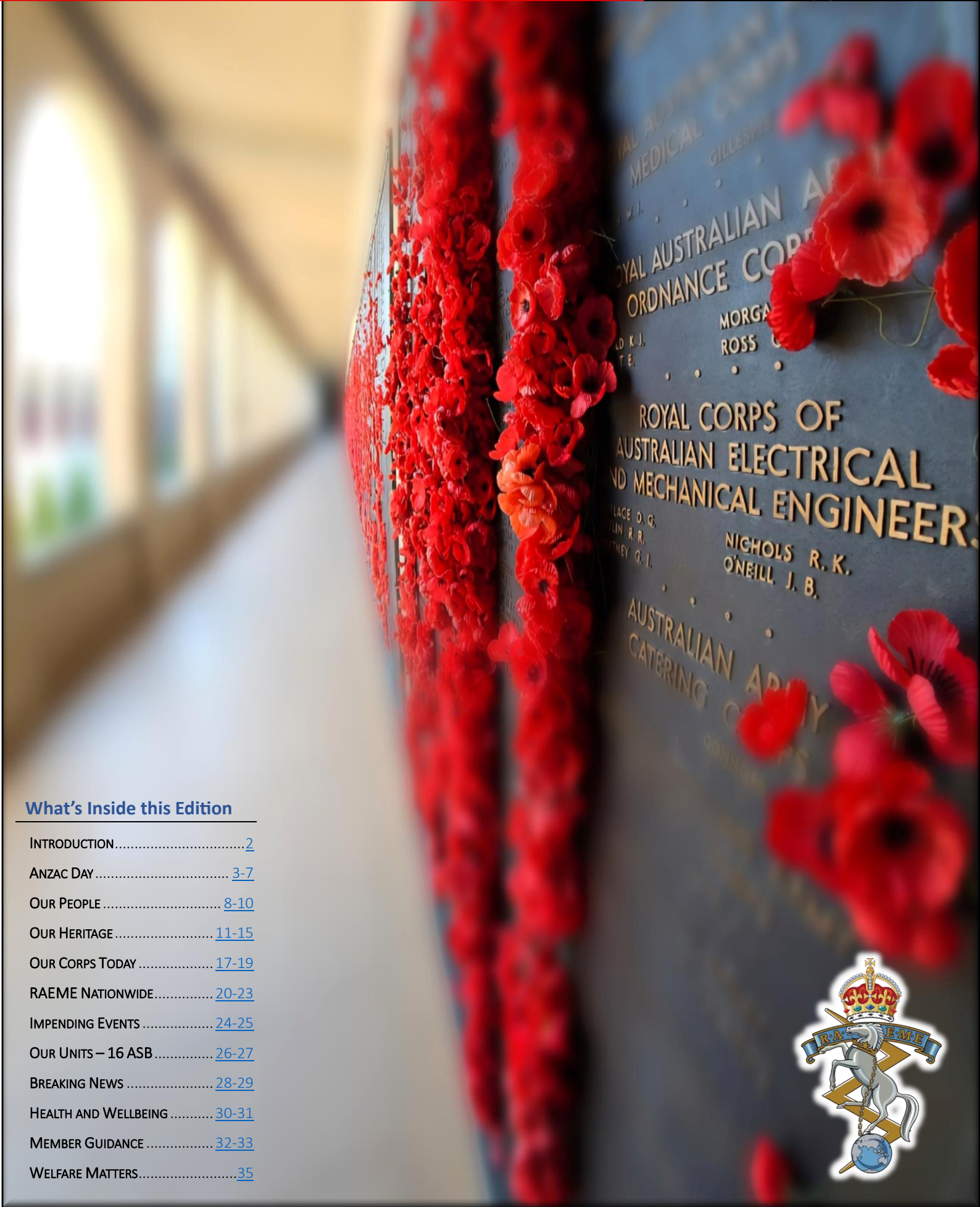


MAINTENANCE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

EDITION 04 – MAY 2026



What's Inside this Edition

INTRODUCTION.....	2
ANZAC DAY.....	3-7
OUR PEOPLE.....	8-10
OUR HERITAGE.....	11-15
OUR CORPS TODAY.....	17-19
RAEME NATIONWIDE.....	20-23
IMPENDING EVENTS.....	24-25
OUR UNITS – 16 ASB.....	26-27
BREAKING NEWS.....	28-29
HEALTH AND WELLBEING.....	30-31
MEMBER GUIDANCE.....	32-33
WELFARE MATTERS.....	35



INTRODUCTION

A word from

Colonel Andrew Adams CSM retd

Colonel Commandant, NSW and ACT, and President of the ACT RAEME Association

Greetings All, we continue to live in interesting times, and they seem to be getting more so daily. As a recent retiree, I have the privilege of responsibility-free reflection and consideration (very happily so!). Issues such as global instability, technological developments, institutional and organisational change are now presented as they are happening through multiple media platforms by a significantly reduced number/variety of journalists. While all this seems to be more confronting than ever, through my lens, change has been ever-present. As an example, my first 10+ units no longer exist, either by name, organisation or role; Army Apprentices School, Adelaide Workshop Company, A Sqn ¾ Cav, Officer Cadet School, 3 Base Workshop Battalion, Army College of TAFE, 102 Field Workshop, Soldier Career Management Agency, Army Support Unit – Darwin, 2 Cav Regt, Army Command and Staff College.... From the outside looking in, this also reflects today's reality, and I anticipate will continue to do so. Regardless of the quantum of organisational change, the constant is that military maintenance matters. It will need to continue to be delivered by our smart, innovative and well supported spanners that can thrive in complex environments, enabling the availability of equally complex kit. On, on!

Anzac Day commemorations reinforced the extraordinary efforts of those who have gone before us, those who have served more recently and those that are currently serving. I had the privilege of spending time with our local corps members as well as members of other corps and services, and while the memories and stories may have not reflected what has been captured in official histories, they were nonetheless informative, entertaining and inspirational – Lest We Forget.

On 20 May, ASEME is hosting the 40th Anniversary of the presentation of the Prince Philip Banner at Bandiana. Along with many of you, my intent is to be part of the anniversary. I was one of the fortunate young officers to be part of the parade while serving at 3 Base Workshop Bn. It was a fantastic experience, with the outcome being a banner that the Corps continues to be justifiably proud to have served under for the last 40 years.

In our 84th year, it is fitting that the newsletter not only highlights events and activities that are happening around the Corps, but will also capture the stories of the many retired Corps members and their magnificent support to their communities post-service. Gary Sargent is one of those who continues to serve his community post-uniformed service. I commend his efforts to you.

As we continue our respective journeys, be they in or around Defence and the Corps or pursuing other paths: be safe, be smart and, every now & again, spend a moment acknowledging those that are serving in these most interesting times.

With Skill and Fighting, Kind regards, APA



Maintenance Matters

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Submissions

Submissions for inclusion in future editions of the Newsletter may be entered online at:

<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter/article-submission>

Submissions from serving members may also be sent through your Regional Corps Representative for review, collation and on-forwarding.

Disclaimer

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Cover Photo Description

The Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial records and commemorates members of the Australian armed forces who have died during or as a result of war service, or for post-1945 conflicts, warlike service, non-warlike service and certain peacetime operations.

Panel 6 (shown on the cover) in the Commemorative Area of the Roll of Honour carries the names of the following RAEME veterans:

- Craftsman [Douglas Borlace](#) (3 Cav Regt, Vietnam KIA)
- Warrant Officer Class 2 [Gilbert Hartney](#) (102 Fd Wksp, Vietnam)
- Sergeant [Ronald Butlin](#) (102 Fd Wksp, Vietnam)
- Warrant Officer Class 1 [Raymond Nichols](#) (106 Fd Wksp, Vietnam)
- Craftsman [John Barry O'Neill](#) (1 Divisional Supply and Transport Workshop, Vietnam).

Lest we forget.

ANZAC DAY 2026





**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL
AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS HAVE PROVIDED MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, MATERIEL MAINTENANCE, MODIFICATION, AND RECOVERY SUPPORT TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY SINCE 1942.

THIS PLAQUE IS PLACED IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

1 DECEMBER 2017
LEST WE FORGET



ANZAC DAY 2026



ANZAC DAY 2026



OUR ANZAC DAY HISTORY

The First Anzac Day in 1915

This article was written by the host of the Podcast, *Forgotten Australia*, [Michael Adams](#). The images were sourced from the internet. Clicking on each image will take you to the reference site for each.

Making my podcast *Forgotten Australia* in April, I thought I'd mark Anzac Day with a look at the first commemoration, which, as any number of sources told me, was the 25th of April 1916. Starting research in Trove, Australia's historic newspaper archive, I began by looking to establish when the phrase 'Anzac Day' had first been used in the press. I figured it'd be early 1916, when the movement was born, at least in the official accounts, so I narrowed my search to that period. I was really tripped up to see a South Australian article from January referring to funds for wounded soldiers that had been raised at last year's Anzac Day in Adelaide.

Hang on, how was that possible?

Re-setting the search so it included 1915 yielded a, well, trove of articles from South Australia about the first Anzac Day, held on 13 October 1915. Checking to see how widely this was known was to see it's barely mentioned in any chronologies. Where it is, it's usually in a sentence. The few longer descriptions are usually disparaging, writing it off a minor curio that wasn't in any way official. The National Film and Sound Archive does hold a 50-second snippet from what it calls [The First Anzac Day](#), but its description acknowledges claiming it as such is 'controversial'.



Controversial only if you want to write off the efforts of a dedicated band of government, labour and business leaders, the first veterans to return from Gallipoli, thousands of serving soldiers bound for the Western Front and tens of thousands of South Australians who turned out.

The *First Anzac Day* deserves its title. It was proposed by South Australian union members, who wanted to put on a fund-raising procession and parade for the wounded soldiers who from July 1915 were arriving in ever increasing numbers. There had already been numerous such events – including the first national Australia Day, on 30 July, long before it was agreed by all states to be on 26 January.

The unionists thought giving up their annual 13 October "Eight Hour Day" parade, holding it instead for the soldiers, was the right idea. It was already a South Australian public holiday.

The Chief Secretary agreed. But they needed a name for this new day. So, they announced a public competition on 25 August.

In the past few months, 'Anzac' had become a new word. Ten entries selected 'Anzac Day'.

This winning name was [announced in the press](#) two days later.

The winner was selected by lots from the ten entrants. So, if there's any one person who gets the credit for one of our most famous name days, it's an old unionist named [Robert Wheeler](#). He was also a mad-keen Aussie Rules fan, who lived to a ripe old age and died while watching a match.

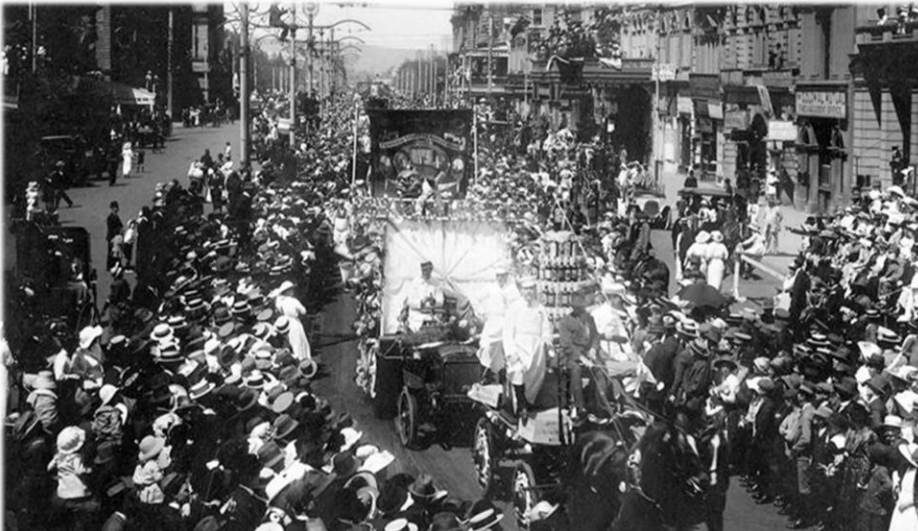
This Anzac Day was to be held while the soldiers were still at Gallipoli. The history wasn't written. There was still the hope of victory. So, the mood was different.

The aims of Anzac Day were to celebrate Australia's military forces and raise as much money as possible. While tens of thousands would turn out to see soldiers and sailors march, this wouldn't necessarily make them reach into their pockets or purses.

So, it was all about putting on a show, keeping people entertained and getting them to part with their pennies, shillings and pounds. The following year's commemorations would be sombre, and there would be debate about whether the march and associated events should have a fund-raising component. But in 1915, it wasn't an issue.



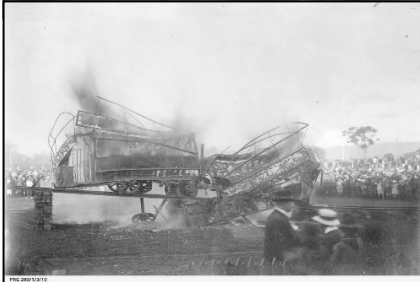
OUR ANZAC DAY HISTORY



The first Anzac Day parade, the new name given to the usual Eight Hours Day public holiday parade, progressing along King William Street, Adelaide city, in October 1915

The first section featured the naval brigade band and sailors and over 2000 soldiers. The biggest cheers went up for the wounded who passed by in cars.

Then came 10 more sections, dozens of union groups and floats contributing to well over 100 groups. There were life-size dioramas of the Dardanelles and 600 smart Scouts. Concert parties, comic performers, singers and musicians. Whatever kept people in the streets, showering the displays with money or putting it into the boxes of more than 500 female collectors. The city was bright with decorations, shop owners competing in window display competitions, and another 250 tireless ladies took more money at stalls selling food, drink, souvenirs, novelties and jumble items.



For six weeks, South Australians prepared, the press reporting every development.

On the day, tens of thousands line Adelaide's streets. More gathered in other South Australian towns.

Official messages were received from the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Governor of South Australia.

The Premier also delivered an Anzac Day message. His Chief Secretary had been the Chair of its committee, so this very much had official blessing.

