability, in particular the user profiles required by RAEME Officers and soldiers of all ranks. It is intended that outcomes of the seminar will compliment higher level work being done in the MMM Implementation arena.

## RAEME CORPS SEMINAR 19 - 20 OCT 2006 OFFICER/WOSNCO DINNER

### Nomination Form

<b>Surname:</b>				<b>First Name:</b>			
<b>Rank:</b>				<b>PMKeys Number:</b>			
<b>Unit:</b>				<b>Appointment:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>						<b>Postcode:</b>	
<b>Contact Number:</b>		( )		/			
<b>Email Address:</b>							
<b>Seminar - 19-20 Oct 06 \$10</b>	<b>YES NO</b>	<b>All Ranks BBQ 18 Oct06</b>	<b>NO YES</b>	<b>Offr Dinner 19 Oct06 \$50</b>	<b>YES NO</b>	<b>WOSNCO Dinner 20 Oct06 \$50</b>	<b>YES NO</b>
Payment for seminar and dinner is to be finalised in order to secure your attendance.							
<b>Payment enclosed of:</b> Cheque/Money Order to: RAEME Corps Fund, or <b>Direct Deposit to:</b> DEFCREDIT, Membership Name: RAEME Corps Fund Membership Number: 11832 BSB Number:803 205 Account Number: 20509705				\$		<b>Paid by: (Method)</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>						<b>Date:</b>	

Forms (complete with payment) to be sent to:  
MAJOR Graham Anderson, SO2 heritage – RAEME, Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Barracks,  
MILPO BANDIANA, Vic, 3694. email: [graham.anderson@defence.gov.au](mailto:graham.anderson@defence.gov.au).  
Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436

**Note:** Accommodation is a member's responsibility. Service accommodation can be booked via Bandiana Accommodation cell (Reservation number 135400) Ph: (02) 6055 4398, fax: (02) 6055 2964

## 1 CSSB

### 101 WKSP COY

With each new posting cycle comes "some of the new" to mix with "some of the old". AMTG stole CAPT Stigter and LT's Wilson & Bethel, who were not to return back to the Wksp in 2006. The 2IC, CAPT Neighbour, was so desperate to get deployed he dyed his beret black and went off to 2/14 CAV REGT. Finally the OC, MAJ Turner, completed his time at the helm of HMAS 101 WKSP and set course for Staff College. There was one more departure, though, it took a few months of 2006 to actually get the ASM out the door. Despite WO1 Van Der Doorn not completing his full 2 year posting, he is still the longest serving Mega-Ace 101Wksp has had for 5 years!

A new OC, 2IC, OPSO, ASM and a few new subbies have added some spice to the Wksp for 2006. MAJ Nathan Archer comes to the Wksp from RMC with a head full of doctrine. WO1 Scott Langham arrives as ASM from 8/12 Mdm Regt's TST. After a long handover with the old ASM, WO1 Langham finally got WO1 Van Der Doorn on his way to DJFHQ and his shaved head down on running maintenance in the workshop.



LCPL Simpson

So as to ensure there was some continuity between 2005 and 2006 (and prove the theory that the only way to progress within this Corps is to shave your head) WO2 Marty Burgess remains as the CSM.

Unit PL will be aiming in 2006 to retain the ASM's Cup they won in 2005. With an outstanding performance from CFN Morgan in the hammer throw and gritty determination just sec-



SGT Coswell – New UK recruit

ing off the competition in the pool relay, it is anticipated that the other PL's will bounce back strongly this year. Formation PL also finished 2005 with a trophy: 101 Wksp Coy Champion Platoon. The fine performances from both vehicle platoons enhancing their reputation within the Coy and setting a bar for the other trades to aim for. Continuity will be their strong point, with an unchanged hierarchy for 2006.

GE PI will again have to battle on in 2006, relying on quality and not quantity. The mix of old heads, WO2 Chiverton (WO Art) & SGT Sperling and new blood, LT Kearns & SGT Plunkett will hopefully assist the fitters and welders to rise to the top.

EIR PI have a full head-shed, but not enough corporals and too few crafties on the floor. But the combination of boffins, super-boffins and eley's may prove invincible within the Coy setting. Provided the smell of beer and battery-acid doesn't tempt the eley's away!

Recovery have a PL COMD! (LT Richardson) The new WORM is WO2 'Lurch' McKey. However, with their skills required by all units desperately across the Bde, a lack of numbers will hinder their ability to fight for any Coy trophies, though they won't stop trying until their knuckles are bleeding.

Anyway two months into a new year, the "old" have been busy showing the "new" the ways of 101 Wksp and the beast that is 1 CSSB. With JNCO/IMT training in Apr and a Wksp shake-out in May, this leaves room for more exciting stories and adventures from 101 Wksp Coy.



During battle PT

## TECH SQN 1 JSU



Welcome all to another year here at 1 JSU Tech Sqn. First off the old blood who have moved on from 1 JSU.

MAJ Coombe (OC)  
 WO2 Thomas (SSM)  
 WO2 White (OPSWO)  
 CPL Graham (EIR)  
 CPL Newman (VEH)  
 CPL Schiller (GE/ELEC)  
 CPL Widders (REC)  
 CFN Bowdich (VEH)  
 CFN Forster (GE/ELEC)  
 CFN Pendlebury (VEH)  
 CFN Rodgers (REC)

Those lucky newbies marching in this year are:

MAJ Hackett (OC)  
 WO2 Carroll (SSM)  
 WO2 Van Roosmalen (OPSWO)  
 SGT Hanson (VEH)  
 CPL Alcock (VEH)  
 CPL Evans (EIR)  
 CPL Kelly (GE/ELEC)  
 CPL Lowndes (REC)  
 CPL Robertson (GE/ELEC)  
 CFN Barker (VEH)  
 CFN Galea (EIR)  
 CFN Browning (EIR)

It looks to be a busy year for the unit, with quite a few field exercises planned. The unit has only just returned from shake out just in time for Easter and ANZAC day only to go bush once again. This seems to be the trend for the year, with only a few short breaks between bush trips. The Sqn will clock up a few kilometres travelling from one end of the East Coast to the other end in support of the unit.

The RAEME family is well represented within the unit by CAPT Murray (ADJT) and LT Knowles (OPSO Support Sqn). Let us hope they drop in and see us lonely folk here at the yard more often.

Back here at the yard, Tech Sqn HQ consisting of MAJ Hackett (OC), LT Nally (2IC/OPSO), WO1 Williams (ASM4th year), WO2 Van Roosmalen (OPSWO) plus our busy clerk LCPL Dwyer, control the different sections of the workshop. The rest of the squadron looks like this:

Recovery Tp, consisting of our sole Recovery Mechanic CPL Lowndes, has been kept busy dealing with all the RODUMs on the new HRV. Other than that he attempts to look busy.

RPS/Q Store, led by WO2 Carroll, backed up by SGT Brush, CPL Bliss, PTE Prosser and MR Neil Moulds, are busy supplying the Sqn with parts, store requests and other associated bits that keep the workshop alive and well.

EIR, led by SGT Corkery, and backed up by CPL Evans, CPL

Hooper, CFN Galea and CFN Browning. The Boffins are where they always hide – in the shady, slightly air conditioned corner of the workshop doing what boffins do best. Playing with radios and trying to avoid natural sunlight.

GE/ELEC, Led by SGT Foster consist of, Elec Sect- CPL Kelly, CPL Robertson, LCPL Burchell and CFN O'Donnell are busy working with generators, FPDS, other elec stuff and are flat out dealing with the sigs. GE Sect- CFN Shaw and CFN Mahoney are busy with weapons, small engines services and a myriad of small fitter tasks. Weld Sect- CPL McLaren is busy welding chains to ½ ton trailers.

VEH, led by SGT Hanson is backed up on the green side by CPL Alcock, LCPL Murray, CFN Anstee, CFN Barker, CFN Bill and CFN Moor are busy dealing with the long list of safety signals plus attempting to keep up production in between bush time. On the Civvy side MR Ian Finch (WO2 Retired) reigns supreme over APS mechanics MR Ray McGrath, MR Jeff Roots, MR Gurdev Singh, MR Kevin Sutherland, MR Harold Taylor and MR Lucky Vithana, which gives the green skins less stress to deal with.

**CFNs Chris Barker and Dan Galea**

## 1 RAR

By CPL Griffin and CPL McNabb

Howdy trendsetters, it's a **HUGE** year and we're mostly full-steam ahead here at "Duty First" Tech Spt. Well that is apart from GE and VEH who never do any work unless a doughnut is offered as reward. The RPS is not much better with them continually using the excuse "just going to grab some parts for you" as they depart in a Rover. EIR occasionally drop in from their numerous courses, just to check their air-conditioned room has not been converted to the brew room. Apart from that, every one is working hard!

We were fortunate enough to have had the pleasure of a visit from the MAS in early February. They managed to turn our fleet of green stickered equipment into something resembling a tickertape parade with everyone



waving red flags. Word in TSP was the MAS moved to Townsville just because we put tricky little faults on all our equipment to test them. We have requested they come back later in the year for a retest, different faults this time.

On to the blokes of our possie, leading the rabble is WO2 'Cam' Willett, and Pronto...sorry I mean SGT 'Blackie' Blackhurst. With both our fearless leaders being of the VM trade noted barnacles include Benny Hewlett, Chris Newman, Cody Rex, Ben Van Der Togt, Rob Thomas and Dom Buchan. To keep us all from deserting, GE keep the guns in working order lead by George Griffin, Matthew Stephens, Nathan Smith and Craig Myers. The black sheep (no pun intended) of the mob, EIR, consists of Kongy and Nabby. Rumours were rife that our numbers had swelled with Ando making a show for possibly the shortest posting ever, all of 3 weeks, but they must have been seeing the grunt OJT Jarrod in two places at once.

This heavily oiled machine has it's broken bits supplied by the gallant blokes in the RPS- Smithy, Jonesy and Morry. Should you ever happen to stumble into our lair you may also encounter the mystical POM, you have been warned!

