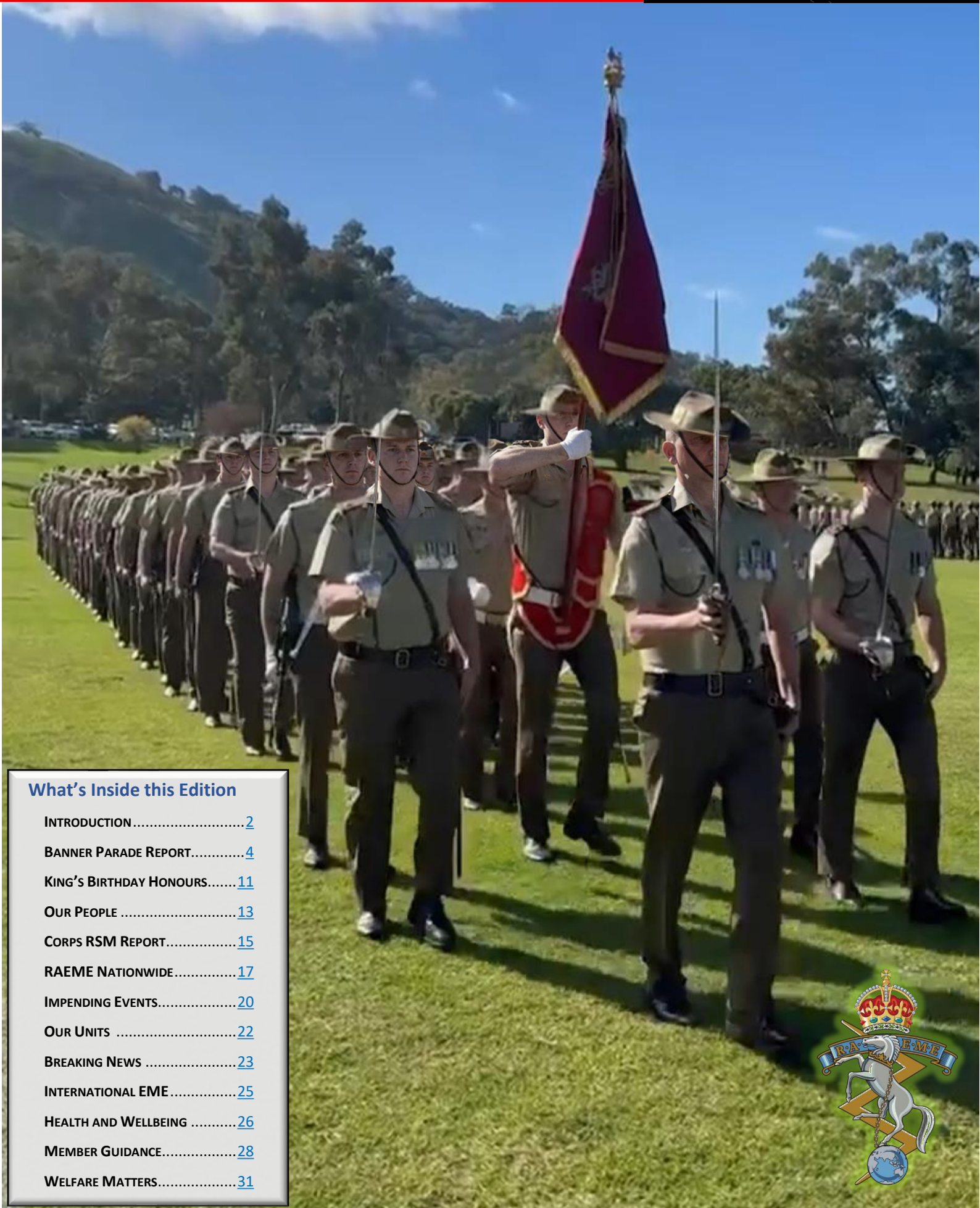


MAINTENANCE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

EDITION 05 – JUNE 2026



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INTRODUCTION

A word from

Lieutenant Colonel Hans Hamilton

Deputy Head of Corps (Ground) and Commanding Officer of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering



20 May 2026, what an excellent day!

I thank all those who were a part of the planning and execution of the commemoration and celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the presentation of the Prince Philip Banner. It would not have been possible without a number of people, too many to list here, but I have written personal correspondence to them all; please keep an eye on your mailboxes, and you will likely see a familiar envelope. The biggest thank you has to go to WO1 Chris Clifton (Parade RSM and RAAC member). As the Corps RSM, WO1 Jon Tynan, stated at the dinner quite rightly, WO1 Clifton consistently referred to 'our Corps' when pushing to provide the best parade possible ceremonially, and he delivered.

For me, I learnt a fair bit in the two weeks leading up to the parade and that is probably worth sharing with you all. We need to get better at recording, archiving, and updating our Corps' History, this includes updating, where necessary, publications such as *'The Role, Responsibilities, History, Customs and Traditions of The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers'*, Sept 2014. I see there are a few distinct periods in which our written history and artefacts have moved or organisational name changes occurred and the preservation of the associated material has been managed, changed hands or stored outside the Army History Unit's purview.

It was by chance a few years ago, when using the Albury Wodonga Military Area (AWMA) Hire store, that I noticed a small annexed room off to the side of the main hire store office. It contained a significant number of Corps artefacts, oral histories, portraits, awards, and general photography that should be considered by all of us as priceless. About two months ago, I tasked ASEME to draw all of the items out of that annex and into our control. Thanks to WO2 Michael Smail for that initiative. MAJ Nigel Bellette (2IC ASEME) worked his way through some of the history and brought a few things to my attention, one of which is worthy of mention as it relates to the parade.

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

Parade Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Hans Hamilton, leading the Prince Philip Banner and Australian School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers members from the parade ground at Gaza Ridge Barracks after the 40th Anniversary Prince Philip Banner Parade.

With the Banner Party formed behind him, band playing and tri-colour smoke rising in the background, all Parade members exhibited justifiable pride in their outstanding performance which was acknowledged by all spectators with a thunderous round of applause.

The moment captured here reflects both the significance of the occasion and the professionalism of the soldiers on parade.

The Banner was being carried by Lieutenant Zach Johnston and escorted by Sergeants Connor Jose and Jason Lintern.

The image was screen captured from a [Defence Media video](#).

INTRODUCTION

After WO1 Andy McAdie provided an electronic copy of the Banner parade in 1986, the multimedia technicians at ALTC ran the audio through an AI script generator and we all read what was spoken on the day. Most notably, this included the sword that was carried by the Parade Commander. I sought to see if perhaps we could find that particular sword from the description in the video. This led me in two directions, one was to research BRIG J.C. Bendall CBE, whose sword it was, and the second was to find the physical sword and where it might be?

Researching and finding who BRIG Bendall was is something that I will continue to do, to fill some information gaps in my personal knowledge about Corps' history and who were our Corps directors in our early years, there is also some missing detail on how the sword moved from the 32nd Infantry Battalion (Footscray Regt) to BRIG Bendall's possession. It was by chance that I found a newspaper article on BRIG Bendall's retirement and handover to then-COL, and later-BRIG, H.L. Martins, OBE in 1967-69. This gave me what BRIG Bendall looked like and I was able to find more about him in the artefacts that we were sifting through.

I thought it would be too good to be true if the sword was actually in the Army Museum Bandiana so I visited armed with nothing more than a description of the sword from the video. Mr Jim Hislop assisted and the museum team were able to locate a sword in the Army Apprentice's School pieces

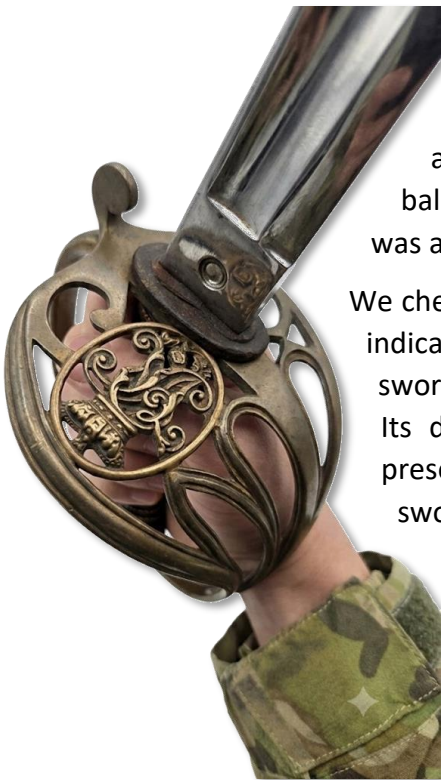
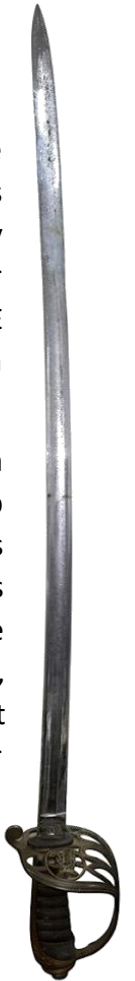
that had no attribution as to who owned the sword. It was unique in the fact that the only ceremonial thing about the sword was it had been chromed on the blade at some stage, well after its practical use, it was still quite sharp, and straight away, you could see a curved fuller and wider rear facing for balance. Everything else about this sword was telling us that it was a working sword from the 1880s to 1900s.

We checked the proof markings and provenance. The marker's mark indicated that Edward Thurkle (1st) manufactured this particular sword at number 5 Denmark Street Soho, London from 1897 to 1901. Its distinct Royal Cipher "VR" confirms this period. Mrs Gwyneth Bendall presented the sword to the Corps Museum, where the attribution to the physical sword was lost. BRIG Bendall was the Director of Mechanical Engineers (DME)—a position that was retitled as the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (DEME) during his tenure—from 08 Aug 1955 until 07 Jan 1967. As a tribute to both BRIG Bendall and the 1986 Parade Commander, LTCOL Ron Dyne, I requested to carry the sword on parade for our commemorative 40th Anniversary parade. The sword is back in the Army Museum Bandiana, now correctly attributed to BRIG Bendall.

Why do I believe this quick jotting is important? We need to be better custodians of our Corps' history, instead of being passengers within it as time flies by. There is nothing stronger in bringing those who have served, are serving, and will serve together than sharing our understanding of where we have come from, how we are adapting, and where we are going as a Corps. Please take this away as I will, as the current custodians of our Corps we have a responsibility to manage our future, present, and most importantly, our past.