The march and procession wound its way through the city's streets for hours, covering a 2.5-mile route.



The Premier, Hon. Crawford Vaughan, addressing the enthusiastic crowd at the National Memorial

The craziest display- and the one that might have made later generations cringe- was a bloke who'd organised fur-wearing 'cavemen' and giant 'prehistoric animals.' But the crowds loved them. Even more startling was that afternoon's entertainment on Adelaide Oval. While there were athletic, gymnastic, balloon and parachuting displays, the highlight was the staged crash between two full-size trams on an oval-shaped track that had been specially constructed. On impact, explosives detonated, ensuring the trams splintered and blazed.

Everyone loved it- and could watch it again in the newsreels the following day.

All up, Anzac Day raised £4000 (~\$360,000 in today's dollars). It was a drop in the national fund-raising bucket, but every penny counted. Anzac Day was extensively covered in the South Australian press- and it did get a run in other states, too.

'Anzac Day' was now in headlines and articles. In December 1915, Victorian authorities would use it as one of the names for their own day for wounded Diggers.

A month later, in 1916, the name would live on as preparations were made for the first official Anzac Day, which was much more in the mould of our modern commemoration.

You can hear the whole story of The First Anzac Day at my podcast "Forgotten Australia". There you'll also find plenty of other historical Australian military, true crime, political, sporting and celebrity stories. It's free to listen. Follow or subscribe to get every new episode.

OUR PEOPLE

Above and Beyond – Celebrating those who continue to serve

In this new section of *Maintenance Matters*, we seek to celebrate the service of RAEME members who have made positive differences through their service following retirement from the ADF. We wish to celebrate those who have stood out from the crowd, not through self-promotion but through their actions and the benefit those actions have had either on the Corps or on their community. Whether through community service, mentoring, charitable work, or success in business, these veterans continue to make a meaningful contribution. By sharing the stories of those who embody the spirit of our Corps, we will celebrate not only where they have come from, but the enduring value they bring to others and the communities they serve as well as the legacy they provide our Corps.

We welcome nominations for any individual who has made a positive impact on their communities through their service. Our only requirements are that the member has retired from uniformed service, they are still living and they have served their community in a manner that has been above and beyond that of their peers. A template for submissions may be found at our [Submission Portal](#).

Gary Sargent – Continuing a life of service

Gary Sargent completed 20 years in the Australian Army, discharging in 1988 as a Warrant Officer Class One. His time in RAEME shaped his character, his work ethic, and his lifelong commitment to helping others — qualities that defined everything he did after leaving Defence. After settling with his family in Rochedale South, Queensland, Gary built a successful civilian career across industry and small business before retiring in 2011. It was his volunteer work that became the true hallmark of his life after service.



Serving Without the Camouflage

Gary's post-service years were defined by an extraordinary level of community involvement. He volunteered across three major organisations: the Springwood Tri-Service RSL Sub-Branch, the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ), and the Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association (LECNA). Most people would struggle to keep up with one of these commitments; Gary often managed all three at once.

He joined the Springwood Tri-Service RSL Sub-Branch in 2004. From 2014 to 2025, he served as its volunteer Secretary — a role he performed with precision, humility,

and unwavering dedication. With no permanent office, much of the Sub-Branch's work was done from members' homes. Gary solved that problem the way a RAEME Craftsman would: he turned his caravan into a mobile headquarters. Even when away in Wangaratta on family matters, he coordinated Anzac Day arrangements remotely, ensuring nothing was missed.

Strengthening Veteran Communities

Gary played a central role in shaping the RSL Sub-Branch's Strategic Plan 2023–2026 and strengthening ties with local organisations including Greenbank RSL, the Veterans Motorcycle Club, Logan Diggers Services Club and LECNA. He helped develop a Homeless Veterans Policy that later gained recognition within RSL Queensland.

Gary supported commemorative events across the region — Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Vietnam Veterans Day — coordinating with councils, police and community groups to ensure each occasion honoured service with dignity. He also conducted Poppy Services at funerals, offering families a final gesture of respect and linkage to their service.

A Pillar of the RAEME Association

Gary's contribution to the RAQ was equally significant. As volunteer Secretary and a senior member of the Executive, he worked tirelessly for the welfare of RAEME veterans and serving members. He played a key role in supporting the Spanner Pack Project, which delivers "home comforts" to RAEME soldiers deployed overseas.



His dedication was recognised with Honorary Life Membership in 2015 and the RAQ Chairman's Award in 2022 — both honours he accepted with characteristic modesty.

Serving the Wider Community

At LECNA, Gary became a much-loved figure. He managed foodbank donations, logistics, stores, labouring, and community support tasks — whatever was needed. His biggest annual effort was the Christmas Hamper Project, coordinating more than 300 hampers each year for families in need. He organised volunteers, managed the logistics, and did much of the physical work himself, always the first to arrive and the last to leave.

A Life of Service — In and Out of Uniform

Gary's story shows that service to the nation doesn't end with discharge. It evolves. Supported by his wife, Lynelle, he has strengthened veteran networks, supported vulnerable families, and built community resilience. Gary's impact extends far beyond his years in uniform — and continues today.

'Unseen Heroes' – The Quiet Wounds



We recently found a podcast called “Mark MI Words” (@ShatteredThepodcast) in which the host interviews RAEME member, Ian Baker, the powerhouse behind *RAEMUS Rover* and the support that project provides veterans.

Mark MI words is a weekly podcast designed to create Mental Health UNDERSTANDING, not just awareness. Real talk, about the real issues facing those who have a Mental Illness AND those that support them. Brought to you by a sufferer of CPTSD. In this episode, Ian details the support that can be provided to veterans, especially through *RAEMUS Rover*, and the immense benefits that follow.

We highly recommend watching this almost hour-long podcast so you can learn about some of the support that is available to you and your mates.

The podcast can be found on YouTube by [clicking here](#) or on the image to the left.

A Soldier Shaped by two Armies

Lance Corporal Jonathan Lee has served two nations, worn two uniforms and carried one enduring purpose: to honour those who came before him. His story is one of military service, family sacrifice and a deeply personal connection to the legacy of the Korean War.

Lance Corporal Lee enlisted in the Australian Army as a mechanic in 2015 using his civilian qualifications, and subsequently posted to 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion and 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR). But his service began long before that in 1996, when he enlisted in South Korea’s Army as a paratrooper.

“That role required a high level of physical readiness, discipline and the ability to respond to operational requirements at short notice,” Lance Corporal Lee said.

“While my current role as a vehicle technician differs from my previous service as a paratrooper, the fundamental purpose remains unchanged: to support the mission and contribute to the team.”

Although the physicality of his current role is a little less demanding, Lance Corporal Lee said keeping the 3rd Battalion’s vehicles ready to deploy was just as challenging.

“Our boys work really hard, and you never sit down. There’s always something to fix,” he said.

Taking a break from the workshop, LCPL Lee joined a small 3 RAR contingent that travelled to South Korea to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong.

Service does not come without sacrifice. With regional postings from Puckapunyal to Townsville and time away on exercises, Lance Corporal Lee’s wife and daughter moved back to Korea for more family support, visiting, when possible, over the past decade.

Anzac Day at Seoul War Memorial this month was the first time Lance Corporal Lee’s family had ever seen him in his Australian uniform, and it was a proud moment.

“In the 11 years since joining the Australian Army, my family had not previously had the opportunity to see me in uniform in person, so it was a moment of great personal importance,” he said.

“It was a meaningful moment that reflected not only my service, but also the support and sacrifices my family has made over the years.”



A further highlight was visiting the battlefields in Kapyong and participating in the commemorative service at a site of shared history for Australia and Korea.

“Standing there, I did not feel as though I was simply observing history, but rather that I was personally connected to it.”

“Participating in the Kapyong Day ceremony carried a weight beyond words and it is an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

With an understanding most Australians could not comprehend, Lance Corporal Lee explained the significance of the battle and what it meant to him.

“Without their sacrifice there would be no Republic of Korea as it stands today, no home for my family, and no path that led me to serve in the Australian Army,” he said.

Reflecting on his service, and those who came before him from different sides of the globe fighting side by side for a common goal, Lance Corporal Lee felt a responsibility to uphold their legacy.

“I would like to express with all my heart my deepest gratitude and respect to the veterans who, 75 years ago, devoted their youth in a land they had never even seen, in defence of Korea.”

“Now as a proud member of 3 RAR, it is a privilege I hold with great pride and I will always remember that I am part of a brotherhood and family for life.”

Source: [Defence media](#)

OUR PEOPLE

From Army to Aspen Medical

This story was published in DVA's newsletter, [VetAffairs](#).

How an aeronautical engineer established one of world's biggest health services companies and brought the Invictus Games to Australia.

Thirty-odd years ago, Glenn Keys AO was happily test-flying Army aircraft. Today, the respected corporate philanthropist runs Aspen Medical—a multinational with 6,500 staff across 25 countries.

How did he get from A (Army) to B (business)?

'I loved that the military trained you for, and then gave you, the opportunities to exercise leadership and decision making,' says Glenn. *'I'll never forget what one of my early Army bosses said to me: "I expect you to run as hard as you can – and to make mistakes. The only guidance I give you is: don't make the same mistake twice".'*

Military service runs strong in the Keys family: his father served in the Air Force, an uncle was a Rat of Tobruk, another was a pilot in a Spitfire squadron. Glenn's great-grandfather volunteered for the Light Horse – twice – in the First World War. 'The concepts of service and of support to others have been inculcated in me for my entire life,' he says.

Glenn himself completed a degree in mechanical engineering while undertaking officer training at Duntroon and eventually went on to become Acting Chief Engineer for Australian Army aircraft. When the Army began to acquire and operate its own aircraft, particularly helicopters, he was offered the opportunity to become its first Flight Test Engineer, following training at the International Test Pilots School in the UK.

'I loved being in the Army,' Glenn recalls. *'As a young Captain, I was looking after 25 aircraft around Australia, with all the staff, equipment and logistics that entails – it was just brilliant.'*

But a time came when the needs of his second child, Ehren, who was born with Down syndrome, were not compatible with the transient military life. 'I married my wife, not the Army,' Glenn states emphatically. 'Both she and my son needed me. I loved the camaraderie, the mess... but I had to put my family above all that.'

After working for a start-up for several years, he approached a doctor friend with the idea of contracting for the UK National Health Service. 'He said to me: "Glenn, I don't know anything about people management, projects and logistics – if you do all of that stuff, I'll do the medical bit". That's how Aspen Medical started, 23 years ago, in my dining room in Canberra.'

Aspen Medical is now a Veteran Employer of Choice, the highest level under DVA's Veteran Employment Commitment. Its first major contract was as the health provider for the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). It has since cared for Australian troops in East Timor, fought Ebola in Africa, and provided medical support to the evacuation of refugees from Afghanistan, among many other projects.

Glenn Keys while attending the International Test Pilots School in the UK

For Glenn, the business is about taking care of people, which has remained the driving force behind all he does. Inspired by the resilience of his son Ehren, in 2012 he founded *Project Independence*, a charity established on the principle that those with an intellectual disability should be able to buy their own home. 'We believe it's the first of its kind in Australia, maybe the world,' Glenn explains, with justifiable pride in a scheme that has built 30 homes in Canberra, and more to come around Australia.

Supporting his fellow veterans is among Glenn's other passions. When Australia considered hosting Prince Harry's Invictus Games, he was approached to be one of its 2 founding directors. The Invictus Australia Steering Committee then put together the successful bid to host the Invictus Games in Sydney in 2018. Recently Invictus Australia, under Glenn's leadership, announced an intention to bring the Games back down under, in 2031, building on this legacy and success.

Last year, Invictus Australia engaged almost 10,000 veterans and family members in sport – and almost 30,000 since the Sydney Invictus Games. 'One of the unique things we do is that we engage with sporting organisations which invite veterans into their broader family,' Glenn explains, 'so you're also getting the benefits of reintegration with community, as well as the education of community.'

In recognition of this achievement, last year Glenn was the first non-European to be appointed to the board of the global Invictus Games Foundation: 'It's an incredible honour. We have a critical methodology for helping veterans and families recover from trauma, as well as proactively preventing physical and mental health challenges that come with transition and service – and sound evidence-based research to support that.'

Glenn credits the skillset he gained in the ADF as the foundation for his success. 'No-one ever asks me about the jobs we said "No" to,' he reflects. 'The skills we get in Defence are often grossly undervalued by the non-military community – people management, logistics management, coordination, problem solving, delegation. I think Aspen Medical is very good at risk management, and a huge amount of that comes from our skills, training and expertise in Defence.'



OUR HERITAGE

The Prince Philip Banner: A symbol of service, craftsmanship and Corps Identity

Within the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, few artefacts embody the history, identity and professional pride of the Corps as powerfully as the Prince Philip Banner. More than a ceremonial emblem, it represents the collective service, technical mastery and enduring values of the men and women who have sustained the Australian Army since 1942.

For a Corps defined by its role in maintaining capability rather than commanding attention, the Banner provides a visible and enduring symbol of contribution—linking generations of RAEME soldiers through shared purpose and tradition.

From battlefield necessity to enduring tradition

The origins of military banners and Colours lie in the practical demands of warfare. From the Eagle standards of the Roman legions to the heraldic banners of medieval Europe, these symbols enabled soldiers to identify leaders and maintain cohesion in the confusion of battle.

Within the British Army, Colours evolved into powerful representations of regimental identity. They marked headquarters in combat and became rallying points imbued with honour and sacrifice. Although they ceased to be carried into battle after 1881 due to the changing nature of warfare, their symbolic importance endured.

In the Australian Army, this tradition continues through Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners. While armoured and cavalry units carry Standards and Guidons, and infantry units carry Colours, Corps such as RAEME are honoured through the presentation of a Banner—typically by a Royal or vice-regal patron—signifying their service and standing within the Army.

The vision for a RAEME Banner

The journey toward the Prince Philip Banner began on 12 November 1980 during a Corps Committee meeting at the RAEME Training Centre. Colonel P.M. Robinson proposed that the Corps seek a Banner to be presented by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in his role as Colonel-in-Chief of RAEME.