Well that wraps up the Big Blue One for now, doughnuts... no, no readiness checks are calling.

## 10 FORCE SUPPORT BATTALION

### Logistic Support Company (LSC)

LSC is a diverse company that supports the Battalion from a logistical sense including catering, q store, RAP and transport with the bulk of the company being the "spanners".

### CHQ

CHQ has a strong RAEME contingent at the top of the company. LSC is commanded by MAJ Matt Scanlon and is assisted by the CSM, WO2 Jason Ballard (42nd Class VM). From a command team perspective it has been great to see the Corps colours flying so proudly within a unit as diverse as 10 FSB. It takes some getting used to a diverse range of trades and corps, especially when you are committed to our corps business of maintaining a unit's equipment.

The previous few months has been full to say the least with all of the commitments the unit has, the boys have been working hard to maintain the unit's equipment within a very demanding year. All have been extremely pro-active in unit competitions by providing the bulk of teams for these events. Last year the workshop was largely responsible for winning the Military Skills competition held in August. Well done to CPL Rose and his team. This year the company has won the swimming carnival for the third year in a row, well done to all competitors.

I would like to extend an invitation to all trades who may want to diversify their job description and take one of the "reggie" positions the Corps has to offer. As a tradesman and artificer, I am proud to serve in these positions and others may get some satisfaction of gaining additional pers management skills. It is good to see RAEME soldiers as CSMs!

*Arte et Marte*

**Jason Ballard**

### Technical Support Platoon

Well, how is this for the start to the year? Tradies coming, tradies going. With possibly the largest rotation of RAEME personnel in 10 FSB TSP's history, it was difficult to keep a track of who is who in the zoo. But after hectic couple of months we have sorted ourselves out and are on the way to another glorious year of stuff all production and heaps of deployment opportunities. So far, TSP has seen off a number of personnel go to Solomon Islands for a two week holiday, oh yeah, and inspecting some weapons and conducting electrical equipment integrity testing. So they tell us. Our fearless leader, CAPT Rebecca Gordon will be departing for Solomons shortly for an extended, 5 months swan trip. Look at it this way, at least you'll get a gong out of it, Ma'am. The running of the Land FRG falls back onto broad shoulders of LT Sebastian "A to Z" Aleksandrowicz and with Marine FRG under a command of LT Chris Zagami (in the absence of LT John "the Beattle" Lennon on LOBC), things are running very interestingly.

TSP has once again carried the rest of the Battalion with providing willing and able bodies for the Freedom Of City parade, held in Charters Towers. We were all very well received by the dozen or so locals that turned up and after leaving hundreds of dollars behind the bar at the local RSL, the exercise was deemed a complete success, (What the...?)

It looks like we are lucky enough to escort the RAEME banner during the 17 CSS Bde (currently LSF) Formation Parade in Sydney in May. LT Lennon, SGT Matt "Greaser" Grieshaber and SGT Barry "B.J." Williams have scored the gig. Good drills, lads!

### EMEOPs

Under ASM WO1 Geoff Abbott's (yes, he is still alive) watchful eye, the team of WO2 Lee "Beau" Sankey, SGT Peter "the

Waxman" Donnelly, SGT Glen "Muddy" Murdoch with CPL Kate Dyer, are tirelessly coordinating all things EME Ops. Beau has made his transition from REME to RAEME seem very easy, mainly through the use of subtitle cards (borrowed from A to Z), improving the lines of communication. Muddy has the pleasure of being the Unit Trade Repair SGT and as such constantly battles against the might and stubbornness of JLU-NQ/Tenix Toll, (poor bugger). Whilst CPL Dyer's hobbies include getting the coffees and printing all sorts of excessively long and useless documents for the ASM, in her work time she fulfils the duties of a Prod Clerk. She keeps a steady stream of work heading to all the sections. The Wednesday morning dash for the ASM's production conference is the highlight of her day with a rain-forest full of reports to pass out to the WO ARTs.

### Land Forward Repair Group

WO2 Clint "Robbo" Robertson, also known as ART DRY, oversees the technical running of the LFRG with LT A to Z ensuring the command and administration are sorted out. Once again, the comms are achieved through the use of subtitle cards. Occasionally, these two confuse their ambitions with capabilities, doing PT with the fittest bunch of people they can find and having to recuperate for lengthy periods of time afterwards.

There are a few new march-ins SGT Barry "B.J." Williams, CPL Jason Lee, CPL Colin Goulding and CFN Richard George. We have lost CFN Phillip "Dutchy" Van Der Reyden because he could not handle being a mechanic so he put his pack on, went on to complete the selection course and got accepted into the SASR. Well done Dutchy! CPL Lee is venturing on a six-week trip to New Caledonia in April on HMAS Manoora with 30 Terminal Squadron's beach landing team. We will soon be farewelling CFN Nimes who is moving onto bigger and better things and discharging in June, seeking a six figure salary within the mining industry. Good luck, mate.

The end of the year for CE saw SGT Tony Earwaker posted to 6 RAR with CPL Grant "Paddy" O'leary taking his place until a replacement arrives. CFN Andrew "Brains" Brain was on his way to the Solomon Islands along with some other possible deployments. At this stage the only deployment he is going on is to a tropical setting of Ross Island Barracks, to exercise his expertise in MFRG. CFN Robert "the Beard" Selby has been busy getting ready for OP Mazurka and OP Azure to inspect weapons and to do a travelling roadshow, he will be back just in time for IMTs. A good little holiday for him to broaden his experience. CFN Ben "Johnno" Johnson is still here and will possibly be here for a bit longer. This year he has been given the task of the Armourer and looking after the OJTs during their stint in 10 FSB. The new fitters march-ins are CFN Simon and CFN Stanners, so welcome aboard, boys.

Well another year has set upon us and already 2006 is looking bigger and brighter than ever for the EJR Sect. The usual January clean out occurred on the LFRG side of the house with SGT Tarrant and CPL (now SGT) Cuthbert being posted out with many fond memories. The lucky members who came to take their positions were SGT Brendan "Wook" Walkom and CPL Ben "Nigs" Caccianiga. We also had a few brand new shiny diggers posted in from OJT being CFN Ben "Gildo" Gillies and CFN Matt "Stewy" Stuart. The only remaining member left from the old regime being good ol' CPL Glenn "Shawy" Shaw who has just returned from a week in sunny Solomons - possibly with dengue. On the Marine side of the house, it is all "situation - no change. A significantly thinner CPL Mark "Agro" Holdway has just returned from OP Pakistan Assist. Welcome back mate. CFN Gary "legs" Leggett, who held the fort at Ross

Island, is relieved to have Agro back for some help, I don't think he has seen the leave app yet though. All in All we have a pretty good crew and 2006 should be a good year.

**Marine FRG**

Well another year has come. Marine FRG is located at Ross Island but unlike the name suggests we don't look after boats, that is the responsibility of the crusty ex WOs that live upstairs. Instead we look after the plant equipment for 30 TML SQN.

We have vehicles with cool names, such as SMV (Swiss Made Vehicle) and the Kalmar (Big Connex Moving Thingy) and of course 40 different varieties of fork-lifts (Ranging from pick up little shit to the pick up big shit). The workshop is like any other workshop always busy with production (Very Little), Courses (Small amount), and of course the BULLSHIT (Majority of Time). But there is always time for a laugh, and believe me the termites can keep you entertained for hours with their antics.

Having an ex tradie as your FRG Comd can be difficult at times and the ACE is constantly trying to get him off the floor, he has to remember that since the spine removal operation he can't run with the big dogs anymore. Out of the posted strength of 20, we mainly work with 9. This is due to courses etc, however, the boys still produce the optimal outcomes at the end of the week. It is good to see that the CPLs haven't forgotten how to fudge the figures to enable their boys to down a few neck oils on Thursday arvos.

It was a big changing of the guard with the loss of the boss Bob Brett and the Ace Rick Campy to the experimental crew in South Auz though I'm not sure what experiments they are going to do on them. We lost our good SGTs being Michael Smith, Al Surjan, Kempy, and Steven Heinrich Wosgien. We lost CPL Jas Blackwell to a SGT's position at 35 WTS and Dan Power to Commandos in Melbourne. As far as the workers in Marine FRG we lost CFN Michael O'Brien who was our resident rod burner to some bloody unit in Darwin. Maca McPherson, our own heartbreaker discharged because he couldn't handle it, well transferred to reserves (same thing). We lost CFN Dumarest Street who was stolen by 3 CER. We do have a missing person and that was and still is CFN Don Cammeron who we haven't seen at Marine since October 2005. We have heard of sightings of him with the likes of Elvis and the Loch Ness Monster but nothing that gives a good indication of his whereabouts.

We lost all our RPS from last year and haven't got any new ones apparently because we can't find the NSNs for RPS personnel. We think it's just all zeros or a two just like their pay group.

For the New Year morale is at a level not seen for a while at the Island. The new boss, an ex greaser Crafty stopped in before going away on a LOBC down in sunny Bandi. Our new Ace Duane Maggenti has come from 1/4 Cav sorry 3, 4 Cav and has found himself in a pleasant position. Our new SGTs, Grieshaber and the well known Nick Nolte have made a definite positive influence to MFRG especially at our knock off parades.

Our new crew also includes CPLs Pete Lovelock and "Manky" Dan Mastalerz and CFN Neville "Bartoss" Bartels who got here and then went straight on to the LCM8 course. We also gained Griffio the new rod burner and just recently got CFN "Bruce" Brain who is one of those fitter types.

Our local Narc and elec CPL "Agro" Holdway got stabbed for Pakistan assist to go and help their cricket side out or set up lights so the they can play day night matches or something like

that, returned to us and is now on leave before he discharges along with half of the Army. Luckily his excellent understudy CFN Gary Leggett held the fort while he was absent.

It looks like Marine FRG is in for a good year for this year and many a beer will be drank to celebrate not that we need an excuse.