Hans

Hans Hamilton | AMIEAust CEngA IntETn(Aus)
Commanding Officer | Chief Instructor | DHOC-G (RAEME)
Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME)



THE PRINCE PHILIP BANNER 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

On 20 May 1986, the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers stood proudly on the parade ground at the RAEME Training Centre, North Bandiana, to receive a symbol that would come to define its identity for generations: the Prince Philip Banner. [Presented by His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh](#), the Banner was more than a ceremonial gift. It was a public acknowledgement of RAEME's indispensable role in sustaining the Army's fighting capability, and a recognition of the Corps' technical mastery, professionalism, and unity.

Four decades later, on 20 May 2026, RAEME returned to Gaza Ridge Barracks, North Bandiana—the spiritual home of the Corps—to commemorate that historic moment. The 40th Anniversary Prince Philip Banner Parade was not simply a re-enactment of the 1986 event. It was a living celebration of RAEME's heritage, its people, and its enduring contribution to the Australian Defence Force.

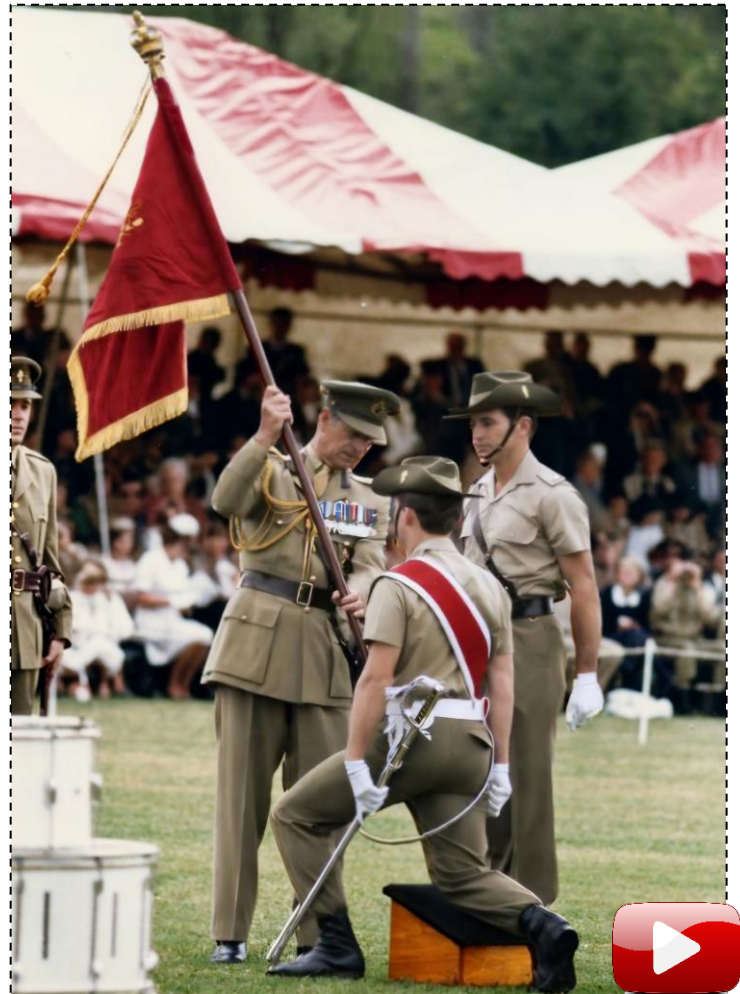
What unfolded on the parade ground was a powerful blend of tradition, pride, and reflection – an event that honoured the past while celebrating the Corps as it stands today.

[A Banner Born of Purpose and Identity](#)

When the Prince Philip Banner was first conceived in the early 1980s, it was driven by a desire to formally recognise RAEME's contribution to the Army. The Corps had long been known as the “boys in the backroom”—a phrase immortalised in the Corps March—but by the 1980s, RAEME was emerging as a technical powerhouse, taking on increasingly complex responsibilities including the maintenance of the Army's rotary-wing fleet.

The Banner, approved in 1983 and presented in 1986, symbolised RAEME's evolution. It placed the Corps alongside other Army organisations that carried Colours, Standards, and Guidons, and it acknowledged the essential role RAEME played in enabling Army capability.

The 1986 parade (pictured below) was a spectacle of precision and pride: four guards representing every state, a flyover trailing Corps colours, Armoured Recovery Vehicles anchoring the Troops



Holding Ground, and more than 4,000 spectators witnessing the Corps' moment of recognition. Prince Philip's speech that day remains one of the most significant ever delivered to RAEME, praising the Corps' “very special qualities of management and technical abilities” and its “gallantry and conspicuous success” since 1942.

Forty years later, those words still resonate. The 40th Anniversary Parade held at Gaza Ridge Barracks was deliberately designed to mirror the structure and spirit of the 1986 event. From the moment guests arrived, the sense of occasion was unmistakable.



A Morning of Anticipation

The day before the parade, Bandiana was lashed with heavy rain—an echo of the soggy conditions that nearly bogged Prince Philip's Rolls-Royce in 1986.

But as dawn broke, the skies cleared. The parade ground dried just enough to allow the event to proceed without compromise. It felt, to many, like a small blessing for a significant day.



Guests arriving early were welcomed into the Gymnasium, where the Army Museum staff had prepared a special static display of historical artefacts, many of which are seldom seen outside the museum's archives. This included the original Banner images bearing the signature of the late Queen Elizabeth II approving the Banner design. The display offered dignitaries and visitors a chance to walk through RAEME's history.

Outside, a static display of military vehicles surrounded the parade ground. Armoured Recovery Vehicles, protected mobility platforms, and support vehicles—many maintained by RAEME soldiers—stood as a testament to the Corps' technical breadth and operational relevance.

The Parade Begins

As the time approached, soldiers formed up in immaculate ranks. The formation included not only RAEME personnel from across the Army, but also RAAF technicians—an intentional inclusion reflecting the breadth of RAEME's trade responsibilities and the increasing integration of technical trades across the Defence Force. The presence of RAAF technicians was a subtle but powerful reminder that RAEME's influence extends beyond Army platforms alone. In an era of joint operations and shared technical capability, the Corps' expertise is woven into the broader fabric of Defence.

The parade followed a traditional ceremonial structure closely modelled on the original 1986 format. It began with the unit forming up in the assembly area before the Parade Ground Guard marched on to establish the ceremonial boundary. The main body then marched onto the parade ground accompanied by the Australian Army Band Kapooka, which was led by Major Nicholas Buff, taking up its position and opening to review order. A backdrop of tri-colour smoke set the scene.



The music for the march on was a combination of the RAEME Corps songs, "[The Boys in the Back Room](#)" and "[Lillibullero](#)". Command of the parade passed from the Regimental Sergeant Major of ASEME, Warrant Officer Class One Christopher Clifton to the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Adjutant, Captain Will Harris. Command then passed to the School's Second-in-Command, Major Nigel Bellette, and finally to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hans Hamilton, each assuming their role in accordance with long-standing protocol.

The Banner Takes Its Place

When the Prince Philip Banner was brought forward, uncased and carried onto the parade ground, the atmosphere shifted. Conversations stopped. Cameras lowered. Veterans stood a little straighter. The Banner Ensign was Lieutenant Zach Johnston. The Banner was escorted by Sergeants Connor Jose and Jason Lintern with the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Jon Tynan.



As it passed the ranks, soldiers and Air Force technicians alike held their salutes with reverence. For many, this was their first time seeing the Banner up close. For others, it was a return to a symbol that had accompanied them throughout their careers.

Leadership on Parade

The parade was hosted by the RAEME Head of Corps, Brigadier Gabrielle Follett, AM, whose leadership and stewardship of Corps identity have been widely recognised. Her presence underscored the significance of the event—not just as a ceremonial milestone, but as a moment of Corps unity.



The Reviewing Officer was Major General Ana Duncan, AM, CSC, Commander Forces Command. Her attendance reflected the Army's recognition of RAEME's enduring contribution to capability, readiness, and operational success.

Major General Duncan was driven onto the parade in a historic Ford LTD Staff Car with Warrant Officer Class One Robert Kaindl behind the wheel. Notably, he was a soldier on parade in 1986.



The Commanding Officer then invited Major General Duncan and Brigadier Follett to inspect the parade.



Blessing of the Banner

The parade subsequently formed a hollow square (see image at the bottom of page) for the blessing of the Banner, during which the Altar Party and chaplains entered to conduct the service.



After the laying of the Banner by Chaplain William Fratter, Chaplain Craig Potter recounted its consecration. Chaplain Joel Vergara then blessed the Banner which was followed by a dedication by Chaplain David Hassan.



All present were reminded of the inspiration that the Banner provides to all who serve under it. It was also blessed and dedicated to the perpetual memory of RAEME soldiers who died on active service.



The blessing concluded with the recitation of the [RAEME Corps Prayer](#) by Chaplain Rebecca Hopfner:

'O God of all power, your energy is seen in all creation. Inspire us, members of the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with the spirit of service, that as thorough craftsmen, we may, by the work of our hands, serve faithfully and effectively, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'



After the Banner was recovered, the parade re-formed, advanced in review order, and offered a final General Salute to the Reviewing Officer.



Reviewing Officer Address

Before departing the Parade Ground, Major General Duncan shared the following with all who were present:

It is my true privilege to address you today on this significant occasion; the 40th anniversary of the consecration and presentation of the Prince Philip Banner of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. On this very same ground here at North Bandiana, on the 20th of May 1986, the Corps received its Banner from his late Royal Highness the Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Colonel-in-Chief of RAEME.



Today, 40 years later, we gather on that very same ground and in a manner that reflects your original parade to honour, not only the Banner, but all that it represents, and I can think of no better representation than those men and women on parade today.

Since 1986, the Banner has stood proudly as a symbol of Corps identity, of national service, of technical mastery and of professional pride. For RAEME, this Banner represents the skill of the artisan, the discipline of a soldier and the quiet determination of those who keep the Army moving, fighting and winning.

The 1986 Parade was a remarkable occasion; four guards were formed, each of 63 troops representing every Australian state, with regular and reserve members, and more than 4,000 spectators watching on. The Parade Commander was Lieutenant Colonel Ron Dyne and he was supported by Warrant Officer Class One Gary O'Brien, the Parade Regimental Sergeant Major.

I'd like to today acknowledge those connected to that original occasion who are here with us today. I acknowledge Brigadier (retired) Konrad Ermert, former Director General of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and his wife, Miss Mimi Ermert, who I was very lucky to meet this morning. I also acknowledge Colonel (retired) Brett Greenland who served as the Banner Ensign in 1986. Your connection to that day gives this anniversary particular meaning. Thank you for being here.