The proposal was more than ceremonial. It reflected a desire to formally recognise the Corps' identity and contribution within the broader Army—placing RAEME alongside other Corps and Regiments that had long held such symbols. The proposal was endorsed, and work commenced to develop a design that would appropriately represent the Corps' heritage, professionalism and national service.



Edition 04 – May 2026

Design and craftsmanship

Formal Royal approval of the Banner design was granted in December 1983. The design itself is deliberate and symbolic:

- **Obverse** – The RAEME Corps badge at the centre, with the Duke's cipher positioned in the upper canton



- **Reverse** – The Australian Coat of Arms, reinforcing national service and identity



- **Construction** – Constructed from crimson silk, the Banner measures 65 cm on the pike and 120 cm on the fly, finished with a gold fringe. It is mounted on a 245 cm ash wood pike, stained and French polished, and fitted with a brass shoe. A detachable gilt Royal Crest crowns the pike, reinforcing its Royal association.

The cords and tassels—crimson silk interwoven with gold thread—serve both a functional and ceremonial purpose, securing the Banner while enhancing its visual presence.

Production was undertaken by R.F. Kemp Pty Ltd of Melbourne, with the associated belt manufactured by George Potter & Co. of Aldershot in the United Kingdom—linking Australian craftsmanship with longstanding British military tradition.

OUR HERITAGE

The presentation parade – 20 May 1986

On 20 May 1986, the Corps was formally presented with the Prince Philip Banner at a ceremonial parade held at the RAEME Training Centre. The Banner was presented by His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, marking a significant milestone in Corps history and formally recognising RAEME's service since its establishment in 1942.

The parade reflected both national representation and Corps unity:

- Four guards were formed, each comprising 63 troops representing every Australian state
- Participants included both Regular Army and Army Reserve personnel
- The parade was witnessed by over 4,000 spectators

The Parade Commander was Lieutenant Colonel Ron Dyne, supported by Parade Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One Garry O'Brien.

A defining feature of the parade was the inclusion of "Troops Holding Ground"—a formation with origins in antiquity, where soldiers formed a hollow square to defend against surprise attack. Its inclusion symbolised discipline, cohesion and collective defence, reinforcing the continuity of military tradition across centuries.

The presentation of the Banner on this day represented not only ceremonial recognition, but a defining moment in the Corps' identity. A video of the parade can be found by [clicking here](#).

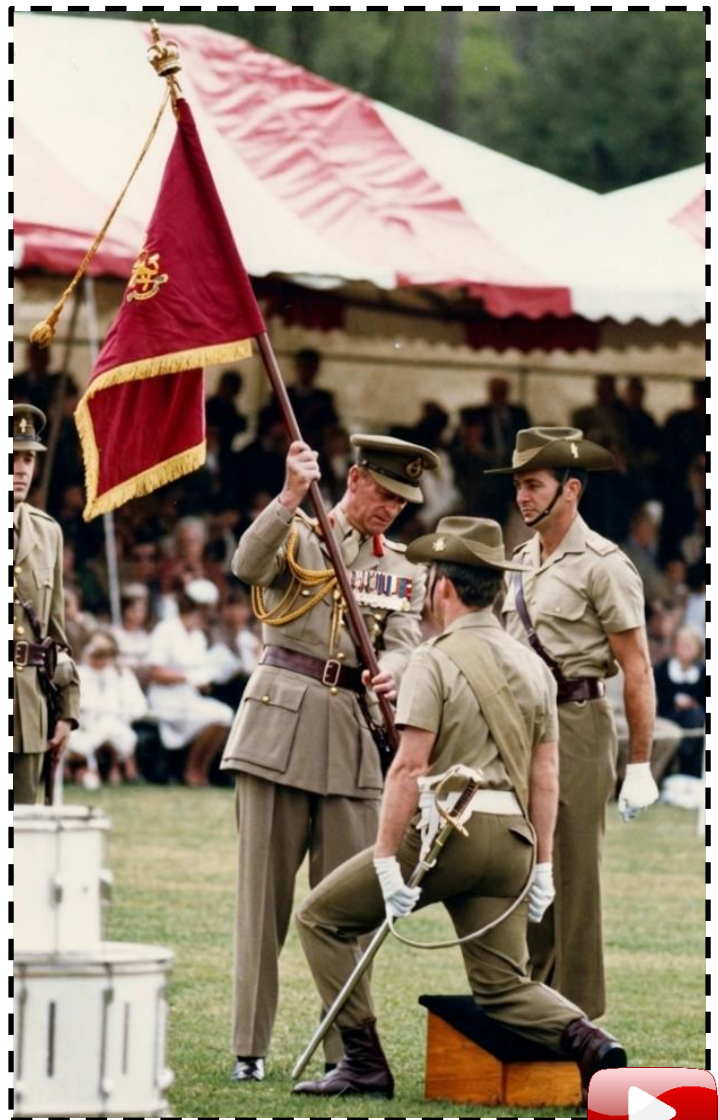
A moment in time: The 1980s Context

The presentation of the Prince Philip Banner occurred during a period of significant transformation within both the Australian Army and RAEME.

Throughout the 1980s, the Army was undergoing revitalisation driven by changing global conditions and renewed emphasis on operational readiness. RAEME units were deeply involved in this evolution—supporting the Operational Deployment Force, participating in major exercises such as the Kangaroo series, and adapting to increasingly complex and diverse equipment fleets.

This era placed growing demands on RAEME personnel, requiring high levels of technical expertise, adaptability and innovation. Across workshops and support elements, teams sustained equipment from multiple manufacturers, managed increasingly complex supply chains, and delivered maintenance outcomes in demanding environments.

In this context, the presentation of the Banner in 1986 was both timely and symbolic—recognising not only the Corps' history, but its evolving role in supporting modern Army capability.

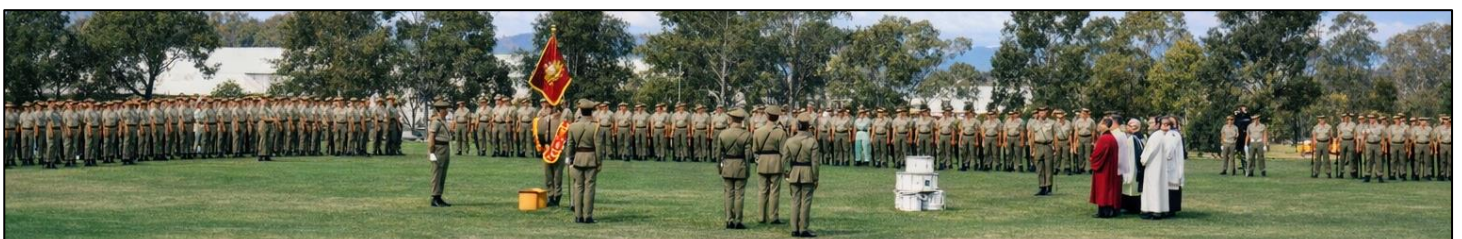


Protocol, discipline and respect

As with all Colours and Banners, strict protocols govern the handling and presence of the Prince Philip Banner. These practices reflect the respect afforded to what the Banner represents:

- It is never to be touched by ungloved hands
- When uncased and on the march, uniformed personnel are to stand fast and salute
- Civilians are to stand fast and remove headdress
- At Mess functions, the Banner is continuously guarded by the Banner Party
- Members of the Banner Party do not consume alcohol whilst on duty
- Smoking is not permitted in its presence

These traditions reinforce the discipline and professionalism that underpin the Corps and serve as a reminder of the significance of the Banner within RAEME culture



OUR HERITAGE

Symbolism and meaning

The Prince Philip Banner embodies the essential qualities that define RAEME:

- **Service** – Recognition of the Corps' contribution to the Australian Army since 1942
- **Skill** – The technical excellence required to sustain modern military capability
- **Unity** – A shared identity across generations of personnel across all trades, specialisations and ranks
- **Tradition** – A direct link to the broader heritage of military service

For a Corps that operates largely behind the front line—ensuring equipment is maintained, repaired and returned to service—the Banner provides a visible symbol of an otherwise unseen but essential contribution.

This was reflected in Prince Philip's words to the parade:



First of all, I would like to congratulate everybody on parade on your smartness and turnout.

I think it was Napoleon who said that an Army marches on its stomach. If he'd been alive today, I'm sure he would have added that it moves and fights with its

equipment. And as the variety and complication of Military equipment escalates so does the problem of its maintenance and repair.

We may live in a so-called throw-away society but that certainly doesn't apply to Military equipment. There's never enough of it in the first place and in a war situation the opposition is doing its best to damage or destroy it, and furthermore re-supply in times of crisis is never reliable. The maintenance and repair of military equipment calls for very special qualities of management and technical abilities in addition to military skills, particularly in the stress of battle. Action is urgent and it has to be imaginative and quick. If all other factors are equal, it is the side that can make the best use of its equipment that will gain the upper hand.

Ever since the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed in 1942, the officers and craftsmen of the Corps have provided this service both in peace and in war with gallantry and conspicuous success.

I'm proud of the fact that I was invited to become Colonel-in-Chief in 1959 and I value this special connection with the Corps very highly.

It therefore gives me particular pleasure to present this Banner here at the Corps School and Training Centre and I

am delighted that Veterans of World War II, of Korea, the Malaysian confrontation and Vietnam are present to witness the occasion, and I hope this Banner will come to be seen as a symbol of all that is best in the history and traditions of the Corps.

The Corps Director General, Brigadier Konrad Ermert then replied on behalf of the Corps saying:

Your Royal Highness,

All members of the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, both past and present, are honoured by your presence here today, as Colonel-in-Chief, and by your presentation to us of the Banner which bears your name. The Corps was formed in the depths of war in 1942 and in its 43 years has established a proud tradition of duty, loyalty and service.

The Prince Philip Banner will ever remind us of our responsibilities to God, our Queen, our Country, our Service and to the traditions of our predecessors.

On behalf of all members of the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, I accept the Prince Philip Banner. We receive it with pride, we will parade it with reverence and it will inspire us as we forge our path into the future.

This occasion marks a milestone in the Corps history and we thank you for the great honour you have bestowed on us today.



REP COL COMDT of the time, BRIG John Dean OBE, and DGEME-A (HOC) BRIG Konrad Ermert farewelling Prince Philip after the Banner Parade lunch in 1986

OUR HERITAGE

A reflection of RAEME in action

The significance of the Banner is best understood in the context of what RAEME does. Throughout our Corps history and beyond, RAEME personnel have demonstrated ingenuity, adaptability and resilience in supporting Army operations and training.

Whether sustaining operations, large-scale exercises, managing diverse equipment fleets, or developing innovative repair solutions in austere environments, RAEME personnel consistently delivered outcomes under pressure. These efforts often required improvisation, technical mastery and a commitment to mission success that extended well beyond routine maintenance.

The Prince Philip Banner stands as a ceremonial reflection of these qualities—capturing in symbolic form the professionalism and dedication that define the Corps.

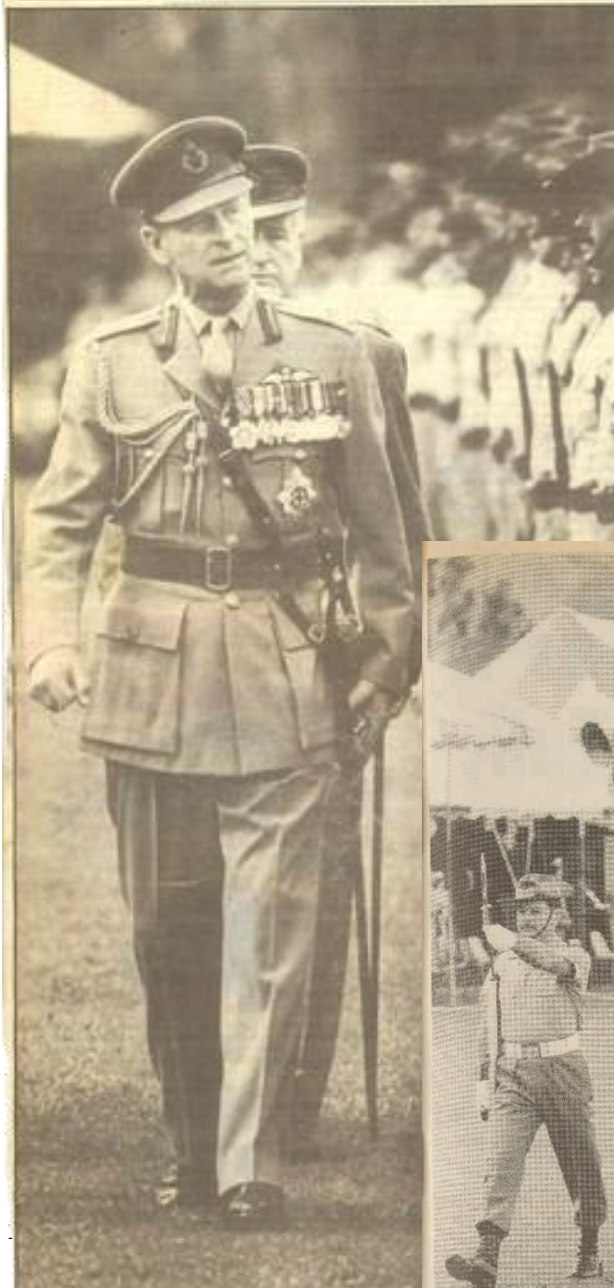
A living legacy

The Prince Philip Banner is not a static artefact confined to history. It remains an active and visible part of Corps life, carried on parade and present at significant ceremonial occasions.

For veterans, it represents a lifetime of service and shared experience. For serving members, it is a standard to uphold.

For the broader RAEME community, it is a unifying emblem of identity and pride.

As the Corps continues to evolve—adapting to new technologies, platforms and operational demands—the Banner remains a constant. It anchors RAEME in its history while reinforcing its enduring purpose: to sustain the fighting capability of the Australian Army.



GIVING ROYAL

LEFT: THE Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, cast an approving eye over the Corps of RAEME yesterday accompanied by parade commander Lt Col Ron Dyma.

The RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana gave a right royal welcome to the Prince who presented his banner to the Corps of RAEME in a ceremony steeped in military tradition.

The top brass from the Army, the Navy and the Air Force attended the ceremony which was of nation-wide significance.

The banner presentation acknowledged the significant contribution the corps have made to the Army.

Prince Philip agreed in principle in August 1982 that a banner be presented to the corps.

In November that year he agreed that the banner be named after him.

Reports, more pictures — Pages 14, 15.

POMP ON PARADE



Duke full of praise for corps

REPORT BY MARK McLELLAN
PHOTO BY DAVID THOMAS
PETER MERRISSEY

It was a most impressive sight to see the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, cast an approving eye over the Corps of RAEME yesterday accompanied by parade commander Lt Col Ron Dyma.

The RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana gave a right royal welcome to the Prince who presented his banner to the Corps of RAEME in a ceremony steeped in military tradition.

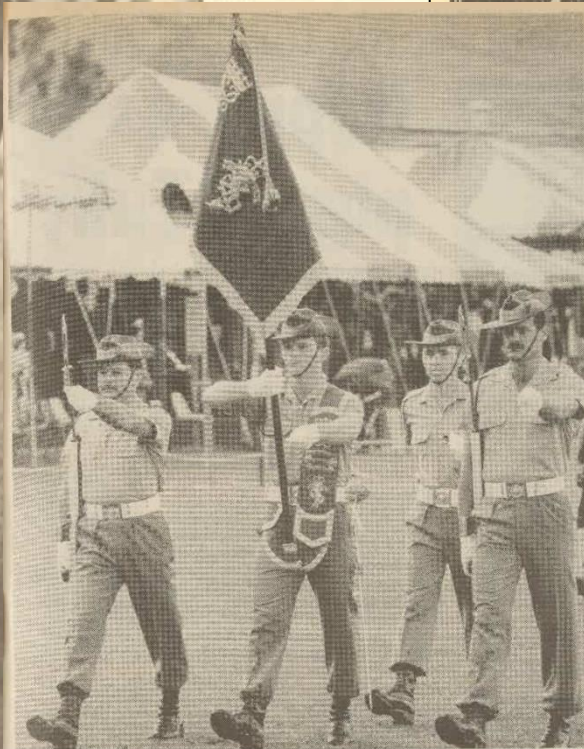
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Reports, more pictures — Pages 14, 15.



Royal Banner for RAEME

BANDIANA: More than 300 RAEME soldiers from Perth to Townsville gathered in Bandiana recently to take part in a milestone in the history of their corps.

The occasion was the presentation to the Corps of the Prince Philip Banner, given as Royal recognition of the Corps' service since its inception in 1842.

About 4000 people, including the CDF, the CGS, and the DGEMEs of Great Britain and New Zealand, watched as the Corps' Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Philip, presented the brilliant red and gold banner.

The DGEME, Brig Conrad Ermet, described the parade as a momentous occasion and a milestone in the history of the Corps.

He said the parade was significant not only because Prince Philip personally presented the banner but for the historical fact that, for the first time, the Corps paraded in its own right.

"The success of the parade reflected the tremendous effort of the entire corps plus many others including the RAAF, Army Office, the Comd 3MD and the Area Commander," Brig Ermet said.

Brig Ermet singled out the parade project officer, Maj Maureen Dibbs, for special thanks.

"The smooth running of the Banner Parade is due in no small part to her enormous efforts," he said.

Future RAEME soldiers will be able to share this part of their Corps' history as the entire parade was recorded on video by the audio-visual unit from the nearby Army Apprentices School in Bonegilla.

The multi-camera production will also be available to other corps planning parades of similar size and will, no doubt, be watched many times in the Officer's Mess at the RAEME Training Centre where the Prince Philip Banner now takes pride of place.

★ LEFT: Prince Philip's Banner is paraded for the first time at RAEME Trg Centre, Bandiana, following its presentation to mark Royal recognition of the Corps' service. More than 4000 guests saw the Banner presented by HRH Prince Philip.



OUR HERITAGE

An Interview with former Brigadier Konrad Ermert retd

The following is from an interview with the former Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)—as RAEME Head of Corps was referred to in 1986—being the officer who received the banner from Prince Philip, the retired Brigadier Konrad Ermert, Msc, FIEAust, Grad Dip Legal Studies.

1. When you think back to the 1986 presentation of the Prince Philip Banner, what stands out most vividly for you from that day?

It was the RAEME flavour of the parade. Much of the ceremony was governed by protocols and tradition. Indeed, for the planners and the participants, the level of detail was almost overwhelming. Notwithstanding, the RAEME flavour was clearly in evidence.

The troops on the parade performed a detailed routine, on a damp playing field surface, at a remarkably high standard. The Troops Holding Ground included Armoured Recovery Vehicles, a powerful symbol of RAEME's place on the battlefield; the flyover of our aviators trailed the Corps colours; and the RAEME colours on marker flags were everywhere.

The guest list was extensive, including the Chief of the General Staff, and Civic leaders from Albury / Wodonga. Also in attendance were the Head of Corps REME UK, Major General John Boyne, and the Director of RNZEME Lieutenant Colonel David Abbot. It was the first time the three Heads of Corps had met together.

The day was an outstanding spectacle, with a clear and symbolic RAEME character, planned and executed at a standard that made me immensely proud to be a member of the Corps.

Having said all that, on the morning of the parade, the issue I was most concerned about was the weather. It had rained overnight and the ground over which Prince Philip's and other dignitaries' cars were to drive was worryingly soggy. If any one of the cars, and particularly the Royal Rolls Royce, had lost traction, it would have bogged. I was imagining inviting Prince Philip to walk through the mud to the dais. However, the weather held, and the cars made it to the dais and away.

2. How did receiving the Banner shape your view of the Corps at the time, and how do you see its meaning today, 40 years on?

I had long held the view that the personnel of the Corps of RAEME were a match for any others in the Army. However, there was always the pervading view that RAEME were the "boys in the backroom"; and not in the same league as the arms corps: RAAC, RAA, RAR, etc. Even the Corps March includes the score of "The Boys in the Backroom".

By May 1986, helped immensely by Lieutenant Colonel Ron Dyne and his personnel team, RAEME was starting to break out. We were successful in nominating officers and senior warrant officers for some prestigious and coveted appointments. At the same time RAEME was in the process of taking over the maintenance of the Army's Rotary Wing fleet. It was creating highly desirable career opportunities. The Personnel team had a well-earned reputation for looking after people's personal needs as well as their career needs.

By then, RAEME was the second largest corps in the Army, and had the Army's best retention rate.

The Presentation of the banner, personally by Prince Philip, was the hugely public exhibition that the Corps of RAEME was marching out of the "backroom", in numbers and in step.

3. From your perspective as the officer who accepted the Banner in 1986, what does the Banner represent about the character and spirit of RAEME?

To me, the presentation of the Banner was a fitting display that RAEME was now in the A league. And it had arrived there by the skill, and character of its people. Our personnel were equal to, and better than many of, those traditionally chosen from other corps. I delighted in every opportunity to point out our successes, to the extent that I was tapped on the shoulder by a predecessor and advised to "tone it down a bit". The Banner and its presentation told me otherwise!

4. What message would you share with today's RAEME soldiers about the legacy carried by the Banner?

The Banner was a very public demonstration of the standing of the Corps. It reached that standard through the efforts of the Corps' engineers, technicians and support personnel, and their pride in belonging to the Corps. This did not just happen by chance. It came about through the efforts of everyone, doing what they do best, keeping the punch in the Army's fist, working as a team. It's all about people, their pride in their work, pride in their unit and pride in the Corps. And, when the opportunities present themselves, rejoice and showcase your capabilities and successes.

There is another, little known legacy of the Banner. Whenever you have the chance, have a close look at the banner and the magnificent embroidery of the cyphers. They were all done by hand, by a lady who, at the time, was suffering from a terminal cancer, but was determined to finish her creation. Unfortunately, the lady was not well enough to see the Banner presented. For me, her spirit shines through whenever the Banner is on display.

5. If you had to sum up the significance of the Banner in one sentence, what would you say?

The Banner Presentation was the occasion when the Corps of RAEME emerged from the Backroom.





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ARMY LOGISTIC TRAINING CENTRE

WELCOME DAY

30 MAY 2026 10AM – 2PM

GAZA RIDGE NORTH BARRACKS
IVO GYM, BANDIANA

FOOD STALLS FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES COLOUR RUN
TREASURE HUNT JUMPING CASTLE CLIMBING WALL
COFFEE VAN INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY STALLS & MORE



OUR CORPS TODAY

The following report was extracted from an email provided by the Corps RSM on 06 May 2026. Additional information for serving Corps members may be found on the RSM's page on the Defence Protected Network (Objective number: [fBQ17265966](#)).

[RAEME Corps Intranet page](#)

WO1 Grant O'Leary has continued to impress, he has completed the first phase of our updates to the Intranet and Collaboration pages. The Corps Page can be [found here](#) (Accessible via the Defence network only).

[RAEME Corps Warrant Officer](#)

For only the second time in the Corps' history, we will require a Warrant Officer to assume the role of Corps Warrant Officer for a period of two years. This appointment is required while we await the outcome of future CMBs and confirmation of our Corps' longer-term senior leadership structure.

The intent of this role is to appoint an individual with the drive, credibility, and passion to continue advancing the Corps beyond its current standing, while also providing the next Corps RSM with a stable and viable platform on which to build. This is critical to ensuring the Corps remains one of the highest performing in terms of morale, esprit de corps, and overall functionality.

Interested members are encouraged to email me directly (SEPCOR), after which further details regarding the role and its responsibilities will be provided.

[Expression of Interest – Deputy Head of Corps – Aviation](#)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, RAEME-Aviation will not have a CO in a command position, which the Corps Instruction highlights as the DHOC-A. In order to maintain contemporary and provide, we are looking for a LTCOL or senior Major to place an EOI for the role.

Interested members are encouraged to email HOC (LTCOL Christopher Porada & LTCOL Hans Hamilton) directly (SEPCOR), after which further details regarding the role and its responsibilities will be provided.

[Expression of Interest – RAEME Corps SO2](#)

We as a Corps have held a vacancy for the Corps SO2 position for a long time now. This has placed strain on an already busy system. We are looking for any SERCAT 5 members who would like to assist the Corps to provide an EOI for the role. If any prospective members wish further details, please email myself or Mr Steven Howells.

[Deputy Head of Corps – Land](#)

A massive congratulations to LTCOL Adon Cadona on his appointment as CO ASEME and the Extra Regimental Appointment as DHOC-L. Sir, this is very much deserved. You will be a fantastic fit and I know you have the drive and commitment to take not only ASEME but assist in the Corps moving forward towards a new era.

[Farewells](#)

WO1 Dean Lankshear, 36 years of service; 20 years SERCAT 7, 16 SERCAT 3/5. Dean was my mentor when I was a young CFN posted to RMC, his guidance and mentorship has lived with me ever since. Enjoy life on the other side Dean.

[Master Artificers](#)

A great response to date from WO1's with EOI's to take on the mantel as Master Artificer. Two positions remain open, if any prospective applicants are considering the role but unsure of the role and responsibilities, please reach out to the incumbents for details.

- ECN 412 – WO1 Scott Breen
- ECN 418 – WO1 Jamie Redman

[RMC Graduation](#)

On Friday 01 May 2026, the Chief of Army formally announced the recipients of the Kings Medal and Sword of Honour. The winner of the Kings Medal is a former Craftsman, LT Isaac Rosenberg.

Lt Rosenberg enlisted as a Technician Avionics, completing his training 2023, before posting to 5 Avn Regt. He will post to 1 Avn Regt later this year.

On behalf of the Corps, congratulations Sir (if you get to see this).

[RAEME Corps Banner 40th Anniversary Parade](#)

The celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Prince Philip Banner is well on track. ASEME and some external participants have begun their rehearsals, with the rest of us to be on the parade to wrap up final preparations from 18 May 26.

The Corps in conjunction with ASEME will have merchandise for sale on the day, whether it is previously purchased items or new and exciting stock, be sure to check it out if you are attending.

For those wishing to attend, if you are a Defence Common Access Card (DCAC) holder, you will have access to North Bandiana as per your card restrictions. For anyone attending without a DCAC, please see the [RAEME Newsletter](#) (Edition 03) for a link to the EOI for attendance.

The subsequent dinner for ASEME staff and guests is by invite only, anyone wishing to attend an informal dinner, this will be held at 'The Stump, Bandiana'.

An Admin Inst can be found at

<https://objcdc9/id:BQ90603991/document/versions/published>

Editor's note: *Online parade registration for non-DCAC holders and for the subsequent informal dinner (open to all) is at:*
<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/component/rseventspro/event/54-prince-philip-banner-40th-anniversary-parade?Itemid=101>

OUR CORPS TODAY

Corps Painting

I have been working weekly (and at times daily) with the artist to get the final draft ready for commissioning. The finer details are now being fleshed out, with the painting due to be completed prior to the Corps Conference – Heavy.

Corps Port 2026

WO1 Marcellin Chee has put together a bloody fantastic RAEME Corps Port and Whisky for 2026. It has focused on 125 years of Army, 84 years of the Corps and the 40th anniversary of the Prince Philip Banner.

Corps Port 2027

Before I announce the successful Unit for the Corps Port 2027 distribution, I must wholeheartedly apologise to JEWOSU. I promised them the Corps Port for this year (dated July 2025). Since that time, I have subsequently made a promise to AHQ also. This is unacceptable and has created unwanted angst for the Unit.

Although the above is concerning, there is light at the end of the tunnel, I can announce via this forum that JEWOSU will be undertaking the Corps Port for 2027. They have locked in a distributor and are in the final planning stages for labels etc. Expect to see their display early 2027.

Corps Port 2028

In order to position the Corps to take full advantage of emerging capabilities and upcoming changes, I am pleased to announce that Army Littoral Manoeuvre will assume a central role from 2028. This transition aligns with several key developments, including the introduction of new watercraft into service, the further maturation of ECN 222, the establishment of ALMSPO and the ongoing development of 17 BDE LMG.