**35 WTS RAEME Det**

35 WTS located at Ross Island Barracks Townsville, has a wide range of Army watercraft to facilitate the movement of troops and equipment ship to shore, and provide land elements within the area of operations the ability of coastal and riverine movement, day or night. To maintain this capability marine fitters are integrated as part of the crew onboard Army Watercraft.

The troop has lost a lot of its old hands through the posting cyclical of last year and new faces have moved in to fill the vacancies, they are as follows: CFN Hann, CFN Beaman, CFN Monro, CPL Thomas, and acting SGT CPL Blackwell and believe me he is acting! The new members have fitted in well to the high tempo of this troop and are on the way to keeping the troop on the right track. The members that are still holding the fort are CPL Stott, CPL Mewett and CFN Callison and with their guidance the new members will not fail.

Who'd have thunk it? Previously the butt of many jokes, the two marine fitter CPL positions at 42 TP were never highly sought after by marine engineers within 35 WTS. 2006, however, is proving to be quite a good year so far for CFN Des Dooley (still waiting for HDA) and CPL Jason Peterson (who the hell let him get promoted?!), the highly motivated, mostly inebriated team behind the Army's small fleet of Lighters Amphibious Resupply Cargo, 5-ton (LARC-Vs).

**42 Troop Raeme Sea Horse**

The 42 Tp team, lead by the RAEME demi-god duo, has been kicking goals so far this year, already having brought most of the LARC fleet up to a taskworthy, near fully functional state (quite a feat considering what they started with!). The troop has begun its own annual on one of its LARCs, the work being done by boaties under the guidance of Dools. Previously annuals were completed by Marine FRG in support of 35 WTS, but the troop has taken on this new responsibility with vigour. Concurrently with this, the troop has repaired & maintained its other three



42 Troop Raeme Sea Horse

LARCs to keep them operational, and participated in various training serials to keep the skills base up. One notable exercise was SQUADDEX, conducted at Cowley Beach in conjunction with three Navy Landing Craft Heavies, with two LARCs supporting the Amphibious Beach Team. In late March, more training serials were conducted with HMAS Tobruk in Townsville, with all of this training leading up to EX CROIX DE SUD (Southern Cross), a large amphibious exercise with the French military in New Caledonia later this year. Apparently the beaches are topless over there. All of them. OUI OUI!!!

**103 FD WKSP**

**HQ**

2006 introduced the Workshop to a new OC – MAJ Legge. With the reshuffle of significant positions in the Battalion we have the return from recruiting cell of our CSM WO2 Bunbury. We have the ever reliable WO2 Kerr – TRG WO still doing a brilliant job. As usual we are waiting with baited breath to see which platoons our two newly appointed lieutenants would be allocated to (hopefully to platoons where leadership, direction and focus are lacking). Welcome to 2LT Bennett, 2LT Chan and 2LT Thompson.



**ARA staff**

**EMEOPS**

We farewelled WO1 Spinks and welcomed back from 23FD Regt our ASM – WO1 Dunn who is ably assisted by our ARA staff SGT Aviaent and CPL Wilson – recipient of the Soldiers' Medallion, in ensuring the workshop is functional and runs smoothly. They also have the task of monitoring the progress of our young ARTAP members.

**EIR PLATOON**

CFN Collaco has been holding the fort these past months within his platoon. We have seen the return of CPL McGlinchey and CFN Hollier lately. CFN McCarren made a very short and only too brief return to the fold. Other members of the platoon are CPL Seckold and CFN Petch.



**CFN Adrian Collaco**

**VEH PLATOON**



**CFN Rod Espino**



**CPL Tony Ferrato, CFN Ben Thomas and CFN Cain Nicholson**



**ARTAP boys**

SGT Langan, CPL Morrison – awarded the Student of Merit Sergeants Course, CPL Ferrato, CFN Woodfield, CFN Beattie who has recently joined the ARA and is currently at ALTC, CFN Espino and CFN Goldberg make fine tuning of workshop and battalion equipment seem easy. We welcome back CFN Van de Weg who it seems was away forever in the Solomons.

Our ARTAP boys CFN Sanchez, CFN Nicholson, CFN Ankrett and CFN Thomas seem to work well together and are all characters in their own way.

**GE PLATOON**

GE still consists of the ever faithful CFN Cranc, CFN Jeromela and CFN Everson. Evo was successful in completing his Subj1 Cpl and Subj2 Cpl course toward the end of 2005.



**CFN Frank Jeromela**



**CFN Brad Everson**

**RECOV SECTION**

Recov Section continues to forge on and boasts the longest unbroken service members of the company. SGT Taylor, CPL Moss, CPL Taylor – Seco of the winning section for the Battalion Range Shoot weekend in Oct05, CFN Trodden – best shot for the weekend activity???... CFN Bolstad – who snatched up the support task to SOCSSC and CFN Jackson all whom undertook the training on the HRV in Jul05. SGT Lehmann and CPL Condon participated on the previous course. We have a member in training CFN Valentine.



**Jacko, Shane (Mack), Wyndy (SOCSSC), Nige, Bob, Mossy, WO2 Gallagher, WO2 Ball, WO1 Yates, Linds, Hughie**

**THE COMPANY**

Throughout the last year the workshop has been involved in the Wagga Wagga open day, support to 1/15 RNSWL AFX at Pucka, providing a catafalque guard for the inaugural ANZAC Day commemoration ceremony in the new Customs House at Sydney International Airport. We enthusiastically participated in the Concord RSL ANZAC Day ceremony. and then later that day provided a guard to the RAEME Association Banner – ARES. We took time out from 'the EDGE' to form up for Reserve Forces Day. Veh Platoon and Recov Section provided members to the Battalion for the CSST deployment to ALTC in Jul05 and again in Feb06. We attended the VP Day celebrations in Canberra and once again happily assisted 1/15 RNSWL – Goulburn with carrier lifts in Oct05 and Mar06.



As a unit we deployed in the field to Belanglo State Forest Sep05 undertaking training and refresher training in recovery, use of ninox and navigation skills. Mar06 saw us conduct a Tactical Deployment at Holsworthy practicing deployment drills, FRT's, cam and con-



**LOOKING BACK**

The foundation for today's 11 CSSB WKSP began with the formation of 11 EME PL in the late 1970s, as far as anyone can recall; so the evolution begins. 11 EME PL was attached to NQ WKSP COY and worked out of the WKSP hangar at Jezzine Barracks along side ARA staff, doing rebuilds on M113 APCs and repairs to all vehicle fleets in the local area. Back then the Army Reserves was called the CMF (Citizens Military Force). 11 EME PL had a manning level of 55 pers across all trades.

The Workshop vehicles in those days, and into the 80s, were 2 x Series 2A short wheel base Landrovers, a trailer with a canvas fold out WKSP (it would take a half a day to set up), 1 x F1 Acco Wrecker and the pride of the fleet, an 816 left-hand-drive Wrecker/Crane. The three lucky guys qualified to operate and drive the 816 were the Recovery Mechanics: SGT Ian Hall, CPL Norm Blackman and a very young CFN Dave Sterritt.



cealment and more refresher lessons.

Welcome to our members from Wagga Wagga who attended our Mar06 weekend, ensuring the weekend to be a learning curb for all who participated.

And it's farewell to our 40mm barrel which has been with WKSP for 30yrs or so. It has gone to a good home at the museum in North Head.



**CPL Blackman and CFN Sterritt demonstrating the operation of the 816 Wrecker on a 1982 Recovery Course**

Then came the early 80s and changes are on the cards. 11 EME PL and NQ WKSP moved out to their new WKSP at Lavarack Barracks. With this move came a name change from 11 EME PL to 108 FD WKSP. The WKSP now had a hanger of their own, servicing all 11 BDE equipment from Mackay, out to Mt Isa and up to Thursday Island, visiting all external units for maintenance once every 3 months; those were the good old days.

The number of personnel parading at this time was up to 85; it was a sight to see. The make up of personnel in the unit was 50/50 ex ARA and Reservists. All worked well together, with NQ WKSP regularly asking for support from 108 FD WKSP for exercise tasks. Unit personnel were keen to take part; there was no us-and-them, just tradesmen doing their work together.

108 FD WKSP was now a very large unit and was conducting training on all of the new equipment that was beginning to enter the Defence Force: Unimogs, 110 Landrovers, Macks, Mack Wreckers and those new CMVs. Life was great and work was full-on with all those new toys to play with. The VMs and Fitters enjoyed working out of their GMVs so much that it was a race to get a seat in one to go on exercise.



**108 FD WKSP Courses Camp 1993 – Camp Engstrom (can you find SGT Casey)**



CPL Casey, PTE Shore, CFN Ring and CFN McGinnis with their new GMV in the background

In the late 80s came another name change to 11 BASB WKSP. Numbers were also falling due to the ages of the unit members; some of the members had been serving in the Army Reserves for 25 years plus. Some of the long-timers were LCPL Garnett (Vehicle Mechanic), CPL Blackman (Recovery Mechanic), SGT Hall (Recovery Mechanic), WO2 Mitchel (Vehicle Mechanic) and WO2 Nicklejohn (Radio Technician).

11 BASB WKSP marched on into the 90s with more changes. Our large hanger got smaller, with Transport moving in due to a relocation of resources and change of role for the 11 BDE units. The early 90s was the time for training, and overseas operations for some trades (mostly Fitters and VMs).



RWANDA Workshop



CPL Sterritt showing the group that you can drive a Mack Wrecker with a truck on the hook through the trees

108 FD WKSP participated in the 11 BDE Mil Skills Competition every year. In 1992 training of the section was in the hands of LCPL Casey and CPL Sterritt. There were 25 sections in the comp and 108 came 8th overall.

The numbers now parading had dropped to below 50 and a recruiting drive was on for all trades. It was also time for the



After 3 days of no sleep (BACK) LCPL Casey, CPL Sterritt, CFN Rovaglia and CFN Huddy (FRONT) PTE Ashcroft, CFN Wright, CFN Harrison and CFN Hoolihan

young leaders to step up and do promotion and trade courses to fill the gaps. CPL Casey stepped up and became a SGT Fitter at the WKSP.