In 1986, Prince Philip observed that while Napoleon may have said an army marches on its stomach, in the modern age, it moves and it fights with its equipment. He was right then, and he remains right today.

For military equipment is never simple. It is rarely cheap. It often breaks or requires parts, at the most inconvenient of times. Fortunately for us, fortunately for Army, dealing with inconvenience has long been a RAEME speciality.

We recognise the many RAEME tradesmen who have served across the generations in peace, on operations, in fierce training, in disaster relief, and most importantly for an army, in war. From workshops, hangars and repair bays to Field Maintenance Areas, Recovery Posts and Forward Repair Teams, RAEME personnel have repaired under pressure, recovered under threat, improvised in the most austere of conditions and always returned capability to the fight.

Indeed, this Corps was formed and forged in the depths of war in 1942. You are a Corps renowned for improvisation, technical mastery and, dare I add, arguably unparalleled Aussie larrikin spirit. I am certain however, that any Sapper in the audience might challenge me on that latter attribution.

To the families and friends here today, you are very much part of that service because behind every posting, every exercise, every deployment and late return home is the support of those of you who keep faith with your loved one in uniform.

To those of you who serve now, the Corps' task is only becoming more important and more complex. Long-range fires, littoral and amphibious platforms, armoured vehicles, aviation platforms, sensors, protection systems, digital networks, advanced manufacturing; all of these demand RAEME skill, RAEME judgement and RAEME ingenuity. From the Field Workshop Companies within our Combat Service Support Battalions to the critical force-level maintenance by the 9th and the 10th Force Support Battalions. From recovery mechanics and marine engineers to the Spanners in our workshops and the technicians on the line are those working diligently behind the scenes, RAEME Craftsmen and women have enabled the operational effectiveness of our Army; in all of our domains of war.

To those of you currently serving at ASEME, and I acknowledge the Commanding Officer and the RSM as its leaders and in particular to the soldiers on parade today, your training sits at the very heart of that legacy.

The skills and trades you are developing will sustain the next generation of Army capability and everything that will inevitably require a Craftsman to maintain on deployment. Brigadier Ermert reflected that the presentation of the RAEME Banner marked the occasion when the Corps emerged from the backroom. As we honour this Prince Philip Banner, we honour those who have served, those currently serving and those who will serve in the future, maybe some of the boys and girls here today, who will be at the forefront of the more modern, more lethal Army.

May this Banner continue to remind us of the Corps' history, of its soldiers, of its standards and its enduring duty to our Army and to this nation. Arte et Marte; With Skill and Fighting.

Departing the Parade Ground

With justifiable pride and unwavering discipline, the Parade Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Hans Hamilton, led [the Banner and all serving members from the parade ground](#). His booming voice carried across the parade ground with clarity and authority, continuing to ensure the ceremony was executed with precision.

All spectators arose as the Banner and troops marched past them. Those in uniform saluted; those in civilian attire did likewise with respectful and reverent acknowledgement. As the soldiers left the parade, they did so through tri-colour smoke, the same as that which filled the background as they marched on.



The parade was finalised with the casing of the Banner. The RSM called all present to attention as the Banner was ceremoniously cased.



Professional Pride

From the first movement to the final march-off, the drill displayed by all personnel was impeccable. Every halt, turn, and salute was executed with sharpness and pride. The precision was not merely ceremonial, it was a reflection of the professionalism that defines RAEME soldiers in workshops, on exercises, and on operations and importantly for the School, the professionalism that is shown by the trainees as they learn their craft.

This was not lost on all who attended the parade, including special guests from the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, United Kingdom, Colonel Jeremy Johnson and Warrant Officer Class One Robert Lord. Colonel Johnson is the Light and Heavy Protected Mobility Team Leader and Warrant Officer Lord is the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major.

Colonel Johnson later commented that representing REME at such a milestone, alongside RSM Lord, was a proud moment and a reaffirmation of the strong, enduring bond between our two Corps.



A Moment of Reflection

Head of Corps, Brigadier Follett reflected on the importance of the day by saying it was a key highlight of her career. She noted how incredibly important it is for our Corps to maintain its customs and traditions as they set the foundations for our culture which is key to our profession of arms and how we execute our role as a team as part of a larger Army. With some pride, she noted that RAEME remains the “...*smartest and the best Corps in the Army*” and that “...*no-one in Army can do their jobs without the support of RAEME.*”



Likewise, Parade Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton noted that the parade was about those who have served, are serving and will serve in the future with the constant being the Corps Banner which will stand the test of time. He hoped that all members who were on parade will realise that they are now an indelible part of our Corps' history.

Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton also shared his pride in carrying a historically-significant sword on parade; a sword that once belonged to an officer of the 32nd Infantry Battalion, the City of Footscray Regiment, and was carried during the First World War. The sword bears the Royal Cipher VR, which dates its manufacture by Edward Thurkle in Soho, London as being between 1897 and 1901. Its pattern is that of the last infantry officer sword issued in the British Army, and still carried by British and Australian officers today. Mrs Gwyneth Bendall, the wife of the late Brigadier Jay Bendall CBE presented the sword to the Apprentice Museum in April 1984. Brigadier Bendall was Director General of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from the 8th of August 1955 until the 7th of January 1967. This sword was also carried on parade in 1986.



The parade was honoured to have in attendance the original Banner Ensign, retired Colonel Brett Greenland, AM. He recalled the privilege of being selected to fill such an important role but noted that although the original parade was one of excitement, he didn't feel nervous as his entire focus on the day was ensuring his drill was impeccable. He did so with incredible pride just as he felt whilst watching the parade, noting that this day was the first time he had been in Bandiana since the parade in 1986.

Colonel Greenland took the opportunity to meet with the current Banner Ensign, LT Zach Johnston who also recounted the significance of the parade and the equal importance of maintaining the highest level of personal standards. He too hopes to have a long and meaningful career so that he too may return to the parade ground in 40 years' time to continue the tradition.



Colonel Greenland also took the opportunity to reunite with his senior from Apprentice School, Warrant Officer Class One Andrew McAdie who had the unique honour of being the **only** serving member marching on this parade who also marched in 1986.

Warrant Officer Class One McAdie recalled from 1986:

“The parade itself was something to behold and to have the Duke of Edinburgh passing right in front of me is something I will never forget.”

He noted from this parade:

“Marching on to the parade ground on the 40th Anniversary Parade was nothing short of an absolute privilege.

I trust that the soldiers on the anniversary parade appreciate the importance of stepping foot on the parade ground for this significant event and when they look back in 40 years, they have the same pride and sense of esprit-de-corps that the other original participants and I felt on the day.”

Corps RSM, Warrant Officer Tynan shared his pride in the performance of all members who were on parade and the professionalism they displayed. He noted that since its presentation, this was the first time the Banner had been on parade in Bandiana since 1986.



Evening Celebrations: Formal and Familiar

The day's events continued into the evening with two distinct gatherings that reflected the dual nature of RAEME culture: formal professionalism and down-to-earth camaraderie.

A formal black-tie dinner was held for dignitaries and around 200 selected guests. The Prince Philip Banner was present in the dining room, which meant all military formalities were observed. The Banner Party remained on duty, and the atmosphere was one of ceremony, respect, and reflection.



Meanwhile, a second dinner was held at The Blazing Stump Hotel, a venue familiar to generations of RAEME soldiers. This informal gathering drew over 60 members, including many who had marched in or witnessed the 1986 parade. We were pleased to be joined by Gary Sargent who was recognised in the May edition of *Maintenance Matters* for going Above and Beyond to serve his community.



The atmosphere was relaxed, loud, and full of laughter. Stories flowed freely – some polished by time, others embellished for effect, all of them cherished. For many, this was the heart of the celebration: mateship, memory, and the shared identity that binds the Corps.



A Living Legacy

The Prince Philip Banner is more than a ceremonial object. It is a symbol of RAEME's identity – its service, skill, unity, and tradition. It represents the Corps' contribution to the Army since 1942, and the professionalism of the men and women who have sustained capability in peace and war. The anniversary parade honoured that legacy. As the sun set over Bandiana and the Banner was returned to its case, one truth was clear: RAEME's spirit endures – not in buildings or equipment, but in its people.

With skill and fighting, RAEME marches on.

Other reporting and acknowledgements

The parade was reported on by Defence media and the media team at the Army Logistic Training Centre. Some of the images in this publication have been sourced from Captain Krysten Clifton, Corporal Joseph Hess, Corporal Jarrod Moreels, Private Kerri Millin-Wire & Private Matthew Woods, Mr Michael Banovic, Mr Harley Alegarbes as well as from social media and parade spectators. You can find more at:

- The Defence Media Gallery – [Video](#), [Report](#) and [Images](#)



- ALTC – [Video 1](#) (YouTube), [Video 2](#) (Facebook), [Video 3](#), [Images 1](#), [Images 2](#), [Images 3](#) and [Images 4](#) (all Facebook)



- Army News – [Edition 1604](#)



OUR PEOPLE

King's Birthday Honours and Awards

We proudly acknowledge the outstanding achievements of all ADF members recognised in the King's Birthday Honours. Their exceptional service and commitment exemplify the very best of our Defence Force.

Amongst the recipients, we acknowledge the following RAEME members:

Recipient: **Warrant Officer Class One Wayne Robert DAVIS**

Award title: Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Citation: For meritorious performance of duty as an Artificer Sergeant Major and as the Master Artificer Technician Electrical for the Australian Army.



Warrant Officer Class One Davis made a significant contribution to the Army's operational effectiveness through remarkable initiative, leadership and technical knowledge, and performance of duty over a number of postings. His innovation and reform of Army's electrical training has safeguarded future capability, while his strategic influence as Master Artificer Technician Electrical shaped the modernisation of land materiel systems. His service reflects great credit upon himself and upholds the highest traditions of the Australian Army and the Defence Force.



Recipient: **Warrant Officer Class One B**

Award title: Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Citation: For meritorious service in technical leadership, workforce development and materiel sustainment in the direct support of the Australian Army.



Editor's note: As Warrant Officer Class One B operates in a role that requires a higher-than-normal degree of anonymity, we are unable to provide his or her image or more information regarding this award.

We do however trust that those who know Warrant Officer B will convey the support of our Corps on receipt of this prestigious award.

Recipient: **Colonel Mark Damien RIPPER**

Award title: Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

Citation: For outstanding achievement in the development of Littoral Manoeuvre capabilities in the Australian Army.