Course Information

For information about impending courses, serving members should check the detail provided on the RSM's page linked above.

1 Armd Regt Update

LT Sebastien Beoutis has provided an update for the Corps on recent activities within the Regiment. It's an exciting time to be RAEME at the 1st Armoured Regiment.

We have recently returned from our first exercise of the year, which saw the debut fielding of our Advanced Manufacturing Shelter (AMS). The setup was extremely nascent, having only received the container a handful of days prior to stepping out the door. Despite this, the team were able to hit some significant milestones.

Attached is a storyboard showcasing [on the RSM's webpage], what I believe to be, the first tactical reverse engineering activity undertaken by conventional Army maintainers; demonstrating sustainment of in-service equipment via a 3D printed repair part in the field. Also included are the relevant LMM SOP documents for the targeted exercise engineering activity.



I have also attached a video showing the Regiment's first FPV-W live strikes, featuring the same IXG shape charge mount (as depicted in the storyboard) which were also manufactured in the AMS.

It's a quick turn-around for EX BP3 starting on 18 May, but I am aiming to field further manufacturing technologies including a 4-axis mill and CNC plasma cutter, and some significant refinements to the container fit-out.

Bandiana Makerspace Update – RAEME

Updated RAEME CORPS BADGE, 3D Print File available

Myself and the Bandiana Makerspace team have scanned, spliced and developed a 3D Printable File reflecting the update of Tudor Crown (in line with Army Brand Team's direction), and successfully produced one for use in the upcoming Corps Banner Parade.

I am hoping this saves time for other people, Units and ensures a recognizable standard across the ADF. There are also plans within ACW to develop silicon Master moulds for resin or fibreglass, both in this scale and the larger version.

POC's for File and other information –

- Makerspace- Bandiana
 - Ryan Hunter – Rohunter@qinetiq.com.au
 - Leighton – Laweymouth@qinetiq.com.au
- ACW Bandiana
 - WO2 DJ Huston – douglas.huston@defence.gov.au

Arte et Marte

WO1 Jon Tynan

RAEME Corps RSM

Jon.Tynan@defence.gov.au

OUR CORPS TODAY

Operation Spanner Pack – Supporting our own in 2026

For 2026, the RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting **Operation Spanner Pack**, continuing a proud tradition of looking after our deployed members and maintaining a strong connection with those serving away from home.

Members and supporters who wish to further assist the program are encouraged to make [voluntary donations via the website](#). A sincere thank you to one of our long-standing and generous donors Cedric Payne, who generously donated \$100 to Operation Spanner Pack on Anzac Day. Every contribution plays a direct role in ensuring Spanner Packs reach serving RAEME personnel, reinforcing the enduring support of the RAEME family wherever they are deployed.

[Feedback, photos and stories welcome](#)

We are always keen to receive feedback on Operation Spanner Pack and greatly value any photos, letters or messages from members upon receiving their packs. These contributions allow us to showcase the outstanding work being carried out by our soldiers and help us continually improve the contents and delivery of future packs. Importantly, they also highlight the tangible impact this program has on morale across the RAEME community.

[Deployed? Let us know](#)

If you are currently deployed on operations, posted overseas, undertaking long-term training, or are aware of a fellow RAEME member in such circumstances, please ensure the Spanner Pack



Above: Example of Spanner Pack contents

Coordinator is informed. We will do our best to organise delivery of a Spanner Pack, ensuring our deployed members receive a reminder that the RAEME family stands firmly behind them.

Operation Spanner Pack remains a proud example of what the RAEME community does best — looking after its own, wherever they serve.

MAJ Tom Cross retd

Spanner Pack Coordinator

Contact: Spannerpack@qld.raeme.org.au

Competition – Design a Perpetual Trophy for the “RAEME Corporal of the Year”

The Corps has perpetual trophies for the following Corps awards:

- **PI Comd / RAEME LT of the Year** – LT Peter Jennings award – Standing Soldier depicting an Engineer
- **Artificer of the Year** – The Corps Patron Saint – St Eligius
- **RAEME SGT of the Year** – The BRIG Martins Award – Anvil with Spanner, Hammer and Lightning Bolt
- **RAEME CFN of the Year (ARA & ARES)** – ARA – The Corps Memorial; ARES – The Corps Badge

There is however a gap in that there is no current trophy for the “RAEME Corporal of the Year” award. To address this, Head of Corps Cell has announced a competition to design one.

Competition details:

- **Who:** All members of the Corps (past & present).
- **Challenge:** Design a perpetual trophy upon which worthy recipients of this RAEME CPL-of-the-Year award may have their names inscribed.
- **End Date:** Sunday 07 June 2026.
- **Submissions:** Submissions can be submitted in any visual form to the Treasurer of the Corps Funds, Mr Steve Howells, via email at: Steve.Howells2@defence.gov.au.
- **Judging:** All submissions will be judged by the Corps Executive Committee. The winner will be announced in July 2026.
- **Prize:** The winner will receive a miniature of their design, as well as a framed Corps print. The runner up will receive a copy of the Corps History book.



RAEME NATIONWIDE

RMC Lanyard Presentation

On 23 April, members in the ACT gathered at the RMC Golf Club to present RAEME lanyards to junior officers who are completing training and graduating into our Corps. This included:



LT Skye Patrick – 7 CSSB



LT Jemma Gilbert – 7 CSSB



LT William Kennedy – ASEME

Each new officer was presented with their Corps Lanyard by Head of Corps, BRIG Gabby Follett along with a Corps information pack. This pack included Corps Guidance, The RAEME Craftsman magazine, an

edition of *Straight from the Horse's Mouth*. She also shared with them the importance of applying the skills they have learnt to an everchanging Army whilst caring for those they lead.

The ACT Association Secretary, Ian Cook, shared with the new LTs the importance of engaging with their Associations in their new posted locations, not just for the camaraderie but also the sharing of knowledge that comes through broad engagement. He reminded them that although they may face challenges throughout their careers, they should also have fun and make the most out of every opportunity presented to them.

ASM-Land, WO1 Marc Craigie, rounded out the advice to the junior officers with advice regarding the importance of engaging with senior tradesmen early as building strong teams, strengthens the support our Corps provides Army.

Having spoken to all three officers both individually and collectively, our Corps has a bright future. All are approaching their duties with a combination of enthusiasm and curiosity. They know they have a lot to learn and all look forward to become part of the Corps family.

Honour Investiture

As reported in the January edition of *Maintenance Matters*, one of the RAEME award recipients in the Australia Day Honours was LTCOL Shandelle Wellbourn who was awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal for meritorious achievement in the realisation of rapid capability development through the Army Minors Program. On 15 April, the Governor-General Invested LTCOL Wellbourn with her award.



Tasmanian Association News



The RATs recently released their latest [newsletter](#). Like many other Associations, compared to earlier editions, this was a little trimmed down since the introduction of *Maintenance Matters*. It does however have some great local content that members may be interested in. This includes details from an "FRT Weekend" the Association ran last year at a local campground.



RAEME NATIONWIDE

A milestone moment

Growing up fixing engines and boats with his dad, Craftsman Jack Patman never imagined it would lead him here – graduating in Army's first Marine Technician intake AND earning **Student of Merit!**

Now, he'll help maintain Army's new landing craft fleet, demonstrating the agility of Army's Land Domain Training System in blending trade (in every domain) and the soldier profession.

Congrats, Jack, and well done to all!



NT Association Raffle

Needing to raise funds to enhance the support provided to members in the Top End, the NT Association embarked on fundraising through a raffle. Actually, this was more than a normal raffle; it was huge! Prizes included:

- 1 x \$440 gift voucher for motorbike training with [Bike You](#)
- 2 x 1-hour scenic flights with [Kakadu Air](#)
- 2 x sunset dinner cruises with [Cape Adieu](#)
- 1 x family pass to [Crococaurus Cove](#)

The winners were:

- 1st – Thomas Clarke, 1 CSSB
- 2nd – Denim Bucknell, 17 SQN, RAAF Tindal
- 3rd – McCoy Harper-Zerna, 1 CSSB
- 4th – Nick Ling, Joint Health Unit

Congratulations to all winners and to the NT Association for running such a great fundraiser!



Timor Leste Solidarity Medal Eligibility Extended

The Government has accepted a generous offer from the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, His Excellency José Ramos-Horta, to expand the eligibility criteria of the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal. The medal recognises a broader cohort of Australians who served on mandated missions in Timor-Leste since 1999.

Eligibility

ADF personnel and veterans and AFP officers and veterans who served at least 30 days on mandated missions in Timor-Leste since 1999 will be eligible.

This includes those withdrawn due to injury or medical necessity and uniformed members of the Defence Cooperation Program and the Timor-Leste Police Development Program.

[Click here](#) for more details.



Mixed lunch in Canberra

The ACT Association held their bi-monthly mixed lunch on Fri 01 May 2026.

As usual, the Ainslie Football Club provided a great venue for the lunch with all meal selections spot on.

After the usual banter with members, both new and old (senior), discussion turned to those that weren't able to join us due to ongoing health challenges.

Anzac Day 2026, Tasmania

Well, the weather gods delivered a perfect winter's day over our state this year. Anzac Day was commemorated in true RAT style with events and activities held in Hobart, Launceston and St Helens.

In Hobart members attending numerous Dawn Services assembled at Customs Hotel for customary pre-drinks before attending the 1100h service under what could be best described as very warm conditions, most unusual for this time of year in Tasmania. One highlight, two members were interviewed by 7 News during the course of the march which was featured on 7 News Saturday night.

Following the service members and friends assembled at the Hobart Worker (RSL) club for lunch and a chance to reconnect with old mates not only our brethren friends but other Corps members where stories and memories of times gone by continued.

To finish off the day, some members continued on to the Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess to participate in two up games and continue reconnecting with old mates.

All in all, another fantastic afternoon enjoyed by everyone.

The following selection of photos showing members and friends, young and old, supporting and enjoying time with mates, family and family friends at our regional marches, after-march events and get-togethers, including the ever popular two up games. More photos can be seen on our website via the following link.

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

RAEME NATIONWIDE

WA Association FRT – Nungarin Antics



Another gathering at Nungarin Heritage, Machinery & Army Museum was held of the 1st to the 3rd of May to progress repair activities on our historic military equipment. And of course, the obligatory social aspect of the event! This trip was attended by Graham Coles and his mate Denis, Wes Lynch and his son, Alex Smithers, Dick Fenton, and a new entry, Gane Doyle.

This trip has us continuing works on the Stag Hound Scout Car, the Ferret Scout Car, and an old Studebaker truck.

Coles, Denis, and Gane worked hard on preparing the engine block for the newly machined flat head on the Studebaker which was removed last trip. The lads diligently cleaned the surface and did bolt hole checks. As anticipated, it was found that the bolt holes held debris which would prevent the head bolts from tensioning down correctly. After running a tap down the bolt holes, they were able to fully clear the threads. The head has been reinstalled and torqued down. Due to a flat battery, it will be the next trip when they sort out the timing and start her up!

Wes and his son continued their work on the Ferret. Last trip they removed the brake master cylinder which was sent off for overhaul and had determined that the drive shaft had been removed. This weekend's intent was to reinstate the master cylinder and investigate the reason for the shaft removal. Dick joined in on the fun and confirmed the front right bevel box had failed. This box transfers drive 90° from the input shaft out to the wheel. Fortunately, there is a wrecked Ferret in yard, which the lads confirmed had a serviceable shaft and gearbox. The lads worked diligently to disassemble the unit. The required parts have been removed, cleaned and inspected, ready to be installed on the next trip.

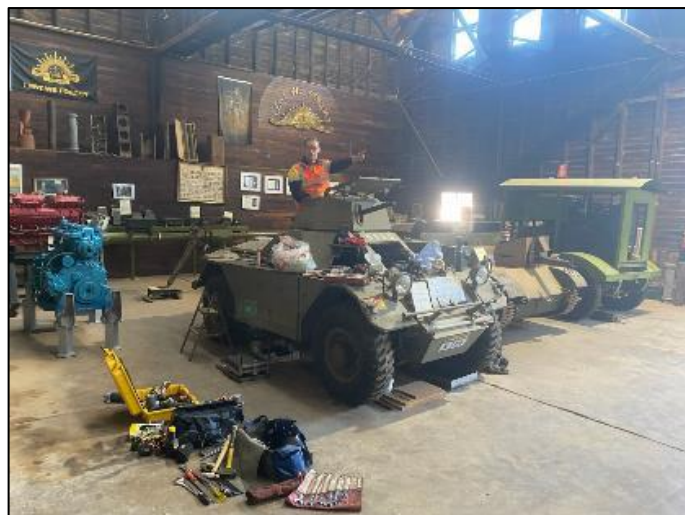
Work continues on the reassembly of the Stag Hound. We were close on our last trip, but due to a failed Fluid Coupling seal, the left engine had to be removed again. We were able to obtain a replacement seal and work recommenced with reassembly of the engine and transmission. By mid-morning Saturday we were in the position to start the engine install for a second time! Installing an engine in a Stag is a team sport! The angle of entry and the extremely confined space, installation is challenging to be polite (Yes... Engineers do hate Mechanics!). We finally got the engine back in the hole 1 pm Saturday.

Work continued bolting the engine down and reconnecting the equipment and electrical connections. Late Sunday we were finally able to restart the engine. After a prolonged holding of breath, we can confirm that we have sealed the leak! The engine was run up and the transmission operated. Unfortunately, when going to try to connect the drive shaft from the transmission to the cross connect gearbox, it was identified that the prop shaft provided was incorrect. The search is now on for the replacement.



Overall, it was a very successful weekend. We are currently looking to head up in July (maybe earlier for some) to continue the repairs. All are welcome to attend, even if it is only to pass spanners and moral support! They're a great crew at the museum and they would love to have more of us visit. It is an extremely rare museum where you can go and actually put your hand on, sit in, and in some cases, drive or be driven in some of our military history!