The 90s were coming to a close and we had new WKSP Shelters to play with; to a RAEME tradesman it was like Christmas. The rumour of a new MRV Wrecker was on the cards and another possible name and role change was around the corner for Feb 2001. Then Timor was on, our name changed to 11 CSSB WKSP, all the new WKSP shelters were sent to Timor and the new MRV arrived. SGT Sterritt and LCPL Ring completed their conversion on the new MRV Wrecker; they couldn't believe it, a radio and air conditioning.



The Recovery boys playing with their new toy

For more of this story talk to the guys in the WKSP; they will all have time to answer your questions on the WKSP or the history of the Army Reserves in 11CSSB.

Some of the OCs and TRG WOs

**OC**

- CAPT WHEALIN
- CAPT D. SOAPER
- CAPT A. WATSON (2 tours)
- CAPT M. PRIDEUAX (2 Tours)
- CAPT DIPLOCK
- MAJ J. FITZSIMMONS
- MAJ LUND
- MAJ N. BROWN

**TRG WO**

- WO2 B. WHEELER
- SSGT S. TAILER
- WO2 R. O'SHEA
- WO2 F. POULTON
- WO2 CROMBIE
- WO2 B. TUOHY
- WO2 D. FEDORNIK
- WO2 A. MCDONALD
- WO1 P. DODGE
- WO2 M. ROBINSON

This is only a brief story of the past 30 years of the Workshop. If anyone has more information to add, or feels that the information is not in good order, please contact paul.dean@defence.gov.au

History and photos supplied by MR Dave Sterritt

Compilation by SGT Paul Dean

**26 TRANSPORT SQUADRON WORKSHOP WORKSHOP MAIN (PUCKAPUNYAL)**

By CFN Bastow and CFN Trautwein

The year has begun with the pace of 1000 gazelles at 26 Transport Squadron. Within the first couple of weeks most of the truckies were sent to Melbourne to help with the Commonwealth Games. With that said it has been left to the Crafty Mafia, as usual, to keep morale high in Pucka. CFN Danny Kiraly set about getting the Workshop some new look RAEME baseball caps, so we have yet another way to show we are strongly part of the brotherhood.

Last year several members were promoted at the end of year parade and Workshop Troop didn't miss out. Here is our list of heroes:

- CPL Ker-David promoted to SGT,
- CFN Andre promoted to CPL,
- CFN Fulton promoted to LCPL, and
- PTE Ricketts promoted to LCPL.

Also CFN Van Lambaart was promoted to LCPL earlier on in the year.

The yearly posting cycle has seen some of the Workshop members move on. Those who have gone to other places to do different things are:

- SGT Ker-David posted to 17 Const Squadron in Holsworthy,
- SGT Mapperson and SGT Patching have both left us to push paper at DMO in Melbourne,

SGT Gregson somehow landed another posting in sunny Puckapunyal this time with 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Regt, and



CFN Cochrane has returned to 21 Const Squadron to be deployed on more AACAPs as he didn't get enough fishing time in on the last trip with 26 Transport Squadron. (If anyone sees him can they ask the whereabouts of the mirrors for the GMV as Jungy wants to know).

In turn the new members to grace us with their presence at Puckapunyal this year are:  
SGT Franckiewicz,  
CPL Watson,  
CPL Convey,  
CFN Jung, and  
CFN Blackburn.

In addition to the new Workshop members, LT Peter Stanton was posted into Squadron HQ as the AO towards the end of last year and its good to see another RAEME Officer in the Squadron. 9FSB also has a new ASM in Battalion HQ with WO1 Jamie Hickinbotham handing over the Spanner to WO1 Phil Munro.



CFN Trautwein graciously accepting the ASM's Golf Trophy at the Camel Club

Already members from the Workshop have been deployed to the Sandpit (CPL Andre, LCPL Holmes and CFN J. Griffin). CFN Griffin had three quick weeks to enjoy his new baby before departing for six months.

A Workshop morale day was organised as a way to get to know new members and have fun with the old. The day was spent playing laser tag and go-karts in the morning with a BBQ for lunch. The day concluded with a round of mini golf. CFN Trautwein did an excellent job coordinating and promoting the activity and much fun was had by all.

Troop HQ consists of CAPT Brodie, ACE - WO2 McCann and SGT Franckiewicz. All are busy at all times, have full control of the Workshop and know what is going on at all times (ha ahahaha).

Veh Sect have been doing the usual chasing up of truckies and fixing their rigs with CFN Jung setting a cracking pace, which has left all in his wake. CPL Watson has kept his computer company looking at heaps of exciting stuff on MIMS and showing diggers where on web forms they can purchase leave!!!!



ASM Pete McCann hard at work

LCPL Fulton has just been himself making sure morale is always high and the Workshop never quiet. SGT Anderson is still doing his bit in Veh section, and when not in the office he is on the footy field taking out anyone who comes near him no matter what their size? CFN "gorilla fingers" Blackburn has settled in well cooking BBQ's and relaxing where possible.

GE Sect have started out a bit slow this year but things will no doubt pick up as weapon season starts. CPL Convey is the new Section Commander for the GE crew and has been busy calming CFN Daley down about anything and everything to do with anything. At the same time he has been admiring CFN Bastow and CFN Talbot's fine work.

Elec Sect! What can you say about a section that spends most of their time building robots and any other nerdy things you



CPL Convey admiring GE at work

can think of? CPL Beardsley is now the proud new dad of two healthy twin boys and is often seen just wandering around the workshop in a daze and seems to be turning up to work a lot earlier than usual.

LCPL "Ninja" Van Lambaart has taken up the 'slack' from CFN Griffin's departure overseas and has been busy doing whatever it is that he supposedly does. CFN Kiraly is currently on SUB 1 and can't wait to get back, be made up and earn those big dollars.

Recovery Sect is made up of two Crafties this year, CFN B. Griffin and CFN Trautwein. When the boys aren't cruising the Workshop looking cool they're competing for that top position of Section Commander as no-one is sure who has command of the helm but we think it is a team effort. They have both received new HRVs, finally allowing them to put their skills into practice for the Unit. All they need now is a regi number, to get some time up and they will be right (as much as tow rags can be anyway).



Recovery Section with one of their new toys

RPS Section, the one and only continuous attached section to the Workshop, (who we have full respect and admiration for) is second to none and is made up of CPL Dougherty, LCPL Ricketts and PTE Davis. Well done guys! All we need now is some parts and less attitude.

A highlight so far this year has been a visit to the Workshop by the COLCOMDT (VIC/TAS) COL Terry Beaton and the Regional RAEME Representative LTCOL Michael Buldo on 30 Mar 06. COL Beaton entertained the workshop members with his extensive knowledge of



COL Beaton exploring the HRV with CFN Griffin

our Corps history and this was very much appreciated. The COLCOMDT also obviously enjoyed the company of the

“Craftics” and being in a workshop environment again.

During the visit and in his role as Corps Historian, COL Beaton accepted a RAEME Banner from CAPT Brodie on behalf of the members of the Australian Army Training Team Iraq – 3 (AATTI-3) Maintenance Training Team. The Banner was developed whilst on deployment in Iraq to promote Esprit de Corps amongst the RAEME members. The Banner has several claims to fame such as having flown over Baghdad on a successful combat mission on board a US Apache helicopter engaged in a firefight against Anti Iraqi Forces (AIF). Along with supporting documentation, the Banner will be placed in the EME exhibit at the Bandiana Museum.



Corps Historian, COL Terry Beaton is Presented with the AATTI-3 Maintenance Training Team Banner (From L-R COL Beaton, WO1 Jamie Hickinbotham, SGT Dave Gregson, CAPT Matt Brodie)

2006 looks to be yet another busy year for us with various road trips around the country, so if you see us feel free to come and say G'day.

### 85 TROOP WORKSHOP DETACHMENT (MOOREBANK)

By CPL Reffold

Crew retained from last year:

CFN T. Johnstone – VM,

CFN M. Smith – VM,

CFN J. Fernie – VM,

LCPL G. Holmes – GE,

CPL S. Williams – RPS, and

PTE J. Wilding –RPS.

New crew members:

LT C. Hobbs – OC,

SGT M. Ashman – SGT,

CPL S. Davies – Rec Mech CPL,

CFN R. Leslie – Rec Mech,

CPL P. Reffold – VM CPL, and

CFN S. Culhane – VM.

Hello to all you fellow RAEME Brethren. Well the Coyotes are running a little short on the ground at the start of this year with our resident GE member LCPL Holmes (Bull) deployed overseas. The rest of us have had our nose to the grindstone preparing for the first of the 85 Road Runners road run for the year. This was an ASLAV lift for 2/14th from Brisbane to Townsville. This task involved most of 85 Troop accompanied by a VM FRT,

HRV and support ute from the Workshop.

The FRT crew (Smithy & Steve) communication skills were thoroughly put to the test in Brisbane when after a breakdown it was found none of the supplied contact numbers were useful due to contract changes with Tenix Toll. This in turn gave LT Hobbs (Boss) the opportunity to display his diplomacy skills and successfully get the Troop back on the road within schedule.

The fun didn't end there though. After an overnight stay in Lavarack Bks, Townsville, CFN Leslie (Les, our resident Bogologist) received a call to un-bog two S-liners. However, by the time the HRV got to the site, much to their surprise (& amusement) they found not one but six very well bogged S-liners. It seemed each truckie thought they could make it if they just tried a slightly different line. Les quickly employed his favourite new toy (HRV) and freed the S-liners with hoots and cheers as they got on their way.

Needless to say it should be another eventful and entertaining journey for the Workshop members on the run. Watch out we could be running amok in your area soon.

Arte et Marte

### 3CSR

2005 was a big year for the 3rd Combat Signal Regiment (3 CSR), with the unit moving locations from the Northern end to the heart of the Lavarack Barracks. There were a number of teething problems with the move, but nothing that can be considered outside of the ordinary according to CFN Jeremy King, they were quickly overcome providing a solid base for a highly productive 2006.