Lieutenant Colonel Ripper has made a remarkable contribution to the momentous capability development that the littoral manoeuvre program will have on the Army and the Australian Defence Force. His commitment, professionalism and leadership has delivered outstanding achievements in infrastructure management, workforce planning, and training design will enable Australian soldiers to fight and win on the modern battlefield.

We also extend our congratulations to Colonel Ripper on his promotion to Colonel in the days following receipt of this award. He will oversee Army's littoral logistics in his new directorate. This is an outstanding achievement from his humble beginnings as a Craftsman!



OUR PEOPLE

King's Birthday Honours and Awards

Recipient: **Lieutenant Colonel Jason Peter LONG**

Award title: Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

Citation: For outstanding achievement in tactical logistics design and enabling 3rd Brigade's transformation to an Armoured Formation.



Lieutenant Colonel Long, through outstanding leadership, ingenuity, and achievement, has significantly enhanced the functionality and survivability of tactical logistics for formations preparing for expeditionary large-scale combat operations. He has been instrumental in enabling the transformation of the 3rd Brigade into an Armoured Formation. His achievements have brought great credit upon himself and his team, advanced Army capability, and reflect the finest traditions of the Australian Defence Force.



Recipient: **Warrant Officer Class One Scott James KELLY**

Award title: Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

Citation: For meritorious achievement as the Formation Artificer and Acting Formation Logistics Officer of the Land Combat College.



As the Artificer Sergeant Major of the Land Combat College, Warrant Officer Class One Kelly worked tirelessly to remediate capability shortfalls, expertly mentored and upskilled his team and absorbed governance responsibilities across several Training Establishments. His meritorious oversight and management of maintenance systems alleviated maintenance pressures, delivered enduring capability solutions and enabled uninterrupted training for more than 15,000 Soldiers and Officers.



Recipient: **Warrant Officer Class One Daniel John LEATHAM**

Award title: Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

Citation: For meritorious achievement as the Regimental Artificer Sergeant Major of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.



Warrant Officer Class One Leatham has made a significant contribution towards the National Defence Strategy through the modernisation of the Australian Army's armoured capability. His remarkable service maintained the availability of the armoured vehicle fleets while concurrently managing the upgrade and introduction into service of the M1A2 Main Battle Tank. His meritorious achievements have directly advanced Army's future armoured capability.



On behalf of the broader RAEME family, we extend our sincerest congratulations to all award recipients and thank them for the strong service they have continued to provide to enhance our Army and the reputation of our Corps.

OUR PEOPLE

Honours and Awards



The Governor of Queensland recently presented Australia Day Honours and Awards to 19 distinguished Queenslanders recognised for outstanding military service and leadership, including one of our own, Lieutenant Colonel Robert (Bob) Cramp (Retd) (left) who received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the sport of shooting and to the community. Lieutenant Colonel Cramp's award acknowledges many years of dedication, contribution, and service both within the shooting community and more broadly across the community sector.

Lieutenant Colonel Julian David Fleming (right) was presented with a Conspicuous Service Medal for meritorious devotion to duty as the Commanding Officer of the 9th Force Support Battalion.



At the formal dinner that followed the Banner Parade in Bandiana, HOC, BRIG Gabrielle Follett had the pleasure of presenting WO1 Neil Taylor (left) the fourth clasp to his Defence Long Service Medal, signifying 35 years of dedicated service to our Army. She also presented WO1 Brendan Johnson (right) with his fourth clasp to the DSLM – in addition to a CDF Gold Commendation. This honour was awarded for his dedication to duty in providing emergency bereavement support to the families of the lost soldier in the 2023 MHR 90 incident as a Military Support Officer.



1 Avn Regt recently presented WO2 Hall (left) with a Letter of Appreciation from RSM-A. WO1 Scott Breen (mid) was also presented with an AOSM for his efforts in Op Resolute. The Monthly Leadership Award presented to CPL Cody Thompson (right).

Honours and Awards were also recently presented at 9 FSB. Congratulations to WO2 Shane Hingston (below left) receiving his NATO Medal. Congrats too to LT Odette Swaine (below mid) for gaining her ADM.



A final farewell to CFN Michael "Mizz" Mizzen (below). The unit and all mates wished him all the best for his future endeavours.



We extend our congratulations to all recipients on their well-deserved recognition and thank them for their continued service and contribution to Army, the Corps, and the wider Australian community.



OUR PEOPLE

From Appy to Major – Major Reid Ossington retires after 32 years of service

After more than three decades of service to the Australian Army, including 15 years in the ARA followed by 17 years as a Reservist, MAJ Reid Ossington officially retired from service at the start of May 2026, closing an important chapter in a long and distinguished RAEME career.

Reflecting on his time in uniform, Reid acknowledged that it was the soldiers and junior officers he served alongside who kept him motivated to continue serving for so many years.

Throughout his career, Reid expressed deep gratitude for the experiences Army provided and for the many outstanding men and women who helped shape him along the way. He credited the Army with providing the foundations for a successful civilian career and spoke proudly of his journey from Army Apprentice to senior officer. Of greatest importance, however, was the support of his family. He paid special tribute to his wife Simone, acknowledging the sacrifices she made throughout his service, particularly during long absences, weekends away, and late nights. He also recognised his two sons, who often missed valuable time with their father while he balanced the demands of military service and family life.

Proudly describing himself as both an “appy” and a “bluebell”, Reid reflected fondly on the unique bond shared by Army Apprentices and the lifelong connection to the Corps.

The RAEME family congratulates MAJ Reid Ossington, 49th Intake Apprentice VM, on his outstanding service and wishes him and his family all the very best for the future.

Image and article adapted courtesy of Defence



RAEME Craftsman Port 2026

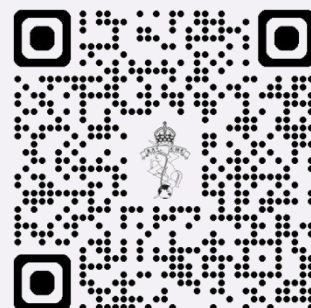
We are pleased to announce the official launch of this year's RAEME Craftsman Port (Tawny).

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.

OUR CORPS TODAY

The following report was extracted from an email provided by the Corps RSM on 09 Jun 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 EOIs and Positions

Thank you to everyone who submitted an EOI, either for SO2, Corps Warrant Officer or MA roles. We still desire an EOI for ECN 418 & ECN 412 to step up and take on the role for CMC27. If you have an interest, please contact the current MAs' WO1 Jamie Redman & WO1 Scot Breen. Please email me directly and I will send the EOI template.

Corps Conference – Heavy

Lock in the dates. Wed 14 Oct to Thu 15 Oct in Sydney (Holsworthy Barracks). The organisers are gathering more information on the proposed dinner location (15 Oct), Victoria Barracks Sydney Officers Mess, with a tour of the Museum being conducted prior for attendees.

The intent is to change how we have always conducted the dinner and move to a more semi-formal concept, with a Corps Cocktail Party being undertaken. Once we have locked in the details, we will ensure everyone is notified.

As for the Corps Conference Agenda, I will release it once the HOC and 2 DHOC have approved. We intend to stream the Conference (if possible) so more members may be involved. More to follow.

St Eligius Competition

We have locked in the dates and location for St Eligius Competition. The competition will be conducted Mon 12 Oct to Tue 13 Oct in Sydney. This is a massive change to the concept, however; it should make the experience and travel easier, therefore, allow more Brigades / Teams to attend.

The Admin Inst will be released NLT 01 Sep, with a Warning Order to drop NLT 19 Jun.

Corps Awards

Corps Instruction 28 will be released in the near future. It has been a long time coming, however; we have a consensus on what the awards will now be and how they are assessed. Supervisors should consider their members' overall performance throughout the year, including members' PARs, field and technical performances & additional activities outside of the ADF. The nominations for awards are due NLT COB 28 August 26 to the HOC Cell.

The award structure:

- Junior Officers – The LT Peter Jennings Award
- Warrant Officers – The Artificer of the year Award
- SNCOs – The BRIG Martins, OBE Award
- JNCOs – The Junior Regimental Award
- Soldiers – The ARA Craftsman of the Year & ARES Craftsman of the Year.

Change to Corps Awards

We have received some fantastic nominations for the changing of the Corps Awards. Entries closed on Saturday, we will announce the winners in July.

Farewells

WO1 Mark Ingleton. Enlisted November 2002. He was offered a role with RACT, which lasted all of 8 months, before transferring to RAEME as a Recovery Mechanic. Promoting to CPL in 2004, SGT in 2010, WO2 in 2019 and WO1 in 2021. Mark was the Master Artificer 2022/2023. From 2024 he has been posted to ADF Transitions Centre in Townsville, where he has worked tirelessly with members undertaking the transition process. He has been a massive advocate for retention within RAEME. Great career, Mark, enjoy life with the family.

WO2 Jamie Carroll. Enlisted February 1987. Originally enlisted as RAAC, he was posted to 2/14 Light Horse Regiment. In April 1999 he transferred to RAEME as an Avionics Technician. Jamie promoted to LCPL in 1989, CPL in 1992, SGT in 2006 and WO2 in 2011. Jamie has given a great deal to Aviation Command throughout his career, and wraps up his tenure as the Battalion Training and Development Officer (S7).

WO1 Peter Dutton (3rd time hitting CRA). Enlisted August 1981. He was allocated as an Army Apprentice undertaking the Vehicle Mechanic trade. It is hard to ascertain data prior to 1990, knowing Peter's promotional status prior to then would have to be supplied by himself. Peter was promoted to SGT in 1990, SSGT 1993, WO2 in 1995 and WO1 in 2001. He has had an extremely long career spanning many posting, more recently in Western Australia. All the very best, Peter, for the future.

MAJ Reid Ossington. Enlisted Jan 1994. Originally hired as an Army Apprentice, MAJ Ossington took on Vehicle Mechanic as the trade of choice. He was promoted to LCPL in 2000, CPL 2003, SGT in 2007. MAJ Ossington Commissioned in 2016 to the rank of LT, promoted to CAPT 2020 and MAJ in 2025. I only met Ozzie once or twice, but he came across as a genuine, honest gentleman. All the very best for the future, Sir.

RAEME Corps Banner 40th Anniversary Parade

What a fantastic day. It would be remiss of me not to thank a few people that made it happen and brought it all together. LTCOL Hans Hamilton and WO1 Chris Clifton for their drive and passion to put on an amazing event. ALTC also played a huge part in the funding & facilities. REME provided support through (us being lucky enough to have them present) LTCOL Jez Johnson (Heavy Mobility Group Team Leader) and WO1 Robert Lord (8 Training Battalion RSM), which has led to connections back in the UK for us to explore, such as the REME Connect platform (more to follow).