Editor's note: This story (with extra photos) may be found in the recently released WA Newsletter which can be found on the Association website by [clicking here](#).



RAEME NATIONWIDE

Anzac Vigil, WA

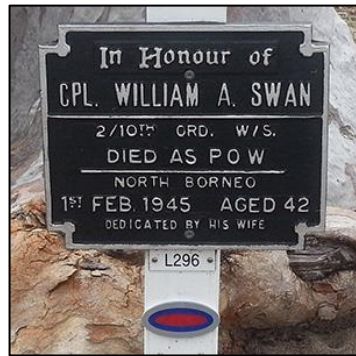
The RAEME Vigil was held at the Sandakan memorial in Kings Park, Perth, on Anzac Eve.

The Vigil is a uniquely RAEME WA celebration of those five foundation members of the Corps who perished on Sandukan:

- WX11665 CPL Bill SWAN – 2/10 Ordnance Workshop
- WX10920 CFN Neville BAILEY – 88 Light Aid Detachment
- WX8504 CFN Finlay ELDER – 86 Light Aid Detachment
- NX65363 CFN Denzil JONES – 73 Light Aid Detachment
- WX8566 CFN Charles McKENNA – 86 Light Aid Detachment
- WX9135 CFN Leslie PRIOR – 2/10 Ordnance Workshop

The ceremony is quite simple and poignant. After being piped into position, the Association start with the Corps prayer, then each man's details are read out, a sprig of rosemary and a tot of rum placed on each plaque and we finish with the Ode and the Last Post.

The ceremony closed with the CSM of 113 being ordered by the OC to record these names on the unit roll for Anzac Day and mark them as "present".



This year, about 30 of the WA Association moved under the direction of their Piper – OC 113

Rob Reeves and Padre - John Crosby where they celebrated the deceased CPL Bill Swan.

Bill's daughter was overjoyed to know the WA Association still remember and celebrate her father.

Anzac Day 2026, Perth

The March was very well attended with over 30 marching in Perth. With numbers appearing to grow every year, it is a testament that Spanners all come through when the occasion demands.

Once again, the IBIS came through with over 60 people dropping in and out during the afternoon.

It seems the IBIS is now the place to be for all RAEME. Great to see the Association's former-Padre (and before that Greaser) Kim Kuchell roll up to be with his spanner brethren.

Honours to a RAEME Officer

Congratulations to LT Katherine Tattersall on receiving and award in recognition of her commitment, resilience and leadership.

Katherine, a Brisbane-based mother, chemical engineer and newly appointed officer, was the recipient of the Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Award which was awarded to her as the Student of Merit for her Part-time Officer Commissioning Course.

Well done, Katherine and welcome to the Corps!



RAEME Craftsman Port 2026

We are pleased to announce the official launch of this year's RAEME Craftsman Port (Tawny).

In recognition of significant milestones within the Army and the Corps, Army Headquarters (AHQ) is proud to sponsor this year's release. In collaboration with Chief's Son Distillery, the 2026 Craftsman Series includes both a Port (Tawny) and a Single Malt Whisky, produced by a proudly Australian, veteran-owned business.

The RAEME 2026 Craftsman Release honours significant milestones in the proud history of both the Australian Army and the Corps. The year marks the 125th anniversary of the Australian Army, the 84th anniversary of the Corps, and the 40th anniversary of the Prince Philip Banner. This commemorative release recognises these important milestones and pays tribute to the dedication, service, and enduring legacy of RAEME soldiers—past and present.

Product Details

- 700ml Craftsman Port (Tawny) – \$60.00
- 700ml Single Malt Whisky – \$87.00
- Postage – \$19 (up to 6 bottles)



PLEASE NOTE – Max purchase of 6 bottles per order, in any combination. Delivery will occur in batches throughout 2026.

IMPENDING EVENTS

Planned RAEME gatherings across Australia for the next few months are summarised below. For further details on any events, either click on the link within the listing below or contact the relevant State or Territory Association as required.

To provide an update to this list, including any new events or events that have changed, please pass details to the Newsletter editors as follows:

- **Serving members:** Send details through your Senior Regional Representative who will be able to inform the Newsletter Editors to confirm details and on-base access requirements as applicable
- **Former-serving members:** Send details through your State or Territory Association Representative for on-forwarding to the Newsletter Editors.
- **Other members:** Please send details directly to Newsletter@raeme.org.au or upload them to the submission portal at: <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter/article-submission>

Note: Significant Events that require considerable advanced planning, including reunions, may be highlighted below.

May

Sat 16 th	Adelaide	SA Association Luncheon	"The Guardian", Adelaide Railway Station from 1400h. The Association POC is Ian Starick on 0419-035-457
Sun 17 th	Toowoomba	Darling Downs Luncheon	Toowoomba Golf Club from 1200h
Wed 20 th	Bandiana	Prince Philip Banner – 40th Anniversary Parade	North Bandiana from 0900h. Events include parade plus a display of current capability and historical equipment. RSVPs are essential. Click on the event link to provide your expression of interest to attend the parade.
Sat 23 rd	South Arm, Tas	RAT Luncheon	South Arm RSL South Arm from 1200h for 1230h
Tues 26 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

June

Wed 03 rd	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
	Adelaide	SA Committee of Management Meeting	Plympton/Glenelg RSL from 1700h
	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Fri 05 th	Canberra	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle	RMC Golf Club from 1600h
Sat 06 th	Brisbane	SE Qld Army Apprentices School Reunion 2026	Bulimba Bowls Club from 1100h
Fri 12 th	Melbourne	Monthly Spanner Club	Ladida, 557 Little Bourke Street from 1600-1900h
Sat 13 th	Townsville	RAEME NQ Gathering	1200h Location TBA
Tues 30 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

July

Wed 01 st	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Fri 03 rd	Canberra	Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club from 1230h
Sun 26 th	Ingleburn	NSW Christmas in July Luncheon	Ingleburn RSL Club
	Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast Gathering	Brightwater Hotel from 1200h
Tues 28 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

August

Wed 05 th	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Fri 07 th	Canberra	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle	RMC Golf Club from 1600h

IMPENDING EVENTS

August continued

Fri 15 th – Sun 17 th	Currumbin RSL, Gold Coast	101 Fd Wksp Reunion Weekend	14 August – Catch up from 1700h 15 August – Dinner from 1700h 16 August – Farewells from 1100h Cost \$70 per pers. Contact Michelle Lafferty on 0404-004-775 for more details.
Sun 16 th	Toowoomba	Darling Downs Luncheon	Toowoomba Golf Club from 1200h
	Ross, Tas	RATs Statewide Luncheon	Man of Ross hotel, Ross
Sat 22 nd	Gold Coast	RAEME Luncheon	Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC from 1200h
Sun 23 rd	SE-Qld	RAEME Reserve Reunion	Indooroopilly Sherwood RSL Club from 1100h
Tues 25 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

September

Tues 01 st	Adelaide	Harry the Horse Luncheon	West Adelaide Football Club from 1200h
Wed 02 nd	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
	Adelaide	SA Committee of Management Meeting	Plympton/Glenelg RSL from 1700h
	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Fri 04 th	Canberra	Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club from 1230h
04 th – 06 th	Nungarin WA	Nungarin Veterans Muster	WW2 armoured vehicles on display, bus tour to Merredin Military Museum & local WW2 sites. Camping and accommodation available. For more details, 08-9046-5040 or nungarinheritage@bigpond.com
Thurs 10 th	Ingleburn	NSW Committee Meeting & Casual Luncheon	Ingleburn RSL Club
Sat 12 th	Maroochydore	RAQ Sunshine Coast Luncheon	Maroochy RSL from 1230h
18 th – 20 th	Wodonga	Recovery Reunion 2026	Fri 18 th – Day trip to Yackandandah with a dinner that evening Sat 19 th – Visit to Recovery Platoon for show and tell, static display and witness some Recovery tasks in Dustbowl followed by social drinks that afternoon. Sun 20 th – Breakfast catch-up and goodbyes. POC is Ken Roberts
Tues 29 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

October

Fri 02 nd	Canberra	Spanner Club and Sausage Sizzle	RMC Golf Club from 1600h
Wed 07 th	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Tues 27 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

November

Wed 04 th	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Fri 06 th	Canberra	End-of-Year Dinner	Gyphonn's Bar and Caffe
Thurs 12 th	Ingleburn	NSW Committee Meeting and Casual Luncheon	Ingleburn RSL Club
Sun 15 th	Toowoomba	RAQ Darling Downs Luncheon	City Golf Club from 1200h
Sun 22 nd	Sunshine Coast	RAQ Gathering Sunshine Coast	Brightwater Hotel from 1200h

OUR UNITS

Part 4 of 8 – UH-60M Black Hawk Maintenance in the 16th Aviation Support Battalion

[Back to Oakey for UH-60M Black Hawk.](#)



The original workshop at Oakey is back in business.

On 26 June 2025, the familiar sound of rotor blades marked a significant milestone for Army aviation. Three UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters touched down at the Army Aviation Training Centre (AAVNTC) Oakey, signalling their return for ongoing maintenance and support by Maintenance Support Troop (MST), 5 Workshop Company, 16 ASB. These aircraft are maintained using a mixed workforce of Army, Lockheed Martin Australia, and RAAF Aircraft Life Support Equipment (ALSE) technicians.

This event is more than just a logistical movement – it also represented a continuation of a proud legacy. The current 5 WKSP COY traces its heritage back to the era when 5 BASE WKSP BN was responsible for maintaining many different aircraft types over 22 years, but including the S-70A-9 Black Hawk fleet at Oakey. That lineage underscores the enduring role of Oakey as a hub for Army aviation sustainment and technical excellence.

The arrival of UH-60M Black Hawk at Oakey exposes Army aviation technicians to modern systems and complex maintenance tasks, and provides support to RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) in the provision of up to date UH-60M aircraft for on-the-job training when required.

The maintenance workforce was tested shortly after arrival of aircraft with an unscheduled engine change. This event highlighted the technical proficiency and adaptability of the maintenance team, demonstrating their ability to respond safely and rapidly to unexpected challenges and keep critical assets operational. With engineering and logistic support from the Utility Helicopter System Program Office (UHSPO), the aircraft was back in the air in short order.



UH-60M engine being maintained off aircraft

The return of the UH-60M Black Hawk to Oakey also presents an opportunity to harness the benefits of the Army Reserve workforce in this region. As mentioned, reservists bring a diverse range of competencies from both military and civilian sectors, which is used to support aircraft maintenance, specialist tasks (such as structural repair and ALSE), logistics and management functions. By integrating reserve personnel, the unit enhances workforce resilience and reduces pressure on full-time personnel. Like other MST in 5 Wksp Coy, MST Oakey is actively seeking to further leverage the reserve capability going forward.

As these aircraft undergo scheduled maintenance and repairs, the partnership between AAVNTC, 16 ASB and industry partners becomes increasingly important. It also underscores the importance of integrated sustainment processes in delivering Army's aviation capability. The successful return and ongoing support of the UH-60M Black Hawk fleet ensures that Australian Army will remain ready for the challenges ahead.

CAPT Henry Jeffers
UH-60M MST COMD
16 ASB

Part 5 of 8 – Integration of RAAF Technicians in the 16th Aviation Support Battalion

[Introduction](#)

Today, a dedicated contingent of technicians can be found proudly wearing the RAAF uniform across every Army aviation unit. Previously, in this capability, both ALSE and ASR were originally RAEME trades, and many of our current technicians were previously RAEME personnel. As such, it remains important to honour RAEME values and culture, while also forging a distinct identity for RAAF technicians now embedded in these units. At the newly established 16 ASB, these technicians form the backbone of Maintenance Support Troop – Ancillaries (MST ANC), playing a critical role in supporting flying operations for 5 AVN REGT (CH-47F) and 1 AVN REGT (AH-64E), as well as

conducting base and deeper maintenance on both platforms. Currently, MST ANC comprises 35 RAAF personnel and 12 Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) contractors, broken down into the following sections:

[Aeronautical Life Support Equipment \(ALSE\)](#)

The three ALSE sections – C SQN, 161 SQN and ALSE WKSP each have the following distinct roles:

- C SQN ALSE supports CH-47F operations and is one of the largest life support sections in the ADF, supporting 100+ aircrew. They primarily service aircrew flying clothing and equipment for the CH-47F in barracks and when deployed.

Maintenance Matters – RAEME's Newsletter

OUR UNITS

- 161 SQN ALSE, the newest section, supports AH-64E operations servicing aircrew flying clothing and equipment for the AH-64E.
- The ALSE WKSP focuses on servicing off-aircraft equipment like life rafts, survival packs and life preservers. They also manufacture various life support equipment and items for Army aviation.

The ALSE sections take great pride in the fact that almost all Army aviation life support equipment is serviced and even manufactured in-house by unit technicians.



CPL Daniel Farrell delivering supplies to a village in the PNG Central Highlands during Ex Helicon Luk 2025

Aircraft Structural Repair (ASR)

The ASR section handles all sheet metal, composite and structural repair tasks for CH-47F and AH-64E aircraft. Their current focus is fleet-wide modifications for CH-47F as well as deeper maintenance and flight line repairs.

The ASR team conducts extensive work on CH-47F, especially during base maintenance when the aircraft is completely stripped and damage to primary structure is more easily accessible and repairable. The ASR section also conduct the ITS modification taking 6 weeks with the interior of the aircraft stripped and major work done. Australia is the first CH-47F operator to conduct this modification to operational airframes. The ASR section takes great pride in the knowledge they conduct this level of repair to ADF units.

Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI)

A specialised team of two to three RAAF members conduct critical inspections to aircraft and their components using advanced techniques including eddy current, ultrasound, liquid penetrant and magnetic particle testing.

The integration of RAAF technicians into 16 ASB has been a notable success. While this isn't the first time RAAF personnel have been posted to Army Aviation units, 2025 marks the inaugural year for their employment in 16 ASB, delivering support to both 1 AVN REGT and 5 AVN REGT.

This submission was voted as the best member submission for this edition. Details of the prize will be forwarded to the author.

Early challenges – such as communication gaps and cultural differences were anticipated and resolved as the year progressed.