The unit managed to win the Watson's Trophy, thanks solely to the efforts of the workshop, which is an all corps skills competition with our neighbours the 3rd Combat Engineering Regiment. The workshop also hosted the annual REAME birthday celebrations for the Townsville region. On top of this some of the TST members competed at the inter-signal corps running competition, the Caduceus Cup and as usual held up the unit team.

It is also important to note that CFN Kent “Glamour boy” Moores from the workshop won the Craftsman of the North Queensland Region and the Craftsman of the Year awards. He is constantly on the go, keeps the Electrical section in order, always puts in 100%, loves his hockey and wants to implement a comb as an ARMY necessity in the DP1.

During the month of October the 3 CSR Workshop embarked on FRT training to Cooktown via the winding Creb Track. It eventuated after months of typical Army administration, planning and the acquisition of non-alcoholic consumables for the trip. The training involved manocuvring through sculptured terrain of dense rainforest, fast flowing rivers and extensive mountain ranges that presented a challenge to even the toughest vehicles with the most experienced drivers behind the wheel.





The pace was excruciatingly slow at times with worn corrugated roads and steep inclines. Forgetting to engage all the "sixbys" wheels only added to some of the driver's woes with PTE Julia "Concrete Foot" Peard spinning more rubber than a top fuel dragster down the quarter mile. SGT Guido "Snow" Herodes, with his years of driving experience showed us how to manoeuvre through the more technical parts of the course, with a skill that could

see him participating in next years Paris to Dakar rally.

During the long hot trip the tired members would refresh themselves in the clear water lagoons that were dotted along the way, led by our swift-talking ASM, WO2 Rodney Bitters who made sure that none of the natural fauna would attack us, even the two legged variety. Overnight camps were well constructed by CPL Bryce "Snow's son" Ellsworth whose ability with a hammer is nothing short of frightening. Although members didn't sleep much as CFN Scott "Jordo" Jordan's pallet vibrated, resonated and shook the position throughout the night.

Adding to the already "outback cuisine" BBQ meals we had been enjoying for the duration of the trip, CFN Chris "Smailly" Smail was able to prove the locals wrong and reel in a decent Spanish Mackerel off the Cooktown pier. Most were fascinated with SGT John "Shrek" Hurditch's attempt at ballroom dancing. A bull stuck in mud comes to mind, maybe he should have taken more of an interest when he was doing ballet lessons when he was a kid.

With the requirement of a Mog specialist from the Transport section, PTE Michael "Woodie" Wood was an automatic selection and with his "special" bag of tricks was the hit of the trip. His extraordinary natural talent of possessing five nuts proved more than a talking point as three Swedish lasses found out. On the return leg LCPL Megan Clarke craved for a pit stop at the natural ice cream producing Frosty Mango. Although enjoying her twin scooper so much that she went off like Meg Ryan in Sleepless in Seattle with an audience of tourists then requesting the varieties of she had.



With fantastic scenery and rugged tracks the training proved to be a pleasurable trip for all involved. We just hope that FRT's to different parts of the country are maintained annually for benefit of the workshop, even suggesting that they should be implemented to all units for morale lifting benefits.

2006 has started off with the workshop team been given the task of completing a huge workload in all areas, thanks to the boys from MAS (red tag Nazis). With exercises such as IMT's, Shakeout and the annual 3 Bde Combined Arms Training activity coming up, 3 CSR will be gearing up for a hectic schedule that will be rewarding for all members.

Unfortunately SGT John Hurditch, SGT Guido Herodes, CPL Steve Garbutt, CPL Ross Barnes, LCPL John Boxsell, LCPL Clarke, CFN Dan Masterlez, CFN Steve Bernat, CFN McClarty and Mark Lithgow (Civi) have departed workshop last year. Joining the superb unit this year is SGT Peter Whiting, SGT Les Mitchell, SGT Dave Francillon, CPL Mark Britton, CPL Lindsay

Marinier, LCPL Adrian Doggen, and CFN Ben Kearns, which will make the workshop a well oiled machine for another year.

Proudly brought to you by CFN Nathan "Jimmy" Hird.

#### 4 FD REGT TST - 2006

##### Members posted to TST

- CAPT Steve Jillett - OC WKSP  
(Left the brotherhood for the boys in blue - RAAF)
- LT Chris Wardrop - Admin Officer (don't call me that)
- WO2 Scott Burden - ASM (fitters rule)
- SGT Shaun Smith - Veh Sgt (seen the light and discharging)
- SGT Daryl Allen - 108 Fitter Sgt (my knee hurts - op)
- SGT Brian Dawes - 107 Fitter Sgt (what porn)
- SGT Andrew Massard - RPS (never let a rec mech guide you)
- CPL Rodney Staggard - EIR CPL (what's this sh\*t!)
- CPL David Waddel - Elec CPL (Mr. Ergon)
- CPL Russell O'Brien - Veh Cpl (get me back to Darwin)
- CPL Timothy Budden - Veh Cpl (get me off this computer)
- CPL Shane Austen - Veh Cpl (I know wheel bearings)
- CPL Brian Wilson - 108's little tiffy (F.A.C President)
- CPL Scott Maslin - Recovery Mech (Failed guiding 101)
- PTE Shane Parker - Rps (Knee surgery boy)
- PTE Ashley Wozniak - Rps (Wozza)
- CFN Chris Boyer - Fitter (Bangers)
- CFN Tobin Scott - Fitter (Cartridge case polisher)
- CFN John Sheehan - Fitter (She man)
- CFN Joshua Llewellyn Jones - Fitter (Male model)
- CFN Bradley Day - Mech (Big is better)
- CFN Ian Roberts - Mech (Cricket GOD)
- CFN Darren Murphy - Mech (In trouble again)
- CFN Mark Roache - Mech (4x4 god - lets belle out)
- CFN Mark Underwood - Mech (Marty junior)
- CFN Damien Riseley - Mech (Ouch that burns)
- CFN John Mackay - Mech (Discharged - Ambo drv)
- John Young (Civ Mech)

#### 4 FD REGT TST Shakeout Exercise

Friday 3rd March 2006, TST as part of CSS BTY, 4FD REGT began packing their vehicles for the shakeout exercise. The troop's numbers had increased over night, by one, with the late night attachment of LCPL Collins from 2



WKSP COY. (New Zealand Army) on exercise ANZAC EXCHANGE. He too was lucky enough to be joining us on the trip after only seven hours in country. Being a combat unit everything required for a field exercise, was perfectly stowed in total disarray. So with the best of intentions and little knowledge of the plan for the following week vehicles were borrowed and packed to the best of our ability. At the 11 th hour Robbo



and Bangers cricket trip (code named exercise piss and porn) was cancelled. They had to eat pie about not going bush, and to then pack a vehicle to join us. After much packing in true Artillery style (chucking kit in your vehicle from the door)

by Staggs at the 12th hour we were all knocked off to go home and prep pers kit for the following weeks grind.

Monday 6th March 2006 (Ground Hog Day) began with an early start for no apparent reason. Weapons were issued and orders given for the journey to HRTA. Whilst driving out the compound gate we waved good-bye to our illustrious leader, CAPT Jillett, as he was leaving for the RAAF. The RPS truck made it half way up Hervey Range and cooked its top. The lead footed greaser driving it probably didn't help! Eventually we all made it to Camp Engstrom where we set up camp (gin palace).



Tuesday 7th March 2006 (Ground Hog Day +1) the Ace decided we should visit the gun line to see how gunnies operate (badly/boringly) and for a maintenance day to fix their cars and guns. By the way, have I mentioned that it has not stopped bucketing down rain since we arrived? Putting up cam nets in the rain sucks!

Wednesday 8th March 2006 (Ground Hog Day +2) was time for some ASM's FRT Training that turned into a 4WD and recovery exercise, still bloody raining. Before we even got on to the track the truckies broke down, it never ends does it. After rectifying a JLU rebuild (respray), it was time for some fun, slippery ground, don't forget the bloody rain and the track from hell. We hit our first problem, a Mog that likes to slide in the wrong direction and missed a tree by millimeters, no MRV required this time, but a MOG and tow chain. We then motored along until we hit a bit of track that would test the best, just ask Buds as he nearly put the GMV on its side (see picture), thankfully one rock stopped it from going over. Then the next hill was made to test man and vehicles alike, the Ace driving a 4x4 went like a bat out of hell for twenty minutes, and got nowhere until Robo reversed his mog back down to tow him to the top. Most people gave it a go, four vehicles were recovered while two Mogs and a GMV made to the top. The rest of the track after that was a piece of cake. Time to go back to camp, or not! The BSM and ASM on route got a Unimog bogged (see picture), supposedly for some recovery training without the MRV, let's get wet. After having some fun, Roachey driving it further up the creek, it was time for some serious

recovery. A GMV, 2 Unimogs, 3-1 block and tackle setup and a turfer was required for the job and we saved the Mog.

Thursday 9th March 2006 (Ground Hog Day +3) and we had better do some IMT's (Not TST's choice) which the men had looked forward to, not! In true RAEME fashion, like always they got the bad guys. On return they were told to kit up with a helmet and were issued a 5 Man Ration pack from the ASM. The ASM said to eat the 5 man ration pack before they got to the next activity. The ration pack was quickly devoured by the boys in about 4 minutes (a world record). The boys were then transported to the Danger Close Impact Area to go and sit under 105mm rounds that were being fired by 108 Bty. Apparently we needed to experience the whiz bang of 105mm rounds. Finally the men returned to camp in time for some CPX training with the use of walkie talkies to simulate both a k-phone and radio to all stations on the net.

Friday 10th Mar 2006 and after yet some more rain it was time to pack up and head home. In true Artillery style all vehicles were stowed in record time for the trip home via the deseeder, which died again. On return home, the wash point was closed because of too much rain, yes I'm talking about Townsville rain.