OUR CORPS TODAY

Purchases at the Banner Parade

ASEME RTF 'Square system' failed to enact the transactions therefore all were rejected. In order to rectify the situation, we will use the honesty system.

If you purchased an item from SGT Clarke from the Corps Shop provided during the Parade, please reach out to him via email at: raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au. The HOC Cell will then advise on the preferred payment method.

We apologise for any inconvenience this has / will cause.

Recognition of Service Documentation

Corps Instruction 21 provides direction and guidance to commanders at all levels on the requirement, eligibility and workflow to provide recognition to Corps members at all rank levels and time of service. The Corps Instruction provides workable timelines.

Some delays have been encountered, where members do not receive their 'parchment / certificate' within a reasonable timeframe or before their actual separation. IOT expedite the process I implore you to take on the following advice:

1. Once you know a member is leaving the Corps, email the HOC Cell raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au requesting the type of presentation you will be making
2. Allow a minimum of 6 weeks for the 'parchment / certificate' to arrive to the person requesting
 - a. The HOC Cell (Bandiana) receive the request
 - b. HOC Cell members prepare the document
 - c. Document sent 'safe hand' to the HOC (Canberra), where it is 'wet signed'
 - d. Document returned to HOC Cell
 - e. Presentation prepared and sent to person requesting
3. The package is sent via Aus Post (with tracking number), this can take up to 10 working days. Please try to refrain from getting upset at the members within the HOC Cell when the request is not actioned within your timeline.

Course Information

Course availabilities are available in the complete RSM's Report which is on his DRN home page (link above).

CATW Course Schedule

CATW still struggle to fill specialist course panels with ADF members. Without minimum panels filled, there is a risk of course cancellation, and many panels below are past their nomination date. We can still generally run a course with 1 person, but that requires FORCOMD approval (being under minimum panel size); and may detract from learning when some maintenance tasks are done in pairs; but is still better than cancelling a course. Units accepting some hurt to allow soldiers to attend ALTC courses, even during key Bde activities, was a point brought up with COMD 3 BDE during his visit. [Click here](#) (Defence Network only) for CATW Specialist Courses Please use this as your guide.

LTCOL Alex Palmer – Thank you

LTCOL Palmer consistently demonstrates exceptional performance, managing a substantial workload within his primary role at DIR Engineering Army while delivering significant contributions across the broader Corps.

He has been instrumental in facilitating BHP secondments and has effectively overseen Officer ENGO training opportunities and registrations through DESTRA, ensuring continued professional development across the workforce. His commitment to mentoring the Engineering cohort has strengthened capability and fostered professional growth within the Corps.

Additionally, LTCOL Palmer provides dedicated support to Corps activities, including the St Eligius Competition, through DGENG-A. His sustained efforts, initiative, and leadership have delivered enduring benefits to both Army engineering capability and the Corps more broadly.

Land Engineering Officer changes to specifications

The Land Engineering Officer (EMELEO) employment specification has now been released and can be found attached or on the [Manual of Army Employments page](#) (Defence network only).

It has been created to separate the GSO and engineering qualified RAEME officer, creating technical career pathways and capturing the outcome of the Technical Workforce Segment Review (TWSR) 2025.

Follow on iterations of this employment spec will continue to evolve IOT marry specific degrees to technical positions requiring specific engineering categorisation. Please provide any feedback on the document to raeme.ecm@defence.gov.au

WO1 Jon Tynan

RAEME Corps RSM

Jon.Tynan@defence.gov.au

Join our Movember Team

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

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 HERE TO SUBMIT A TEAM NAME



RAEME NATIONWIDE

Bigger is Always Better

2 Cav Regt Tech Support Troop presents:
An unreasonably large RAEME flag.



For those interested in having their very own unreasonably large RAEME flag, fabrication and costs were as follows:

- **Spotlight - \$130**
Three 3000mm lengths of cloth (cotton blend navy/yellow/red) and heavy-duty thread. Most bolts are 1200mm high, theoretically allowing for a 6000mm long flag, maintaining a reasonably accurate height/width ratio.
- **Alteration/tailoring - \$180**
Lengths of cloth were cut in half (1200 to 600mm) to suit a 3000mm length and stitched together with a "pocket" for the flag pole. Two 1800x3000mm flags were fabricated.
- **Bunnings - \$19**
3000mm galvanised steel tube found in the fencing section, for use as a short flag pole.

Needless to say, everyone has been loving the flag, including some approving comments heard from guys and girls of other corps.



Thanks for all the thoughts and advice on how to have one made. Would love to see a full 6000mm attempt in the field at some point.

Edition 05 – June 2026

Powering Ahead



CFN Anastazia Robinson prepares to perform a deadlift during an Air Force Powerlifting competition at Adonis Athletics in Penrith, New South Wales. [Click here](#) for more details.

RAQ Gathering – Toowoomba

The RAQ Darling Downs held its May gathering on Sunday 17 May 2026 at the Toowoomba Golf Club.

While attendance was slightly smaller than usual, this is fairly typical for this time of year, with many members and families travelling to warmer locations to escape the cooler Darling Downs weather. Despite the smaller turnout, those who attended enjoyed an excellent afternoon of friendship, conversation, and Corps camaraderie, which continues to be one of the great strengths of our gatherings.



Members enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the opportunity to catch up with old mates, share stories, and maintain the strong connections that remain such an important part of the RAEME family.

Congratulations to the winners of the lucky door prizes: Dave Smith, Liz Fitzgibbon and Maureen Wooley. The prizes consisted of three \$50 Bunnings vouchers.

The next Darling Downs luncheon will be held on Sunday 16 August 2026, and members and partners are encouraged to come along and enjoy another great afternoon together.

1 CSSB Get their Feet Wet

How many RAEME tricolours are too many?? The answer is.....there are never enough!!

Last month, members of the 101st Field Workshop Company took to the water to sharpen their skills in a maritime environment. A great training day delivering lessons afloat, strengthening teamwork, adaptability and readiness outside the workshop.



Image and article adapted courtesy of Defence.

Adelaide RAEME on Parade!

WOW, what a great Gathering of the South Australian RAEME brethren and what a fantastic venue. Almost half of those who attended got there early for lunch and several of us also stayed for dinner. The service by the staff was fantastic with beers coming out within 2 minutes and food in 5 to 10 minutes. It was also great having a big screen TV to check out the Footy scores throughout the afternoon. We will be having future Gatherings at The Guardsman and maybe even the catchup after the ANZAC march next year.



L to R: John Zander, Brian Maddern, Tony Kuilboer, Andrew Heard, Garth Patzel, Dave Cawthorne, John Black, Ian Jeisman, John Prince, Graham Tweedale, Brenton Beck, Charlie Gauchi, Marc Riches, Ian Starick (seated), David "Buck" Rodgers, Warren Gould, Peter Reynolds, Scott Fishlock, Colin Howard. Missing: Doug Pammenter

RAT Lunch South Arm RSL

On Saturday, 23 May 2026, over 30 RAT members and partners came together at the South Arm RSL for our May Luncheon, providing members and partners with an opportunity to meet for the first time this year. It was pleasing to see members from Launceston and the East Coast made an effort to travel down for the Luncheon. The afternoon once again proved to be a great success, which included giving members a chance to purchase RAT memorabilia.

Of interest Shane Rollins provided old black and white photos to the Association, which were found stored away in JLU(V) Headquarters. These photos depicted members, past and present undertaking daily tasks from Tas Command Workshop, Hobart Wksp PI and of importance the AEME Association days. The photos will now be held by the Association scanned, and placed on our Websites Photo Gallery.

Special thanks must go out to Glen Hay for organising the event and let's not forget Tony and his team at the RSL for once again putting together a great lunch.



Rats and partners assembled



Chat time and preparing for lunch



South Arm Memorial Park

More photos of the day can be viewed on the [RATs website](#).

SE Qld Army Apprentice's Reunion

The South East Qld Reunion for 2026 started with a mild Brisbane winters day on the deck area of the Bulimba Bowls Club, Quinn St, Balmoral.

Approx 130 Army Apprentices attended the day, many of them being accompanied by their wives and partners.



Two weeks prior to the event, we were contacted by the family of Maxwell Brown (a 1st intake apprentice) who had planned to bring their father along to the reunion this year. Unfortunately, Max had a fall and broke his shoulder and had other injuries as a result. Max's daughter contacted us on Friday 5th June, to advise that Max had sadly passed away. It was a great disappointment to us, as we were so looking forward to meeting one of the 1st Intake, however this was not to be.

The Apprentices held a minute's silence and raised a toast to Max, and to all those Army Apprentices who could not be with us on the day, including Keith Fox, a 2nd Intake, who attended our reunion last year, but now is not physically able to attend.

A raffle was conducted and name tags were issued by our sterling supporters Barb Daley and Mary-Anne Bowyer.



Barb Daley, and Mary-Anne Bowyer with Brian Daley

Trish Richardson baked an amazing fruit cake for us to celebrate the 27th year of South East Qld conducting these reunions. This cake was absolutely delicious!



The eldest intake in attendance were eight members from the 14th intake.



14th Intake members (R to L): David Grant, Rendell Brown, Graham Poole, Alf Richardson, Bill Proudfoot, John Nickols, Phil Livingstone, Brian Daley

The most represented intake this year was the 30th, with the 21st coming a close runner-up.



30th Intake Attendees



21st Intake Attendees

The pizzas served at lunch time proved more than popular. Many stories were retold, friendships were renewed, and a great time was had by all.

The *Apprentice Reunion* submission was voted as the best member submission for this edition. Prize details of the prize will be forwarded to the author.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

RAEME ACT Spanner Club

The ACT team planned to gather on 05 Jun at RMC Golf Club however due to technical difficulties, the message didn't get sent to all members so only a small turnout resulted. This was however very productive as apart from sharing the obligatory funny war stories over a drink, all present had the opportunity to share in a sausage sizzle whilst also discussing options for future gatherings that could be of greater interest to serving and retired members.

The ACT crew are now working on options so watch this space for future adventures.

Wodonga Coffee Catchup

The monthly catchup for coffee at the Wodonga Plant Farm provided a great opportunity for some 25th intakes to take a pic together.



Important Podcast



A podcast by Mark Brosnan, called "Mark MI Words" which is designed to create Mental Health understanding, not just awareness. It is real talk, about the real issues facing those who have a Mental Illness and also those that support them.