ASR LAC Malvin Johnson and AC Angus Trass conducting repairs on a CH-47F tunnel cover.

Going into 2026 and beyond, the unit expects to integrate SERCAT 5 technicians (ARES) into the workforce across all trades. This will give AVNCOMD a deeper pool of skilled workers to draw from, and allow members who have transitioned, some flexibility in their careers, whilst retaining their skillsets and connection to the Army Aviation.



SGT Daniel Charles and AC Angus Trass cutting the cake on 2025 RAAF Birthday.

2025 Highlights for MST ANC at 16 ASB include the following:

- **Operational Support:** North Queensland floods, South East Queensland cyclone, Avalon International Air Show, Exercise Talisman Sabre, Exercise Helicon Luk.
- **Training & Modifications:** Apache helmet training, CH-47F fleet ITS modifications.
- **Capability Expansion:** Establishment of 161 SQN ALSE section.
- **Project Completion:** CH-47F fleet Fall Protection Modification.

LT J.Y. Zhang
16 ASB MST ANC COMD



Department of Veterans Affairs News

[VEA and DRCA compensation claims close 30 June](#)

20 April 2026

In just under 3 months the veterans' compensation system will be easier to navigate.

The current three Act system will be simplified so that all new compensation and rehabilitation claims lodged on or after **Wednesday 1 July 2026** will be determined under a single ongoing Act – an improved version of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

As part of the transition from 3 Acts to one, the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) will close to new compensation and rehabilitation claims on **Tuesday 30 June 2026**.

Veterans can be assured that under 'grandparenting' arrangements payments already being received before 1 July 2026 will continue uninterrupted and be indexed as normal.

There is an exception for [clients receiving DRCA incapacity payments](#), who will transition to the more generous MRCA incapacity payments from 1 July 2026.

The move to the improved MRCA as the single ongoing Act will also see eligibility for various entitlements that had operated differently across the 3 Acts standardised from 1 July.

As part of this transition [clients with open VEA and DRCA rehabilitation plans](#) will move to the MRCA from 1 July 2026, while students receiving support under the VEA will transfer to the MRCA education scheme.

While DVA cannot provide individualised claims advice, a range of resources are available on the DVA [website](#) to help the veteran community understand the changes from 1 July.

This includes:

- more than [20 fact sheets](#) and summaries for [particular groups](#), including [VEA veterans](#) and [their partners](#), [DRCA veterans](#), and the [children of veterans](#)
- [scenarios](#) that demonstrate how the improved MRCA may impact individual circumstances
- [frequently asked questions](#)

Help is also available to make a claim. You can:

- use MyService to lodge your claim
- request an online or in person meeting with a Claims Lodgement Assistant
- request a 1-1 appointment with a Veteran Support Officer
- visit a DVA office or VAN location in your state or territory
- find a free, trained and qualified advocate near you via the DVA Advocacy Register at <https://www.advocaterregister.org.au>.

The Making a Claim guide is available on DVA's web at www.dva.gov.au/claimguide.

You can also call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or email primary.claims@dva.gov.au.

[It's now even easier to claim medical expenses privately incurred online](#)

21 April 2026

Medical Expenses Privately Incurred (MEPI) service lets you claim back some out-of-pocket medical costs. You'll need a valid Veteran Card to be eligible for reimbursement.

To make it easier for veterans, and the families of veterans to lodge MEPI claims, a new online form is now available on the DVA website: [Medical Expenses Privately Incurred \(MEPI\)](#)

The new form helps you to submit a complete claim by guiding you through the key details we need, including your itemised receipt or invoice, which you'll be asked to upload when you lodge your form (quotes and estimates can't be accepted). Once the form is submitted, you'll receive an on-screen confirmation, and a copy of the lodged form via email.

The online form is a digital version of the MEPI form (D1181) and provides a straightforward option to submit your claim online, without needing to log in to a system. If you need assistance with the webform, you can call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

While we encourage veterans, and the families of veterans to lodge their claims online for faster processing, you can still submit your claim manually.

If you are seeking reimbursement for services, investigations or treatments linked to a compensation claim, please contact your Initial Liability claims specialist.

More information about services that are covered through MEPI is available on the DVA website: [Health Services Available to the Veteran Community](#)

With no login required, the new online form is the fastest way to lodge a MEPI claim, and have it quickly processed for finalisation. The MEPI form can be accessed on the DVA website: [Application for Reimbursement of Medical Expenses | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).

[VetAffairs – Vol 42 No.1 April 2026](#)

[Click here](#) to view the latest edition of DVA's Newsletter, *VetAffairs*.

This may be viewed as:

- Magazine flipbook
- a PDF
- an audio file (MP3), or
- Web text (HTML)

CONTENTS	
NEWS	2-4
HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY	5-11
OUR NEWS	12-13
TRANSPORT	14-15
FINANCE	16-18
FAMILY	19
PROBATION	20-21
RECREATION	22-23
DRINK & DRIVE	24
COMMUNICATIONS	25-29
ANTHONY AND MARGARET	30
WORKSHOPS	31-32

BREAKING NEWS



Defence Special Needs Support Group Ltd. (DSNSG) is a national not-for-profit organisation supporting Australian Defence Force (ADF) families who have a family member/s with special needs.

For more than 30 years, DSNSG has provided peer support, advocacy, information pathways and community connection for families navigating disability, medical, developmental and learning challenges within the unique pressures of Defence life.

A key part of this support is linking families who share similar experiences. These connections create a sense of community and provide practical insights which make navigating Defence life a little easier. DSNSG also advocates on behalf of families, working with Defence and government agencies to raise issues, influence policy and improve access to essential services.

DSNSG delivers a range of programs designed to strengthen family wellbeing and independence. Our *Computers 4 Kids* (C4K) program provides partially funded iPads to eligible families, helping children with special needs access technology which supports communication, learning and daily life. Our *DriveSafe* program assists young people with special needs as they work toward gaining confidence and essential skills for safe driving, offering guidance and support through what can often be a complex and overwhelming process. Both programs reflect DSNSG's commitment to empowering families in practical, meaningful ways.



For more information, please visit the DSNSG website at: [Defence Special Needs Support Group](#)

Connecting and Enabling the Defence Special Needs Community

Australian War Memorial – A New Anzac Documentary

SBS | [Documentary Series](#) – Series Premiere/ Friday, 10 April at 8.30pm (4 parts)

A New Anzac is a four-part documentary series which follows the latest redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Discover the AWM's unique purpose as a memorial, museum, and archive, and the impact this institution has on Australian society.



[Click here](#) to Stream on SBS On Demand



Join our Movember Team

This year we'll be forming an official RAEME team for Movember. We're inviting all RAEME members—past and present—to get behind the cause.

Why?

[Movember](#) is more than growing a moustache; it's about supporting men's health, starting conversations, and looking out for our mates.

Whether you can grow a magnificent mo, a questionable mo, or no mo at all, your participation and support will make a real difference.

How?

More details on how to join the team will be shared shortly. For now, start warming up those upper lips and get ready to help us raise funds, awareness, and a few laughs along the way.

When?

Expect details to follow in coming months.

Team Name?

We don't know. Fill in the blanks where the "M" may stand for Moustache or similar & submit your suggestion by [clicking here](#).

R _____ A _____ E _____ M _____ E _____



CLICK TO ENTER

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Planned Health and Wellbeing activities planned across Australia for the next few months are summarised below. For further details on any events, either click on the link within the listing below or contact the relevant provider. Regular providers for this listing include:

- [Open Arms](#)
- [Invictus Australia](#)
- Other services as relevant



Further local events may be found with a range of providers including the RSL LifeCare, Soldier On and more.

Open Arms provides several more in-person training. Visit their [website](#) to find some in your location.

May

Sat 16 th	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Southern Region Sports & Community Dragon Boat Regatta	Join Team Veteran as we enter a dragon boat in the Southern Region Regatta
Sun 17 th	Warners Bay, NSW	Invictus – Come and Try Para Ice Hockey	Friendly facilitators will help learn new skills, build confidence, and have fun
Mon 18 th	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the PCYC Shoalhaven 72 Park Road, Nowra
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the Toowoomba Australian Football Club
Tues 19 th	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Wed 20 th	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Battle of the Paddles Pickleball Comp	Friendly and social Pickleball competition between Veteran and Serving members
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Reformer Pilates	Get ready to transform your body and mind at the Northy Flow-Reformer Pilates – \$10
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Thurs 21 st	Online	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Wagga Wagga, NSW	Invictus – Yoga – Riverina	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
21 st -22 nd	Online	Open Arms – Stepping Out	Supporting members and families as they are transitioning, or who have transitioned.
Sun 24 th	Ivory's Rock, SE-Qld	Invictus – Spartan 2026!	Sprint is a 5k course packed with 20 obstacle — all at race pace.
Mon 25 th	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the PCYC Shoalhaven 72 Park Road, Nowra
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the Toowoomba Australian Football Club
Tues 26 th	Online	Open Arms – Sleeping Better	A program to help you manage disturbed sleep
	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
Weds 27 th	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Reformer Pilates	Get ready to transform your body and mind at the Northy Flow-Reformer Pilates – \$10

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

May

Weds 27 th	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Thurs 28 th	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Wagga Wagga, NSW	Invictus – Yoga – Riverina	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Sat 30 th	Freemantle, WA	Invictus – Come and Try Canoeing	Try canoeing in a relaxed, friendly setting. No experience needed—just enthusiasm!
	Castle Hill, NSW	Invictus – An Evening of Bowls	Chill out with some friendly bowls action and good vibes for a relaxed evening

June

Mon 01 st	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the PCYC Shoalhaven 72 Park Road, Nowra
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the Toowoomba Australian Football Club
Tues 02 nd	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Weds 03 rd	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Reformer Pilates	Get ready to transform your body and mind at the Northy Flow-Reformer Pilates – \$10
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Thurs 04 th	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Wagga Wagga, NSW	Invictus – Yoga – Riverina	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Mon 08 th	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the PCYC Shoalhaven 72 Park Road, Nowra
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the Toowoomba Australian Football Club
Tues 09 th	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Weds 10 th	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Reformer Pilates	Get ready to transform your body and mind at the Northy Flow-Reformer Pilates – \$10
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Thurs 11 th	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Wagga Wagga, NSW	Invictus – Yoga – Riverina	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Mon 15 th	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the PCYC Shoalhaven 72 Park Road, Nowra
	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the Toowoomba Australian Football Club
Tues 16 th	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Weds 17 th	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville

MEMBER GUIDANCE

Pay and Conditions Updates

On 9 April 2026, a new Determination introduced changes that expand how members and their families can use their Remote Location Leave Travel benefits. Here's a breakdown of the policies affected by the Determination and what's changed.

[More flexibility for Remote Location Leave Travel](#)

Remote Location Leave Travel (RLLT) helps members and their families take a break from living in a remote posting location by travelling elsewhere. It also provides benefits to allow close family members to visit at the remote location.

Members and their families now have more options for planning and booking travel using their RLLT benefits.

The updates allow members to:

- use their RLLT during stand-down periods
- transfer their child's RLLT benefit to a close family member so they can visit the member and their family at the remote location
- travel to any destination instead of a prescribed capital city
- book holiday packages through accredited travel service providers instead of Defence.

Read more about how the [RLLT policy updates give you more choice when using the benefits](#). Find the updated policy details in [Ch 9 Pt 4 Div 4 of PACMAN](#).

Do you know which [allowances](#) you may be eligible for?

Depending on your role, posting and service conditions, you may be eligible for a range of allowances. ADF members receive more than just a base salary and can also be eligible for a range of allowances that recognise the demands of military service.

Some allowances are well known. Others may be overlooked because you have to apply for them, they only apply for short periods or because the eligibility criteria has changed. Understanding which allowances are available can help ensure you're across the full range of benefits available to you.

[Allowances depend on your circumstances](#)

Most allowances are linked to what you do, where you serve, the conditions under which you work, where you live and your family circumstances. This means your eligibility can change throughout your career.

Members of the same rank, pay grade and increment may receive different total remuneration at different times. Allowances may start or stop when:

- your role changes
- you move to a new posting location
- your service conditions change
- you undertake temporary or operational duties.
- It's important to check your benefits whenever your circumstances change.

Find out which [allowances](#) may apply to your current circumstances and learn how to get them.

[Military Factor allowances](#)

Military Factor allowances compensate ADF members for the impacts associated with service in specific environments above and beyond what is covered by military salary.

You may be eligible for allowances when undertaking certain duties, including sea service, flying duties and field exercises. Eligibility varies by role and duration of duties, not by service, and you don't have to apply for them.

Learn more about these [Military Factor allowances](#), as well as the rates.

[Employment-based allowances or payments](#)

You may be eligible for allowances or payments based on the type of work you do or the employment category you're in. These allowances or payments recognise the impact of operational service, including disruption to your personal life and demanding work conditions. Some allowances are applied for a defined period of time, such as while you're deployed, while others may apply only while you're in a specific employment category or performing a specific task.

Find out more about [allowances based on your work](#), including how to apply for them.

[Location-based and hardship allowances](#)

Where you're posted can affect what allowances you may get. If you're posted to certain locations, you may be eligible for allowances that help offset:

- higher living costs
- limited local services
- challenging living conditions.

Eligibility depends on your posting location and personal circumstances, such as whether you have dependants. Discover how [posting location can affect allowances](#) and learn which allowances you may be eligible for.

Editor's note: Some remote posting locations may attract a Zone Tax Offset. Eligibility generally requires residency of at least 183 days per tax year. Check the [ATO site](#) for details.

[Temporary and short-term allowances](#)

Some allowances apply only while you're:

- performing [temporary duties](#) in a different location
- [travelling](#) for Defence
- undertaking specific tasks or exercises.

Because these entitlements may apply for short periods, they can be easy to miss out on. Speak with your Unit Admit Team or review the ADF pay and conditions website on a regular basis to make sure you're not missing out on any entitlements.