Well its back to repairing guns, instruments and vehicles again.

Cheers from the MEN of 4 FD TST.

## 5 AVN REGT

### OPERATION PAKISTAN ASSIST - RAEME BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On 22 Nov 05, Twenty-One Maintenance Personnel from 5 Aviation Regiment deployed for a three month rotation into Pakistan to assist the population with a speedy recovery after the earthquake. Included in this detachment, was a vehicle mechanic, a fitter, aircraft technicians, avionics technicians, a structural repair fitter, an aircraft life support fitter, a repair parts controller, and a GAMM 2 data controller.



As part of Task Force Eagle, the detachment is providing support to four Army Black Hawk helicopters, which are being used to deliver aid, supplies, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation into and out of the devastated region. The unit tradesmen are working in shifts to provide around the clock aviation support to the Australian Field Hospital in Dhanni.

So far, the highlight of the deployment has been the flights to the north of the region, where the delivered aid is making the biggest difference. The local people are extremely grateful for





the assistance that the Australian people are offering, and are always quick to shake our hands, and challenge us in another game of cricket. If our luck keeps up, might need to call our tradesmen 'The Invincibles'.

In keeping with true RAEME tradition, the detachment on 01 Dec 05, enjoyed a day of sports, and sat down to a semi-formal dinner. Yet another meal of locally cooked curry, and some non-alcoholic bubbly. As the temperature dropped, the 'Crafties' donned their RAEME badges affixed to their berets, where to finish the dinner off, the detachment toasted the corps, and sang happy birthday to commemorate yet another year in the 'best corps.'

And finally, the cake....  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY RAEME!!!!**  
**'ARTE ET MARTE'**

**5/7 RAR TECH SPT PL (BATTALION REAR)**

With the majority our workshop deployed to Iraq on AMTG 2, those of us left in Darwin have found ourselves at full stretch, supporting Exercise Southern Reach, going on courses and readying the carrier fleet for the rest of the Battalion's return mid-year.



**Andy Alicorn continuing our manpower support**

Some of you will know, last year we lost our sub-unit title of Tech Support Company, and have been swallowed into Log

Company as a Tech Support Platoon. This change has seen CAPT Dave Hughes leave the shed for the towers of BHQ, keeping RAEME in charge of the company.

Over Christmas, we said farewell to a number of our stalwarts. These included SGTs Mitchell and Poulson to Townsville, the latter on promotion. SGT Griffin to Kapooka and WO2 Webb to JLU-N. CPLs Ferrarotto, Howell, Laurie, Porter and Kruger have all moved elsewhere, to greener pastures as well.

Probably our two hardest losses last year though, were two of our long serving career Crafties; Carl Holmes and Frenchy Goiris. These two men epitomise the tradie who just loves to swing spanners and melt metal. Homesy's checking out civic street, while Frenchy has one foot in, one foot out, doing part time work at ICSSB. Their skills and humour (as they're both characters) will be sorely missed.



**'Bully' Taking a well earned break in RPS**

At the start of this year, about half a dozen of our number were re-posted from the workshop proper, into Delta Company where they now fall under that company's command. This is different to how things were done previously, when workshop personnel were detached off to the companies, but remained under workshop control and RAEME administrative command. Good luck lads!

One of that number includes SGT Steve Brown, an ex pommy army senior greaser who arrived from Britain last year, in just enough time to catch the Territory's famous "build-up" season.

It was to everyone's great delight late last year when he received his Australian Citizenship, lost his right to gloat about the ashes and immediately began to look far more intelligent! He now heads the D-Coy Tech Section.

Our new Art Mech, WO2 Richard Hayes has been able to spend plenty of time out on the floor, as at times the tools have been left to him! Whenever it gets little dull though, our four or five civic tradies from Manpower always manage to lighten



**The P1 SGT - EIR SGT - Everything else SGT on the phone yet again**

the mood a little with a bright smile and a quick tongue.

Our new Platoon Commander, LT Steven Towner has dibs on the Fabio award this year. These are the consequences of winning best dressed gent at the St Patrick's Day Races, owning a seventeen hundred dollar watch, then

telling everyone how upset he was that he broke it. Welcome to the workshop Sir!

As for the rest of us, EIR, GE and the ever flat-strapped RPS continue to work hard smiling, as when the rest of our boys get back from the desert, we know we'll be proud of what we've accomplished by the time of their return.

Written by the Crafties.



**Welcome to P1 Admin LT Tower**

**5/7 RAR, TSP (Bn Rear)**

LT Towner  
 WO2 Hayes

**EIR**  
 SGT Thurgood  
 CPL Read  
 CFN Reay  
 CFN Dynan

**GE**  
 CPL Apps  
 CFN Heaton

**VEH**  
 CFN Ladek  
 CFN Korovulavula  
 CFN Hyatt

**REC**  
 CFN Craig  
 CFN Brown

**RPS**  
 PTE Bullock  
 PTE Gill

**D-Coy Tech Section**  
 SGT Brown  
 CPL Croke  
 CPL Powell  
 CFN Montgomery  
 CFN Pratt  
 CFN Roberts



**CFN 'Joe' Korovulavula trapped 'Prod Clerking' as usual**



**Who let the ARTMECH get away from his SDSS terminal**

**7 SIG REGT**

By CFN Grant Davis

2005 proved to be very busy for Workshops at 7 Sig Regt.

October saw a group of workshop's guys leaving on a leisurely FRT (if you can call several thousand kilometres of corrugated dirt tracks leisurely) in support of a driver's course to Bamaga at the tip of Cape York Peninsular. What should have been a



**LT Shayne Wright & CFN Richard Brown cut the RAEME Birthday Cake (Note ASM AKA Angry Anderson in the background)**

straight forward maintenance trip soon turned into something a tad more after several interesting incidences including a civvie landcruiser rollover, the long-winded (not to mention expensive) repair of a Land Rover on the return trip, and of course, the occasional blow-out. But with all said and done most of the guys seemed to have a blast. Or two.

Wardy and Chainsaw got the short end of the stick and were sent on FRT in support of 72 EW and 25/49RQR (Cairns). What was supposed to be a leisurely couple of weeks fishing for Barra turned into a FRT/Supply/Security task. And in case you were wondering, no, it wasn't Cairns, but instead they went to Normanton. For those that have never had the pleasure of landing on a cattle station in the middle of Spring and sharing your lunch with 300 flies, you have not missed much.

But life at the Regiment was not all about work; throughout the year workshops was called upon (as always) to compete as part of Support Squadron in the inter-squadron competition. Always on hand to stick it to the Sigs in any way possible, and with the likes of CFN Matt Hanna, and CPLs Nathan Ward, Ray Fowler and Mark Jones (now SGT Jones ALTC) the SPT Sqn team dominated sports such as Soccer, Basketball, and Cricket. However, even with a little creative accounting at the swimming carnival (that's what you get for putting a Crafty in charge of keeping score), a clean sweep was not quite possible.



**CAPT Benjamin Harington inspects a Mog blow-out**



**Righting a civvies landcruiser on the way to Bamaga**

December saw the Workshop's end of year/RAEME Birthday function go off in spectacular fashion, with sports, competitions and awards to entertain, several hails and farewells, and topped off with the cutting of the RAEME Birthday cake. CPL Ward enjoyed the day so much that he accidentally locked his girlfriend in the compound at the end of the function. In true workshop fashion the Pineapple award and Tool Of the Year was awarded to SGT Darren "The Ninja" Potts (AKA Mr Potts).

2006 brings some fresh faces to the workshop, with LT Welsh fresh from two years of study and keen to not upset the status quo has settled in well. It took LT Welsh a few years to realise his true calling was to RAEME as he was first introduced to



RAE. WO2 Fidge has joined the workshop as our new ASM and has settled in quickly. It has been a bit of change of pace for the Ace as he was previously posted to Melbourne in support of the MRF project. SGT Langdon also

moved up from Mexico and is not sure what to make of the unit at this stage; when asked for his thoughts he replied "No Comment". Take it as you will. We have a new Vehicle Corporal just recently discharged from full time service at 7CSSB and now a part time soldier. CPL Mark Hein has increased productivity of the Vehicle workshop just by showing up. Due to the fact that he is only here for his essential six hours he has already charged out more work hours than the rest of the team in his first week. Keep up the good work Heiny.

As we know a workshop can not function without RPS and fresh into the unit is CPL (now SGT) Payne - he has just landed from 5AVN Townsville. His feet have still not touched the ground and he's already trying to play catch up with the RPS that was, well, not what it should have been. PTE Margie Flynn is still working hard understudying Paynie.



**CFN Aaron Leatherbarrow & CPL Ray Fowler at the tip of the Cape York Peninsular**

2006 started with the usual bullring arrangement of giving the operators an idea of how to better maintain their equipment. One of the interesting epiphany's occurred when SIG (Sid) Garbutt and SIG (Maxie) Walker were demonstrating how to correctly maintain a Clark mast. They had their audience enthralled with the ability to lower the mast sections under their own steam and let the compression in a correctly lubricated and maintained mast work. Apparently some of the young operators had never seen a mast do it's job and slowly lower down under it's own pressure (it's a boffin thing, I guess you had to be there...)

With 2005 gone and 2006 still fresh we look forward to another year of working hard and playing harder. Arte et Marte.