Just prior to Anzac Day, Mark put out a call for RAEME veterans to come on my podcast to chat about their service and mental health. The response he received was greater than he thought it would be. The latest interview is with retired RAEME Sergeant Tommy Anderson.

You can view the full interview here <https://youtu.be/pgel-fkFjA>

Spanner Pack Update

Operation Spanner Pack recently sent out six Spanner Packs: one to Thailand, two to Tonga and three to PNG.



In late May, the team received two requests for Spanner Packs; the first was from a Major on Command Staff College in Thailand (MAJ Jesse Voyer, RAEME GSO) and the second, a request from 6 ESR for five Spanner packs to go to three separate locations (two to Tonga, one to Port Moresby Army Barracks and two to guys supporting OP RENDER SAFE in SE PNG).

I drove out to 6 ESR, Amberley Barracks and handed the packs to SGT Braedon Murray (EIR SGT, OSS, 6 ESR), my POC for this request. The unit will ensure these packs get to the members during their deployment. Sam Fagan is the unit POC for ensuring these packs get to members on time and will request the members take photos.

MAJ Tom Cross Retd, Spanner Pack Co-Ord, Spannerpack@qld.raeme.org.au

N-Qld Spanner Club

The RAQ (NQ) catchup on 13 June was yet again, another great day. Huge well done to the organisers. Oh, and great choice for the munchies too Jason Handsaker, love ya work! 😊 [Click here](#) for more pics.



Blackhawk Tragedy

12 June 1996

Lest we forget



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
- **Association 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 advance planning, including reunions, may be highlighted below.

June

Fri 19th	Darwin	Spanner Club	8/12 Medium Regiment
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

Fri 14 th – Sun 16 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.
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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

TBC	Canberra	ASM's Golf Day	RMC Golf Club
Tues 01 st	Adelaide	Harry the Horse Luncheon	West Adelaide Football Club from 1200h
	Wodonga	Coffee Morning	Wodonga Plant Farm from 1000h
Wed 02 nd	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

IMPENDING EVENTS

September continued

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
Sat 19 th	Townsville	RAQ NQ Gathering	Details TBC
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
12 th – 13 th	Sydney	St Eligius Competition	Details to follow
14 th – 15 th	Holsworthy	Corps Conference – Heavy	Details to follow
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	Gyphonns 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
Tues 24 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h
Fri 27 th	Brisbane	Women in RAEME (WIR4)	Details TBC when locked in
	SE-Qld	TBC	
	Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast Gathering	Brightwater Hotel from 1200h
	Ingleburn	NSW Corps Birthday BBQ	Memorial Gardens, Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch
	Canberra	ACT Corps Birthday Spanner Club	RMC Golf Club from 1600h
	Adelaide	SA Association AGM and Corps Birthday	West Adelaide Football Club 57 Milner Rd Richmond from 1000h for AGM and 1200h for Corps Birthday Celebrations
Sat 28 th	Melbourne	RAEME Birthday Muster – Melbourne	Warragul RSL from 1630h
Sun 29 th	South Arm, Tas	RAEME Birthday – Tasmania	South Arm RSL, 2972 South Arm Rd from 1200h for 1230h

OUR UNITS

Part 6 of 8 – 16 Aviation Support Battalion – Maintenance Support Troop Repair Parts Store

Challenges and Fixes

The Maintenance Support Troop Repair Parts Store (MST RPS) within 16 ASB, plays a critical role in sustaining aviation capability through agile and responsive logistic support. Operating under the 5 WKSP COY – MST framework – RPS delivers multifaceted support across the following key logistic elements as follows:

- **Control Office (CONOFF):** Responsible for processing urgent demands and managing priority supply workflows to ensure operational readiness.
- **Warehouse Floor:** Conducts issue and receipting functions, maintains governance of stock, and ensures compliance with safety and accountability standards.
- **First Line Supply:** Provides direct support to both 1 AVN REGT and 5 AVN REGT, enabling immediate supply of parts and consumables to maintain aircraft Ao.

These elements operate in close coordination with maintenance personnel from 1 AVN REGT, 5 AVN REGT and 16 ASB, fostering a collaborative environment that ensures supply and maintenance are synchronised. Additionally, MST RPS maintains support to 16 ASB elements in Oakey, functioning as a centralised supply management node under the oversight of the Warrant Officer CONOFF (WOCON). This network is strengthened through engagement with contractors, who provide essential support in warehousing, transport and technical supply functions. However, the evolving operational landscape has presented several challenges including some discussed below.

Organisational Adaptation

The establishment of 16 ASB has required MST RPS to redefine its role and expand its support scope. No longer focused solely on the CH-47F platform, RPS now supports the UH-60M Black Hawk and AH-64E Apache, demanding broader technical knowledge and more complex supply coordination. This shift has necessitated changes in internal processes, training and improved communications to meet the needs of a multi-platform aircraft environment.

RPS for aircraft sustainment requires close partnership with the System Program Offices (SPO) to deliver parts and equipment through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases negotiated with the United States of America. As 5 Wksp Coy conducts maintenance across all army aircraft, there are a large number of bespoke contracts that the team is required to understand and manage.

ERP Transition

The transition from MILIS to ERP has also introduced significant disruptions. Role mapping issues have affected personnel's ability to execute workflows, while stock management and process alignment have suffered due to a lack of familiarity of the system. These challenges are amplified in aviation logistics, where precision and speed are critical to safe and timely flying operations. The broader ADF has felt these impacts, but MST RPS has faced unique hurdles due to the complexity of international and local aircraft supply chains.

Force Modernisation

Rapid infrastructure changes at RAAF Townsville have forced RPS to relocate its warehouse from its long-standing location to a temporary facility. This move supports future warehouse capability development for all aviation platforms but has required swift adaptation. Concurrently, RPS has undertaken SOP amendments to improve efficiency and modernise supply operations. These efforts aim to optimise support for exercises and operations through better supply planning, deployable kits and personnel readiness — particularly for high-tempo events like High-Risk Weather Season (HRWS).

Adaptation Through Action – The Fixes

Despite limited resources, MST RPS has implemented the following preventative measures to improve logistical efficiency:

- Organisational adaptation through formalised communication channels and targeted technical training, the revision and optimisation of SOPs to support ERP rollout, and force modernisation driven by streamlined warehouse practices, individual initiatives and critical thinking.
- Internal technical training, workflow mapping development and ongoing SOP development will continue the optimisation process and help bridge the ERP knowledge gap. Localised solutions have been developed to maintain continuity in stock management.
- Cross-training initiatives and platform-specific familiarisation that have improved technical competence. Enhanced liaison with maintenance units ensures better alignment of supply with operational needs.
- Temporary warehouse operations have been stabilised through layout optimisation and strengthened governance. This transition has enabled efficiency gains and the redevelopment of a mature RPS structure that directly supports both aviation line and base maintenance. The overarching goal remains clear: to optimally support rate of effort from a logistics perspective.

Force modernisation will continue over the coming years, as the new warehouse is developed to effectively support platforms operating within Hamel Lines. Importantly, employing and integrating reservists provides a valuable opportunity within this modernisation effort, enhancing workforce flexibility, providing surge capacity & contributing specialised skills across functions.

Conclusion

MST RPS continues to evolve in response to organisational, technological, and infrastructure changes. Through strong relationships, proactive adaptation, and a commitment to excellence, the team remains a cornerstone of aviation logistics. As 16 ASB matures through the implementation of ERP and force modernisation progresses, MST RPS stands ready to meet the demands of a dynamic operational environment — supplying not just parts, but capability.

LT Brendan Corsaro, MST RPS Comd, 5 Wksp Coy, 16 ASB

BREAKING NEWS

DVA News

[What to expect from the Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency](#)



180 participants attended an online Community Town Hall that provided veterans and the families of veterans with an update about the Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency (the Agency).

The Agency is being established in response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and is intended to improve navigation, coordination and connection across the wellbeing system. The Agency will commence operations from 1 July 2026.

From day one, veterans and the families of veterans will be able to access support through a new website, service directory and helpline, with three levels of support planned: self-navigation, guided navigation and more tailored coordination for people with more complex needs. The Agency will provide support for people transitioning out of Defence, with a strong focus on prevention and early intervention, making it easier for serving ADF members, veterans and families to find trusted information, practical help and to access support when needed.

During the Town Hall it was emphasised that the Agency will not replace existing DVA services such as providing access to treatment, compensation, rehabilitation, or income support, and it is not intended to duplicate specialist services or act as an emergency response service but will direct people to urgent support if it is needed. Instead, the Agency will provide a simpler front door to support wellbeing by helping to connect people to the right services, at the right time.

In the first 12 months of operation, the Agency will focus on expanding wellbeing resources, building out the service directory, refining referral pathways and
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strengthening links with other Commonwealth and state and territory entities, Veterans and Families' Hubs and other community support.

If you missed the Town Hall a video recording is available on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/mGeJMR7LcYc>



A highlight of the Town Hall was the high level of engagement from participants. We are still reviewing the questions received and will share a summary of questions and answers on the DVA website soon. More updates about the Agency will be provided ahead of its July launch, including another online Town Hall in June.

More information is available on the DVA website [New wellbeing agency](#)

The Essentials of Warfare

The Soldier. – Army's newest handbook to restore a clear understanding of the Army's purpose & prepare soldiers for future conflict.

[Volume 1](#) sets out the enduring purpose of the Army and the professional obligations of the Australian soldier.

[Volume 2](#) sets out the professional code of honour and conduct expected of Australian Army Generals, articulating the unique authority responsibility, and accountability inherent in Generalship.

[Click here](#) to learn more or read about it in [Army News](#), edition 1605.



Australian War Memorial

[Behind The Memorial's Transformation](#)



A New Anzac is a four-part documentary series which follows the redevelopment of the Memorial.

Filmed over three years, the series offers behind-the-scenes access to the curators, historians, and contemporary veterans shaping how Australia's military and peacekeeping stories are told.

Episode 1: The Australian War Memorial undertakes its largest redevelopment project to date. While preserving the AWM's rich history, the construction teams and staff of the AWM outline the plans for the project.

Episode 2: The new Southern Entrance takes shape as Super-T beams are installed and the Oculus and spiral staircase come to fruition, ahead of the official opening.

Episode 3: Preparations for the first Remembrance Day on the new Parade Ground culminate in a Victoria Cross ceremony, as the team race to complete Anzac Hall by year's end.