IN ONE PAGE HOW TO SAVE FUEL

Our nation is now facing a new challenge: we don't have enough fuel to keep everyone hooning around like they're auditioning for *Fast & Furious: Dapto Drift*. So, in the spirit of national cooperation, and not paying \$3.00 a litre, here is your unofficial Public Service Announcement on how to save fuel.

Stop driving like a muppet!

Before anyone gets their knickers in a twist, a "muppet" in this context is not a beloved puppet like those pictured. It's someone who drives in a way that makes everyone else on the road question their life choices. A muppet is the driver who floors it to the next red light; idles their V8 for 20 minutes because it sounds fully sick; or complains about pollution when they are stuck in traffic but yet, they leave their engine running. The list of muppet-types is endless.

Not driving like a muppet will save you fuel!



Here are the basics. Your car burns more fuel when you:

- **Drive unnecessarily** — doing laps around the city centre on the hunt for a "good spot" like you are David Attenborough in search for an extinct species uses fuel like a muppet.
- **Neglect servicing** — poor tuning does to your engine what a five-year-old playing a recorder does to your ears.
- **Idle unnecessarily** — leaving the engine running while you're inside the casino and the kids are in the car playing Fortnite is not good parenting, it is being a muppet.
- **Accelerate hard** — especially from a red light like you are trying to break the town's reaction time record.
- **Driving hard** — unless you really are the Stig, you probably don't need to compensate for any physical or personality deficiencies by showing everyone how fast you can drive.
- **Load the engine** — driving fast, going uphill, towing a caravan the size of an apartment, or running things like air-conditioning or doof-doof speakers that can be heard from the moon.

Here's how to fix your muppet-like driving behaviour

- **Get a little exercise.** Parking in the middle of the city is a guaranteed way to waste fuel and your sanity. Doing endless laps of the CBD hunting for a "good spot" burns more fuel than a Bunnings sausage sizzle BBQ. Park a few blocks away, take the short walk or ride a bike, and enjoy the bonus exercise — you will save enough money on fuel as well as when you finally cancel that gym membership you never use. Otherwise, the excessive driving makes you a muppet.
- **Tune for efficiency.** Keeping your car properly serviced is one of the easiest ways to stop burning fuel like a backyard incinerator. A well-tuned engine runs smoother, uses less fuel, and doesn't sound like it's auditioning for RBT. Good tyres matter too — bald, under-inflated rubber creates drag, and the kind of rolling resistance that turns your fuel tank into a donation box. Neglect your car and you're a muppet.
- **Adjust your speed like you have eyes.** Look ahead. If the light just turned red, take your foot off the accelerator and coast. If it's been red for a while, it'll probably turn green soon — adjust your speed so you roll through the intersection without stopping. If the light turns red as you arrive, you know you have a 1–2-minute wait so turn your engine off. Every time you ignore this, you are driving like a muppet.

- **Don't treat traffic lights like drag strips.** The light turns green. Do you: A) Attempt to break the sound barrier before the next intersection or B) Accelerate smoothly like a normal human? If you choose A, congratulations — you've saved yourself five seconds and burned enough fuel to power a small city. You are also a muppet. Accelerating gently gets you to the same speed with less fuel.
- **Slow down.** This will be tough for many to grasp, especially tradies in dual-cab utes who believe the speed limit is merely a polite suggestion. Speed limits are the maximum, not the minimum speed at which you can drive. The time difference between your daily commute at 60kph vs 50kph is about 2–4 minutes. Yes, 2–4 minutes. That's the difference between calm, fuel-efficient motoring and driving like a muppet.
- **Don't load the engine.** Ask anyone over 40 what air-conditioning was like when they were kids. They'll tell you: "It was called a window." Hot? Window down. Cold? Window up and put a jumper on. No one needed climate control accurate to within one degree. Unless you're sweating like a politician connected to a lie detector, leave the air-con off. If you need to control your car's climatic ecosystem like it is a science experiment, you are a muppet!

Saving fuel isn't complicated. It's not political. It's not ideological. It's not even expensive. **It's simply about not driving like a muppet.**

- **Only muppets** circle the city chasing mythical parking spots.
- **Only muppets** skip servicing and drive on bald tyres.
- **Only muppets** stomp brakes instead of coasting.
- **Only muppets** treat green lights like drag races.
- **Only muppets** think speed limits are optional.
- **Only muppets** run air-con like a science lab.

Do it for your wallet. Do it for the environment. Do it for the national fuel supply. But most importantly, do it so the rest of us don't have to watch you on Dash Cam Owners Australia.

If all else fails, follow the Government's advice and take your roof racks off, ya muppet!



Say 'Cheese'...

RAEME Photographic Competition

We know RAEME members are out there doing incredible work every day—now it's your turn to show it off. We're launching a brand-new RAEME Photography Competition, and we want to see the Corps through your lens.

Whether you're maintaining, recovering, fabricating, diagnosing, testing, or solving the impossible with a bit of RAEME ingenuity, capture the moment and send it in. Action, teamwork, problem-solving, craftsmanship—if it's real RAEME work, we want to see it.

The winner will be on the cover of the December Maintenance Matters.

✔ Photo Requirements

Portrait orientation preferred
The photo should have been taken recently

✔ How to Enter

Submit your photo using the link below:

<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter/article-submission>. Make sure you include "Photo Competition Entry" in the description box so we don't miss it.



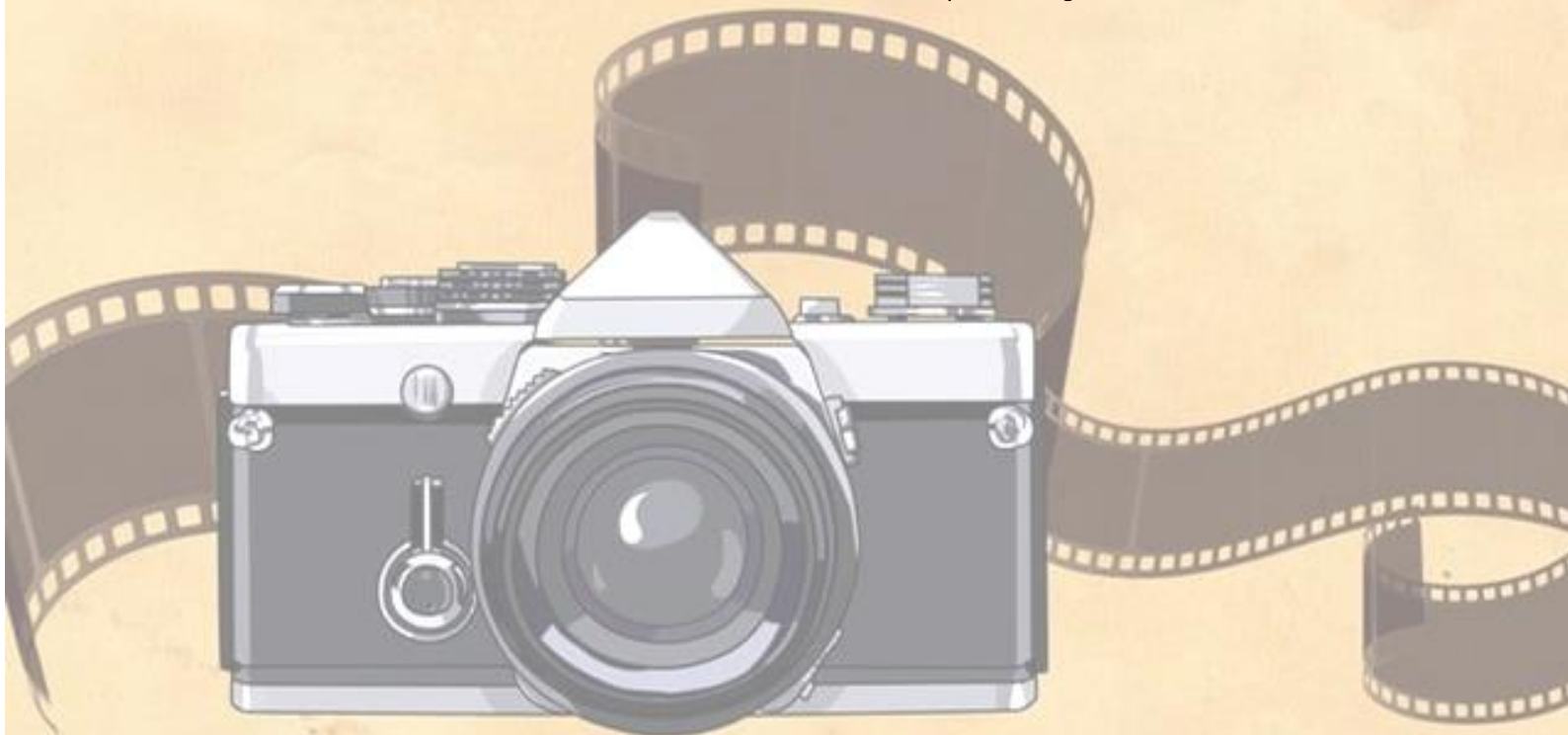
Entries close: 05 November 2026

Grab your camera (or your phone), get creative, and show the Corps what RAEME looks like in action. We can't wait to see the



moments you capture.

Let the competition begin



WELFARE MATTERS

Vale

Our Corps has lost the following members in recent times. Full details of each member may be found at the [RAEME Vale page](#).

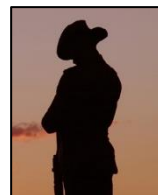
58748 LTCOL Johannes Wilhelmus 'John' PRONK retd

LTCOL Pronk passed on 22 April 2026 in Perth, Western Australia, aged 83. Born in the Netherlands, John later migrated to Australia where he would go on to serve his adopted nation with distinction. He enlisted as a 15th Intake Apprentice Radio Mechanic in 1960, graduating in 1962 as a Radio Mechanic, still part of the 15th intake. He went on to Commission as an Officer in June 1966 Class. His service included operational deployment to South Vietnam, where he served with the 1st Australian Task Force Headquarters Light Aid Detachment from 22 October 1970 to 7 October 1971.



64310 CAPT Colin 'Col' Havelock FOGARTY retd

Col passed away on 17 December 2025, aged 86. A 10th Intake Army Apprentice Electrician enlisting in 1955. He went on to serve in the Malayan Emergency and with Tasmania Command Workshop (attached 106 Field Workshop) in support of Vietnam operations in 1971. He served with the Tasmanian Police rising to the rank of Superintendent. A service was held Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at the Graham Family Funeral Home, New Town. Private cremation.



Sick Parade

We have received notification that the following Corps member is facing significant health concerns at the moment.

SGT Ken "Chimbu" CHAMBERS retd

Ken, aged 76, has been undergoing cancer treatment in Toowoomba for more than a year, receiving chemotherapy every two to three weeks. Recently he has been experiencing issues with low red blood cell counts, which may have contributed to several seizures in recent weeks. His doctors have indicated that his condition is concerning, though after a recent transfusion he was reported to be looking much more like his old self.

WO2 Brian REARDON retd

Brian is currently in the Toowoomba Base Hospital. He isn't very well having had a long battle with cancer. He is currently relying on the hospital to keep him breathing but has decided not to receive any more treatment for his condition. Whilst challenged by health, Brian remains in good humour and even joked about his favourite AFL team "Collingwood". The hospital/DVA are trying to obtain a breathing machine for Brian so that he can go home for whatever time he has left. Unfortunately, the machines are only available in Japan with a six-week delivery time. Brian's friends will endeavour to keep tabs on him as he goes through this final stage of his life.

WO1 Russ CLIFFE retd

On Tues 10 Feb, Russ Cliffe suffered from a stroke that left him with palsy in the left arm and leg. He also lost his ability to speak clearly but this is slowly returning. Thanks to a lot of personal strength and the unwavering support of his lovely partner, Leissa, Russ is likely to return home from Hospital later this month. It will however be a long journey of recovery which will be aided by the continual support of the Corps. Russ will really appreciate any visits or calls of support. His number is 0413-732-917. Calls in the afternoon are more convenient for Russ.



Bob "Birg Bird" MCKERROW

(Big Bird) continues to battle with his health since open heart surgery last year, Big Bird is making a steady progress.

Garry "Soupy" SIEPEN

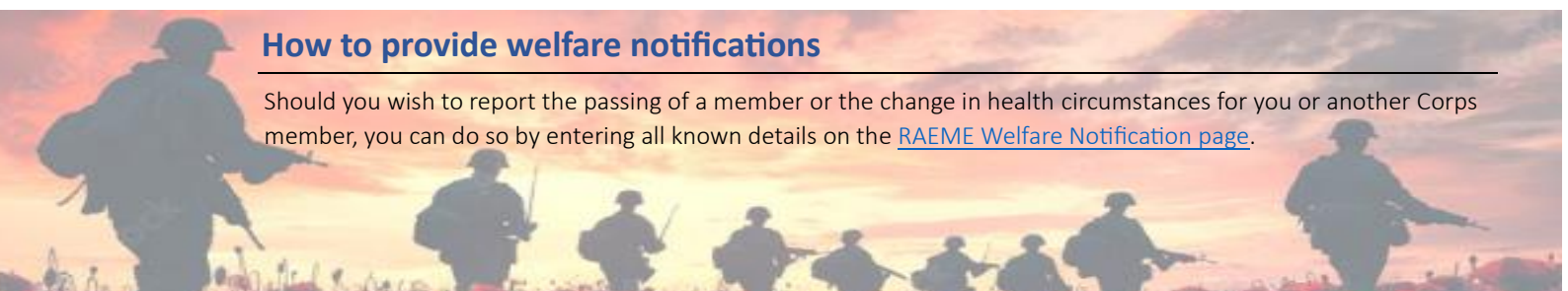
Garry has had recent surgery to his back and is making a steady progress.

Tom "Tommy" STRANG

Tommy has been recuperating a number of times in Hospital recently, but continues to fight on.

How to provide welfare notifications

Should you wish to report the passing of a member or the change in health circumstances for you or another Corps member, you can do so by entering all known details on the [RAEME Welfare Notification page](#).



RAEME



JOIN US NOW

Send us your submission now to go in the running for the \$50 voucher that will be awarded to the best submission each month.

<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter/article-submission>

SCAN OR CLICK