**TP HQ**

CAPT Benjamin Harington  
LT Trevor Welsh  
WO2 Craig Fidge  
LCPL Adrian Elves

**RPS**

CPL Kevin Payne  
PTE Margaret Flynn  
**Bottom WKSP**  
SGT Randall Langdon  
CPL Ray Fowler  
CPL Mark Hein  
CFN Neil Douglas  
CFN John O'Brien  
CFN Tristan Steinert  
CFN Matthew Hanna  
CFN Richard Brown

**Top WKSP**

CPL Graham Dade  
LCPL Mark Bennett  
CFN Grant Davis  
CFN Chris McCulloch  
SIG Matthew Davis  
SIG Grant Draper  
SIG Tim Garbutt  
SIG Mick Lukciu  
SIG Clint Walker  
SIG Darren Simkin

## 8/12 MDM REGT TST

By CFN Thompson and P. King

Greetings once again from Team F\*A\*R\*T. Another year has past us by, and it has been much of the same in 2005. The start of the year saw half of the Regiment deployed to R.C.B. with our own Cpl Sneddon and Cfn Manfield heading up the Tech Support. This left the rest of the team back here to have a pretty quiet start to the year. Mid year we went on a nice trip to sunny Mt Bundy for three weeks. The remainder of the year was left up to sport and courses. OC Capt Moore was lucky enough to get a trip with AATT to Iraq and Cpl McLauchlan got another trip overseas with AMTG 1, we are sure he has lost count of how many times he's been deployed.



CFN Peter Fitzgerald deep in thought

8/12 Team TST touch footy won the Brigade Comp with 5 of the boys making it to the NT side: WO2 Scott Langham, Cpl Aaron McLauchlan, Cpl James Sneddon, Cpl Regan Paterson, and Cfn Luke Kirby. Kirbs went on to make the ADF side. This along with a few blokes on course left us rather short on numbers for the RAEME B'day competitions. Although short in numbers, we performed outstandingly in the post celebrations.

As for our functions there was always plenty of laughs. Once again the ASM Scotty Langham let us wreck his house on NRL grand final day. On our end of year boat cruise someone decided to fill the shipping esky before putting it on the boat. It took all of us just to get it off the ute and the two owner's of the boat were besides themselves. And of course we all know what happens on ASM's golf days!

### Those exiting F\*A\*R\*T's for 2005

Capt Dave "In true gunney style" Barton, WO2 Scotty "Footy guru" Langham, Ssgt "Rocket" Rod McGlashan, Sgt Al "bet you a rum can" Step Hen Son, Sgt Glen "wandering weapons" Batten, Cpl Regan "Lance Field Marshall" Patteron, Cpl Scotty "I need to gain 3 kg" Gardiner, Cpl Aaron "s\*\*t stirrer" McLauchlan, Cpl Mick "who?" Healy, Cpl Luke "CSM" Wighton, Cpl Ryan "Sonny Bill" Barrington, Lcpl Duane "Hand job" Hansen, Cfn Grant "where's my stripes?" Phillips, Cfn Dylan "Bodgie king" Manfield, Pte Brad "B Rad" Francis.



WO2 Langham trying to be serious

### F\*A\*R\*T for 2006

The start of 2006 saw a lot of changes in the starting line up for the season with a new EIR, RPS and coaching staff.

OC (AMTG2) Capt John Moore,  
 ENG OFF (Acting OC) Lt Barton Kohler,  
 2IC (S4 OPS) Lt Dominic Richards,  
 ASM WO2 Peter Williams  
 Veh Section  
 Sgt Gary Irving,  
 Cpl "D" Howell, Cpl James Sneddon,  
 Cfn Peter Fitzgerald, Cfn Daniel King, Cfn Luke Richardson,  
 Cfn Hank Little, Cfn David White  
 GE Section  
 Sgt Joel Anderson,



CFN White, CFN Thompson, CFN Kirby, CPL Patterson, CFN Phillips. It's a hard life in the ECH

Cpl Brendon Ashlin,  
 Cfn Luke Kirby, Cfn Phil King, Cfn Josh Roberts  
 EIR  
 Cpl Cinton Luxford,  
 Cfn Blake Medway  
 RECOVERY  
 Cfn Steve Bortot  
 101 TIFFY  
 Sgt Dean Boston,  
 Cpl Andrew Lebsanft  
 103 TIFFY  
 Sgt Brett Loades,  
 Cfn Mark Thompson  
 RPS

Pte Gus Hiscocks, Pte William Lowes

As for 2006 we had very little time to prepare ourselves for the first exercise after Xmas which was down to Cultana for a good part of a month. We played wars and so did the Gunneys, they created work for our Fitters and VMs which fought off the boredom, and it gave our Recy Mech one of his most entertaining tasks of his career. In the last few days we got out from the Ech for a 20km pack march through the night. TST started last then strolled over the line leading the rest of the regiment a few hours later.

That's another year for the F\*A\*R\*T. So stay tuned till next year!

## 3RD RECOVERY COMPANY

By Major Stephen Fisher



3rd Recovery Company is part of 9th Force Support Battalion (9th FSB), an integrated battalion of regular and general reserve soldiers that provide niche force level capabilities to deployed forces. With its headquarters in Randwick Barracks Sydney, the Battalion is comprised of:

9th Logistic Support Company,  
 15th and 26th Transport Squadrons, specialising in long haul,  
 1st Petroleum Company, specialising in bulk fuel handling,  
 3rd Recovery Company, specialising in equipment recovery,  
 176th Air Dispatch Squadron, specialising in air dispatch.  
 This article provides an insight into the opportunities, activities and achievements of the 3rd Recovery Company. The role of the 3rd Recovery Company (3 Recov Coy) is to provide force level (third line) recovery support to deployed forces. It is the only General Reserve Sub-Unit dedicated to recovery in the ADF. Subsidiary to its primary role, the company prepares General Reserve soldiers for courses that lead to the trade qualification of Recovery Mechanic. The company is located in the multi-user depot at Doveton, approximately 35 kms south east of the Melbourne CBD.

To become a Recovery Mechanic the General Reserve soldier

must complete a series of courses. The first course qualifies the trainee as an ADF licensed driver for light (Landrover), medium (Unimog) and heavy (Mack) rigid vehicles. The first introduction to recovery techniques and equipment commences with detachment training. After detachment training the trainee completes an advanced theory and practice course at the Army Logistics Training Centre (ALTC) to become a qualified Recovery Mechanic. Under normal conditions of service as a General Reserve soldier this qualification would take three years to complete. In the first quarter of 2005 three soldiers from the company signed on for continuous full time service and completed the full-time Army Recovery Mechanics course at ALTC.



Two MRVs used to retrieve abandon car bodies in State Park



Line of HRVs and MRVs at 3rd Recovery Company, Doveton

Prime candidates for deployment on Exercise Talisman Sabre, these trainee soldiers joined nine other company members to provide support to Australian and American forces in the Rockhampton and Shoalwater Bay Training Area in July and August. Unsure of what to expect besides fun in the sun, the heavens decided to open giving the Rockhampton camp a WWI muddy working environment. These muddy conditions meant vehicles left overnight were bogged where they were parked. Fortunately recovery support was only a short walk from the detachment to 3 Recov Coy. Due to a full compound of vehicles, there was often no choice, but to park in the same spot upon return from tasking and hope it had dried up just that little bit to avoid the embarrassment of being bogged again. Mostly, the conditions saw the Recovery Mechanics were rubbing their hands with glee that they had another job.

In addition to recovery tasks in the Rockhampton area, a Recovery Post was strategically located in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area to ensure prompt response should an emergency arise. Within days of the post being manned a land rover had rolled over with the driver and passenger fortunately walking away from the wreck. In comparison the recovery support provided by the recovery post was prompt and timely, which would not have been the case, had support needed to come from the force support maintenance area at Rockhampton.

In April 2005, a Recovery Mechanic was required to deploy to



East Timor at short notice. 3 Recov Coy's Corporal Tim Knowles was available and filled the position. He faced his first of many recovery tasks within hours of stepping off the plane and when asked of his experience in East Timor stated, "it was a challenge doing a live recovery task with not many locals understanding me, but it eventually got done and done safely".

In May and June the ADF's and 3 Recov Coy's only female General Reserve Recovery Mechanic, Craftsman Kristy Dowel provided recovery support to 17th Construction Squadron (17 Const Sqn) when they deployed to Fitzroy Crossing on AACAP tasks. When not exercising her recovery skills Craftsman Dowel improved her general trade skills by working as a trades assistant for soldiers of 17 Const Sqn.

Later this year the company will welcome delivery of the new Heavy Recovery Vehicles (HRV). Based on the existing Mack Truck platform the new HRV with underlift replaces the current HRV that has had limitations with regard to lift, tow and salvage capability due to winch safety restrictions. It is expected that the new HRV will give the unit a capability they have not seen since 1995.

When not deployed or fine tuning their military skills, soldiers of the company practice recovery techniques by retrieving dumped vehicle bodies from difficult to reach locations in National Parks and State Forests. The vehicle bodies are relocated to an accessible area for collection by contractors and subsequently recycled. These challenges add to the unusual art of recovery and provide soldiers with a sense of community spirit.

Morale in the company is high, recruit numbers are steadily increasing and the skill level of soldiers steadily improving. The Company is an integral sub-unit of 9 FSB and can offer the General Reserve soldier regular opportunities to engage in a diverse range of activities in support of deployed forces. Progressively there is a growing awareness of and demand for 3 Recov Coy to support ADF units and engage in beneficial community activities. This growing trend is set to continue and provide challenges for its General Reserve soldiers. To contact 3rd Recovery Company call WO2 Sean Lee on (03) 87102406 or (03) 8710 2408.

**ADFCAL AMBERLEY**

As 2006 kicks into gear, we can reminisce about some of the more outstanding exploits committed in the name of Calibrations during the past 12 months (I'm sure there were one or two?). For those of you who are unaware of our existence, ADFCAL Det Amberley is a unit that provides calibration of Electronic and Physical Test Equipment ranging from Spectrum Analysers to Micrometers for all three services throughout Queensland. The RAEME element (all ECN 420) consists of one SGT (Greig Hutton), three CPLs (Dave Booth, Robert Gold, Martin Hutchinson), one LCPL (John Boxsell) and two CFN (Scott Spooner and Long Tran).

2005 began innocently enough with a four week tour by the Mobile Calibration Centre (MCC) to Oakey. During this period the MCC serviced ASGW and 1 AVN REGT. The bustling metropolis that is Oakey provided few opportunities for excitement apart from doing a few 'lappies' in the cal truck. Things however were looking up.