Episode 4: Over 30,000 people gather at the AWM for Anzac Day 2025, as the Chinook helicopter makes a 40km journey to its new home and 4000 objects are moved into the new gallery spaces.

Watch it now on [SBS Demand](#).



Australian War Memorial

RSL News

The following is an extract from a group email sent by the RSL's Peter Tinley on 25 May 2026.



New DVA Legislation

On 1 July, three pieces of legislation collapse into one. The Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, the DRCA and the MRCA are replaced by a single ongoing Act, an improved version of the MRCA. Every new claim lodged from 1 July onwards will be assessed under that one Act.

A few things worth noting.

If your claim is lodged before 1 July, nothing changes. You stay under the current arrangements. If you receive income support, the service pension, the income support supplement, or the Veteran Payment, that does not change either. DRCA incapacity recipients move across to MRCA automatically and no one lodges again.

DVA estimates around 10,000 veterans and their dependants will be directly affected in the first year.

The practical advice. If you are thinking about a claim, and you think the current system suits your circumstances better than the new one, talk to a free advocate or your sub-branch before 30 June. DVA's BEST Grants program, which funds free advocates, was substantially expanded in this Budget round. It's there to be used.

Also on 1 July, the new Veteran Wellbeing Agency opens its doors with \$78 million in establishment funding. Its job is to coordinate the front door for veterans and families in distress, and to co-design programs with the sector rather than impose them from above.

Funeral benefits have also lifted. \$3,000 is now automatic. Up to \$14,062 is available for service-related deaths.

DVA will run explainer material across June. I will keep you updated in this newsletter as detail lands.

The Allied Health Cap



The Budget announcement included a \$5,000 annual cap on allied health services for Veteran Card holders, covering physiotherapy, psychology, occupational therapy, podiatry and exercise physiology, starting 1 July 2027.

The Government's reason is because of overservicing by some providers. That may be real in parts of the system, but many veterans live with complex, chronic conditions where this care is not discretionary. It is what keeps them functional.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will fund services above the cap where there is a valid clinical need, but the exemption process is not yet designed or public. We have written to the Minister about this, and we are working across Parliament so non-Government parties understand the real impact.

There is a Senate Estimates hearing on 2 June that will give Senators the chance to question DVA directly. We will be listening carefully and will report back.

Legislation is still required to implement this, and we are pushing for a targeted approach that deals with overservicing without punishing veterans who depend on these services.

[Read about what we're doing](#) and have your say. Your story is what moves decision-makers.



Army Apprentices

New Newsletter

The Army Apprentice Association released their latest newsletter, *The Apprentice About*, in May. You can find it online by [clicking here](#).



80th Anniversary Pre-planning

2028 will mark the 80th anniversary of the Army Apprentice Scheme. The Apprentice Association Committee is starting to plan an event to celebrate this milestone. Details will follow but it is likely to be in Bandiana. Details are on page 1 of the above newsletter.



RCEME Craftsmen behind the Kangaroo APC

One of the lesser-known but most innovative achievements of the Second World War was the development of the Kangaroo Armoured Personnel Carrier, a concept that helped save countless Allied lives during the Normandy Campaign. In August 1944, as preparations were underway for Operation Totalize, Canadian commanders recognised the need to transport infantry under armour alongside advancing tanks. The task of converting 72 M7 Priest self-propelled guns into armoured personnel carriers within just a few days fell to the soldiers and technicians of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME). Under the leadership of



Major George Wiggan and an ad hoc workshop detachment known as "Kangaroo," more than 250 RCEME and REME tradesmen worked around the clock to complete the conversions, delivering the vehicles in time for the operation.

The success of the Kangaroo was immediate. Capable of carrying 10–15 fully equipped infantry soldiers, the converted vehicles allowed troops to advance protected from small-arms fire and shell splinters while maintaining pace with armoured formations. Supporting these vehicles in combat was equally challenging, leading to the establishment of a dedicated Kangaroo Light Aid Detachment under Captain W.T.E. "Dunc" Duncan. RCEME personnel kept the Kangaroos operational through the battles of Normandy, the liberation of the Channel ports, the advance into Germany, and the crossing of the Rhine. Their ingenuity extended beyond repairs, including modifying captured German equipment to transport spare engines and maintaining a growing fleet of specialised armoured carriers.



The Kangaroo concept proved so successful that it became the forerunner of the modern Armoured Personnel Carrier. On 11 May 1945, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Canadian Armoured Carrier Regiment reflected that the unit had "been instrumental in saving the lives of countless soldiers who, without the Kangaroos, would have had to advance on foot unprotected from enemy fire." The contribution

of RCEME soldiers to this achievement was recognised through the award of Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) to Major George Wiggan, Captain Bert Hargrave and Captain Dunc Duncan. Their story remains a powerful example of the Corps' enduring motto, *Arte et Marte – With Skill and Fighting*.

This article is based on research and historical accounts published by the RCEME Corps and wartime records of the Kangaroo workshops and Light Aid Detachments. Read the full story by [clicking here](#) or take a more recent look on [YouTube](#).

Top two images: Ram Kangaroo APCs. Lower image: Kangaroo APCs with troops on the evening prior to Operation Totalize
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REME Connecting Members

REME recently released their monthly newsletter, [The Craftsman](#), with some big news in it.



REME have recently announced that they will amend publication of their magazines from monthly to 2-monthly from August until the end of the year. From 2027, they will publish as follows:

- February
- March
- April/May combined
- June
- July
- August/September combined
- October
- November/December combined.

To maintain comms with serving and retired members, they will be introducing a new app called *REME Connect*. This is only accessible by serving and former REME members.

Further details may be found at: <https://remeconnect.org/app>

Are you an app developer?

If so, take a look at this app to see if we could come up with something similar for RAEME. It could be a great way to help serving and retired members as well as all Associations to remain connected.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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 [RSL LifeCare](#), [Soldier On](#) and more.

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

June

Mon 15 th	Toowoomba, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the Toowoomba Australian Football Club
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at the PCYC Shoalhaven 72 Park Road, Nowra
	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Tues 16 th	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Brookvale, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
16 th – 17 th	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
	Melbourne, Vic	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
	Weds 17 th	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
17 th – 18 th	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
	Elizabeth, SA	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
Thurs 18 th	Perth, WA	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
Mon 22 nd	Online	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
	Queanbeyan, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Tues 23 rd	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
	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
23 rd – 24 th	Brookvale, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Wagga Wagga, NSW	Open Arms – Connected Couples	A practical group program that helps couples strengthen connection, improve communication and manage conflict in safe and constructive ways.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

June continued

23 rd & 25 th	Online	Open Arms – Managing Pain (2 days)	A program to help you learn about effective pain management strategies
Weds 24 th	Townsville, Qld	Invictus – Indoor Rowing Program	Indoor rowing program at Mates4Mates, Townsville
	Minmi, NSW	Invictus – Trekkers	Enjoy an approximately 5km loop trail walk Blue Gum Hills Park Minmi
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Reformer Pilates	Get ready to transform your body and mind at the Northy Flow -Reformer Pilates – \$10
24 th – 25 th	Brisbane, Qld	Open Arms – Stepping Out	Increase the awareness of important wellbeing, personal and social adjustment factors and to support ADF members and partners as they are transitioning, or who have transitioned, from the military to civilian life
Thurs 25 th	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Wagga Wagga, NSW	Invictus – Yoga – Riverina	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Sat 27 th	Hawkesbury, NSW	Invictus – True Grit	A 10km military-inspired obstacle course
Sat 27 th	Mount Cotton, Qld	EOI – Invictus – Tough Mudder	World-class obstacles, mud, teamwork and plenty of laughs.
Mon 29 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
Tues 30 th	Maitland, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Brookvale, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation

July

Weds 01 st	Port Stephens, NSW	Invictus – Discover Sailing	Get hands-on with the sails, learn the basics of navigation, or simply relax and enjoy the breathtaking views
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Reformer Pilates	Get ready to transform your body and mind at the Northy Flow -Reformer Pilates – \$10
Thurs 02 nd	Kiama, NSW	Invictus – Come and Try Table Tennis	Learn new skills, build confidence, and most importantly – have fun
	Nowra, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
	Online	Open Arms – Recovery from Trauma	A program to help understand and manage the impact of trauma on you and your family
Sat 04 th	Kilmore, Vic	Invictus – Team Veteran Park Run	You can walk, jog, run, volunteer or watch.
Mon 06 th	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Tues 07 th	Brookvale, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Mon 13 th	Adelaide, SA	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
Tues 14 th	Brookvale, NSW	Invictus – Yoga	Yoga sessions for stretching and relaxation
16 th & 17 th	Melbourne	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
17 th & 18 th	Adelaide	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
	Perth	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better
Sat 18 th	Online	Open Arms – Managing Anger	A program to help you understand your anger better

MEMBER GUIDANCE

Pay and Conditions Updates

On 7 May 2026, a [new Determination](#) introduced changes that: updated the requirements for live-in carers, added the Partner Employment Assistance Program (PEAP) to PACMAN extended eligibility for the bereavement payment to Reserves members, and increased the threshold for claiming overseas commuting costs. Below is a breakdown of what's changed and how it may affect you.

Live-in guardian residential rules expanded

A recognised other person (ROP) is someone who lives with you but is not part of your recognised family, such as a live-in carer or elderly parent you support.

The rules now allow a ROP who is a live-in guardian for your child to live with either:

- you and your child in the housing benefit location
- your child in the home you lived in at your previous housing benefit location.

You may be eligible if you're a single parent or if your partner:

- has a chronic illness or disability
- is serving at a different primary service location
- is living away from the family home.

You'll need to [add the guardian as a recognised other person](#) before you can get the benefit.

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 1 Pt 3 Div 1 of PACMAN](#).

Partner Employment Assistance Program

The Partner Employment Assistance Program helps partners of ADF members claim up to \$1,500 each financial year towards eligible professional employment and training costs.

Information about the program is now included in [Ch 8 Pt 8 of PACMAN](#).

Find out how to [apply and check your eligibility](#).

Bereavement payment extended to families of Reserves

If a member dies while on Reserve service, or while scheduled to be on Reserve service, a financially dependent person may be eligible for a bereavement payment.

The payment is made over 4 fortnights and is equal to the Reserve daily rate multiplied by 56. This is around 8 weeks of pay if they worked one full day a week.

To learn about the support available when a member dies in service, visit the [Defence Members and Families website](#).

If you need support and would like to talk to someone, call Open Arms on 1800 011 046 to speak with counsellors and staff who understand veteran and military culture.

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 11 Pt 3 of PACMAN](#).