Upon return from Oakey the competition for a position on the MCC deployment to Cairns began in earnest. The deployment to Cairns to service the Navy and 51 FNQR is the most popular of the year. The deployment commenced in April with the move by road to Cairns via overnight stops in Rockhampton and Airlie Beach. As usual the boys continued to work at maintaining Army/backpacker relations (with no suc-





**ADFCAL Members From Left to right: Hutto, Rob, Boxy, Scotty, Hutch, Dave, Long AKA Iceman**

of the year. Hutch falling foul of 'food poisoning' from a dodgy pizza bought at 3.00am after a big night.

At the completion of the Cairns deployment the MCC headed back down the highway to Townsville. Located initially at RAAF Townsville servicing 5 AVN REGT and the various RAAF units, followed by relocation to Lavarack Barracks in order to cal 3 BDE. This period provides the greatest workload for the MCC and the best opportunity to catch some Cowboy home games, along with Sunday nights at the Cri and long PT sessions at the strand. It was with some relief that the MCC bid farewell to Townsville and began the long trek back down the Bruce Hwy to Amberley. The traditional overnight stop in Airlie Beach provided some excitement as Goldie after consuming several 'coffees' at a foam party unknowingly drew blood from Macca. He then decided to see the nocturnal sights of Airlie Beach for a couple of hours, before he was eventually returned by a friendly local cabbie. He still claims he doesn't know where he went but somehow remembered where he had left his jumper.

While the MCC is off the road the boys work in the static laboratory at RAAF Amberley alongside public servants. Fortunately the mix of military and civilian staff here is conducive to an enjoyable workplace where the contribution of all members is valued. On a sporting note the boys had a strong showing in the base Dodgeball Tournament making the final and finishing gallant runners up, but were disappointed with their early exit from the European handball competition. We are presently in training for the Four a side Beach Volleyball and hope to improve on our previous results. Long has refused to wear a shirt to training and insists we call him Iceman.

The past couple of months has seen the annual pilgrimage to the Gold Coast Indy, the birth of CPL Martin Hutchinson and wife Kylie's first baby, and the marriage of CPL Andrew McIntyre and his Fiancée Melanie. Unfortunately CPL McIntyre left the Regular Army at the end of 2005, and CPL Hutchinson will be departing shortly. We wish them all the best for their respective futures.

This year looks like it will be a busy one, we're undergoing transition from contracted civilian staff to public servants in the static laboratory and the MCC is once again preparing to head North in the next couple of Months.

**PILBARA REGT**

**Mintu Wanta**  
*Always Alert*



Picture this, it's late October and you receive your posting order informing you that you are being posted to the Pilbara Regiment. You ring your folks and let them know that you and the family are moving to Karratha, WA in the New Year. You do your best to explain where Karratha is, all the time knowing that your folks haven't a clue

cess). With only a single night in Airlie, a long drive the next day compounded by a decided lack of 'Irish coffee' the boys called it a night early in the hope that Cairns would provide more enjoyment. First night in Cairns and the first casualty

were exactly Karratha is in WA until they study the map. Nevertheless they still wish you and the family well. Then comes along Tropical Cyclone Clare and put the town smack bang on the top story of the nightly news. All of a sudden most of Australia has heard of Karratha and that it is one of the most cyclone-prone areas in the world. Now your folks really wish you all the best for the next couple of years.

This was the case for the three new members of Tech Support. Darren Heaven from 16AD is the new Ace, Tim Smith from 3RAR the new vehicle crafty, and myself also from 16 AD as the new vehicle Cpl. Fortunately for the three of us we replaced just one bloke CPL Sam Parson. We joined the ranks of Dan Convey, our fitter who is apparently posted to the Regt but spends more time in Townsville, and Ryan "I love extra regimental appoints, and wish I was a crafty" Stratton our RPS Cpl.

All three of us had heard about this posting and had at one stage requested a posting to the Regiment, and finally it was our turn to tame what is know as the Pilbara region of West Australia.

My family and I drove into Karratha on Australia Day, also the Regiment's birthday. We located our temporary accommodation, which is slowly becoming our permanent accommodation, and checked ourselves in, as there was no one on the front desk to greet us, because it was a public holiday.



The working year started on the 30 January with induction week, as usual a week of death by light-pro and the same lecture we receive every year on harassment, fraud, and so on. Interestingly the regiment's role is one of Regional Force Surveillance covering an area of aprox 1.34 million square kilometres which equates to approx 27.3 thousand square kilometres of land mass per ARA soldier.

With the first week out of the way it was down to the real business of what RAEME is all about. Fixing equipment out in the field. Now for Tim and I this meant preparing for our first of 18 FRTs out to the remote depots commonly called, and in keeping with local lingo, out stations. Tim will become the custodian of the GMV and the principal driver, and co-navigator amongst his other roles as a mechanic, assistant cook, first aide, and general rouse about.

Where as I will become the principal navigator, and co driver not to mention as well as the cook, production clerk, PR rep and senior rouse about.

Now our FRT's aren't about packing up and heading bush on a tactical exercise. Far from it. We load up the GMV with all the mod cons, radios and the fridge and somehow squeeze in the parts and POL's required for the next weeks repairs and services at the out station.

This week we were off to Port Headland, a lazy 242km and one of the closest troops. Fortunily MAS had been through a couple of months earlier and had given us a very detailed brief on the condition of the six vehicles.

So after a very busy week consisting of very long days of servicing, repair and inspection we had B troop's vehicles up to speed, all with new FF stickers. Then just as we are about to



head home, a safety signal is released that the all RFSV need to be reclassified stating that the rear seats that have been used for the last fifteen years were not to be used anymore to carry personnel. So

out with the yellow stickers.

The RFSV are a purpose built vehicle, used by reserves to carry out two week camping trips into the desert, whoops I mean two week surveillance patrol in the Pilbara region. The patrol would normally consist of two vehicles with three personnel in each, but with the rear seats no longer available to use, the patrol now consists of three vehicles with two personnel in each.

Now you might think that the chocos have the entire fun bush bashing the vehicles and destroying them, but occasionally ARA soldiers deploy to the field on an ARA RDP patrol. I will let you know if the full timers are any gentler on the equipment in our next article.

Now you might also be thinking it sounds like it's a lot of hard work up here. Well it is but when it comes to play time we also know how to do that well. Take for example. Just the other weekend Tim and I went out fishing with a local on his own boat, after completing some modifications to his boat earlier in the week.

Now this gentleman was every much the keen angler and just loved being a fishing guide for the day, in fact rumour has it when he gives up his day job he will become a full time fishing tour operator.

After travelling for an hour or so and within minutes of trawling a couple of Halco Crazy Deep "Red Heads" in addition to a swimming Gardie, both Tim and myself were firmly hooked on to a couple of Spanish Mackerel. I managed to land my macki but Tim lost his first fish on the gaff. Lines were quickly back in the water for round two and it wasn't long before I with the help of the owner, had landed number 2 fish for the day. This time a tuna much to the jealousy of Tim. When the owner's rod received another blistering run, Tim fast resembled a puppy waiting for a treat, eagerly watching the owner and longing for the opportunity to land his first fish from a boat.

Feeling sorry for the young angler, the owner handed over his rod and Tim's eyes lit up. Tim had no idea what he had hooked onto but after 20mins of coaching Tim landed his first fish from the Dampier archipelagos, a beautiful 10 - 15kg sailfish.

After some quick pictures to support his bragging rights, the sailfish was successfully released, to fight another day. Tim's next words could only have come from a genuine beginner fishing in the Pilbara region, "So, do you usually catch a lot of these fish when you go out?"

Now I might point out that the owner has never caught a sailfish nor landed one in his boat until that day, and this is a very sore point for him, and that his work colleagues are never too far away to remind him of that day. And for us, the tension between the workshop and the owner are still strained. Hopefully with time the tension will ease, and then we will be invited out fishing again with the RSM.

**CPL Chris Dare**  
**Vehicle CPL**  
**Pilbara Regiment**  
*Arte Et Marte*

## ALTC - ASTO

It was another hot and dry Bandiana day when the headquarters element of Supply Wing (home of the RAAOC) headed out on their adventure to climb Mt Feathertop. Mt Feathertop is the second highest mountain in Victoria, which was good to start from, because now there's only one more to go - Mt Bogong later this year.

The activity was aimed at allowing the command group to bond together on the walk and subsequent overnight camp on the lovely Diamantina River, and to discuss the year ahead, but what it really allowed was the OC, MAJ Gough and the 2IC, CAPT Larsson to practice their fly-fishing.

MAJ Gough led the team, who set off fearlessly, regardless of season, weather or brain, to the summit with its spectacular views of the Victorian Highlands. The walk was made more interesting by the OC's plentiful XC skiing wares, and the numerous false peaks along the way. (Bugger - not another false peak/skiing warry!)

When we reached the summit everyone noted how good the phone reception was. The OC got 3 calls from work, a few called wives and friends, and LT Sheridan learned not to say "Hi Mum" when his phone rang. CAPT Newsome almost didn't make it when he realised once at the top, we would turn around and come back the same way.

After negotiating the very steep and in some places scary Diamantina Spur, we camped next to the Diamantina River allowing everyone to take a nice refreshing dip. Due to a total fire ban, the campfire and BBQ dinner was substituted for swapping stories sitting around a mound of burnt logs and ash eating cold ham salad. Eventually, we talked about the wing's goals for the year and the OC and 2IC gave us a spiel before retiring.

The drive out gave much excitement to all as the Ford Courier 4x4's were pushed to their limits, crawling through rock-laden creeks and around log covered tracks. We discovered later we'd taken the stock route rather than the vehicle access track.

The walk was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who participated. It was a great chance to get out of the office and build good rapport within the wing, that this year due to DOCM magic, consists of Roaches, Truckies and Spanners. The team is now set for a successful year of training at the Army School of Transport and Ordnance.

**LT G.J. Sheridan**  
**Petrol PI**  
**ASTO**  
**ALTC**





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