Overseas commuting costs threshold increased

If you're on a long-term overseas posting and you travel to work on public transport, you may be eligible for assistance with your travel costs for up to 213 days each year.

Once annual public transport expenses exceed \$1,452.66, members can claim the remaining costs. The threshold increased from \$1,434.24 to \$1,452.66 on 7 May 2026.

Find out more about [help with commuting costs](#) for members on long-term posting overseas.

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 15 Pt 3 Div 2 of PACMAN](#).

Benefits that support your partner's career while you serve

Defence provides many benefits for ADF members, but did you know some could also help your partner maintain and grow their career while they support your ADF service?

The Partner Employment Assistance Program (PEAP) allows eligible partners of ADF members to claim up to \$1,500 per financial year for approved professional employment and training costs.

Eligibility

Before your partner applies for PEAP, it's important to make sure you both meet the eligibility criteria.

As the ADF member, you must:

- be performing continuous full-time service (CFTS) as a member of the Permanent Forces or Reserves
- be posted to a location within Australia.

Your partner must:

- be listed as your resident family in PMKeyS
- live in Australia
- not be a member of the Permanent Forces or Reserves performing CFTS.

Whether your partner is accompanied resident family (ARF) or unaccompanied resident family (URF), they still meet the criteria. However, before you can list your partner as resident family, you need to

have your relationship recognised by Defence.

To find out more about what you can claim, how to claim and the potential impacts on your tax, please [click here](#) to visit the official Defence site, [click here](#) to visit the Defence Partner Employment Assistance Program page or [click here](#) to access the relevant section of PACMAN.



IN ONE PAGE – How To Build Healthy Movement Habits After Service

Transitioning out of the Defence Force can see veterans face a range of new challenges and adjusting to a new fitness mindset can be tricky to manage – starting with the basics is a good step forward.

Exercise can play a key role in supporting a veteran who is adjusting to their new “normal” following their transition out of the military.

As fitness is common to both those in the military and in the community – although the intensity and purpose may differ greatly – it can be used to help gently reintegrate veterans with life outside of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and adapt to a new identity.

However, re-learning the cultural norms of undertaking exercise post-military can be challenging, and understanding the foundations of movement, with the right support, can help.

Rethinking your approach to exercise

Military uses exercise to train you to be fit and functional on a battlefield, and while civilians don't need to train to this level, it can be difficult for veterans to unlearn this behaviour.

Veterans are therefore susceptible to what's known as the “boom-bust” cycle, potentially due to the cultural fitness norms adopted within the ADF.

The “go hard or go home” attitude perpetuates the idea that every session must be high-intensity and taking it easy is seen as “weak”, so let's look at this boom-bust cycle:

- **Boom:** You feel great; you've recovered from an injury or time off from exercising post-Defence, and you decide you need to catch up to others from your unit or where you think you ought to be if you hadn't left the military.
- **Bust:** The result is you push yourself harder than your body is ready for, and you reinjure yourself or suffer over-training fatigue. The injury or fatigue is severe enough to prevent you from doing your normal training or regular daily tasks, which can lead to feelings of depression or anxiety. You may experience frustrations with your body and thoughts of it being “too weak” and that you will “never return to my old fitness levels”, etc.

The solution is to relearn new habits around exercise which will allow you to pace yourself slowly into training, diversify your exercise types away from just running and weights, adjust your cultural views of exercise, and learn to listen to your body and train how you feel on the day (called intuitive movement).

The benefits of relearning your fitness habits

More balanced exercise and movement behaviours and beliefs may help veterans to:

- reduce injuries
- improve enjoyment of exercise
- reduce pain and improve quality of life
- improve participation in exercise and physical activity
- expand your social and professional networks
- reduce and delay the risk of diseases of older age (i.e., heart disease, neurodegenerative conditions, osteoporosis, etc.).

How to shift away from the military mindset

Relearning new fitness habits after transitioning out of the Defence Force can be difficult if you have lived your entire adult life in the uniform.

Identifying and questioning behaviours which may be functional to keep you safe on a battlefield but no longer serve your civilian life (e.g., pack-marching 15km) is a helpful way to reflect on what is useful or enjoyable for your new life and what is not.

Take the time to actively seek out and engage in civilian activities, exercises and lifestyles which support your personal values, such as spending time with family, freedom and fitness for travel, reducing the impact of disease on your quality of life, etc.

It is also important to have patience with yourself and understand that this is a time of transition, and structures in your brain are changing and adapting to your new environment and culture.

Think of the time and training it took you to become accustomed to military culture – how long might it take you to adjust back?

An exercise professional, like an exercise physiologist or physiotherapist, can help with this process, guiding you in a more balanced and healthier way that supports long-term health and wellbeing.

Psychology or counselling support may also help you identify beliefs or behaviours which no longer serve your new life.

Support at Mates4Mates

Mates4Mates have a range of [physical rehabilitation](#) services available to support your return to exercise, including appointments with an exercise physiologist or physiotherapist and group exercise classes, as well as [mental health](#) support through psychology and counselling.

Group-based clinical programs and workshops are also available, designed to improve your relationship with and understanding of exercise, and assist in transition. This includes the [Foundations of Movement Program](#) which will open for expressions of interest in July for its August intake.

To find out how Mates4Mates can help support you, reach out to us on 1300 4 MATES (1300-462-837) for a confidential chat.

For more information on exercising right for your health and wellbeing, the [Exercise Right](#) website is a useful resource.

This article was written by Andrew Crawshaw, [Mates4Mates](#) Exercise Physiologist. You can find it by [clicking here](#).

Mates4Mates is a registered charity actively changing the lives of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, impacted by service. They provide a [range of services](#) tailored to all aspects of health and wellbeing.

MATES4MATES
Here for those impacted by service.

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:

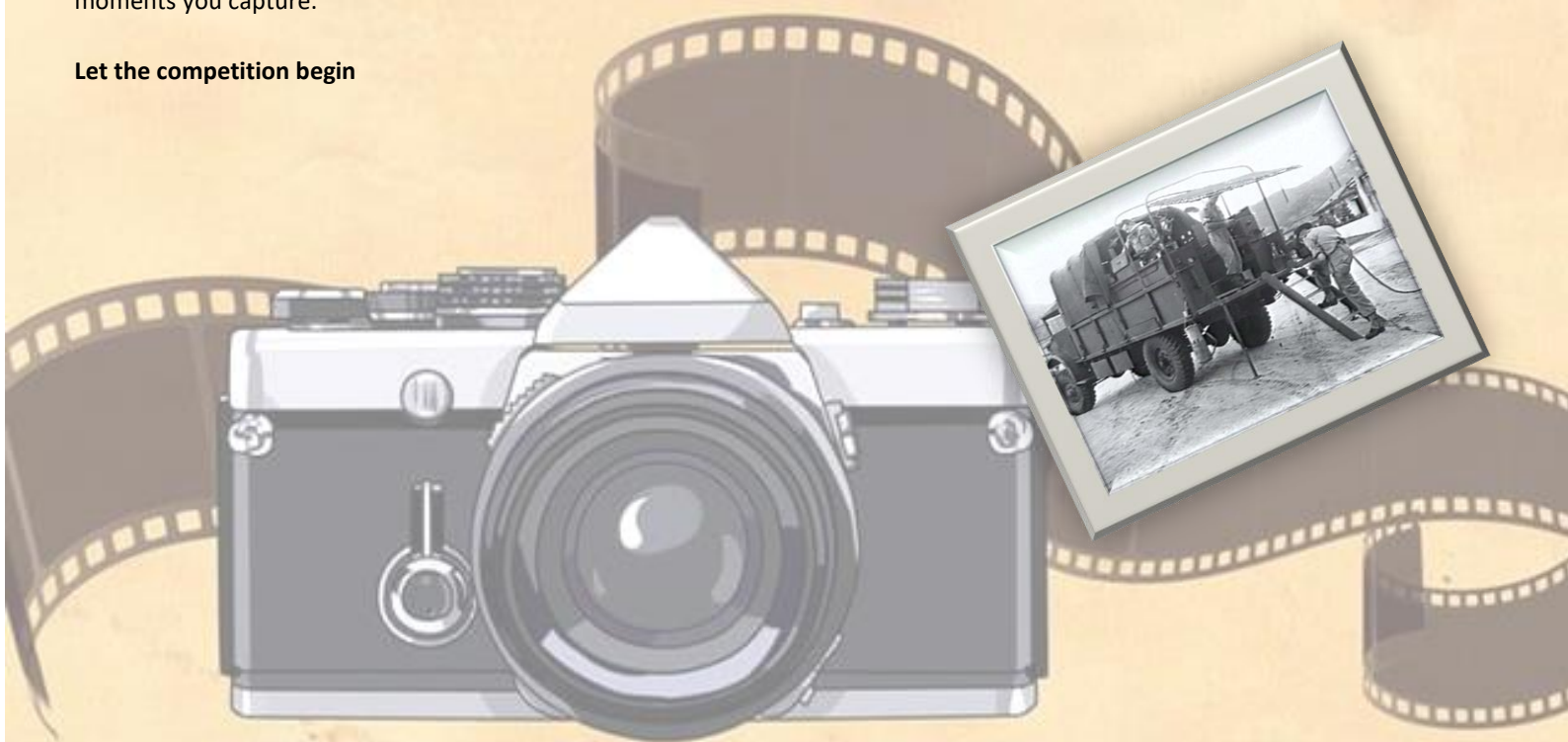
<https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter/article-submission>.

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](#).

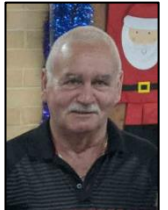
415535 Corporal Brian HOLMES retd

Brian sadly passed away on 03 June 2026, aged 77 years old. He served as a Corporal in RAEME as a member of the Citizen Military Force (CMF). Brian was a member of the National Servicemen's Assn as well as a Committee Member of the SA RAEME Association for many years standing. Brian's funeral will be held on Monday 22nd June at 10.30 am at the [Alfred James Funeral Home](#), 105 Prospect Rd, Prospect, SA.



525838 WO1 Ron BROWN retd

Ron passed away on 29 May 2026 in Perth. Ron enlisted on 11 June 1968 and served for over 21 years. He served in South Vietnam as a Sergeant with 4 Fd Regt LAD and later with artillery support units 'A' Battery, 12th Field Regiment LAD, 1971 and later attained the rank of WO1 where he served as ASM 1 Armoured Regt, before discharging on 9 July 1989. Ron's funeral service will be held on 19 June 2026 at the Fremantle Cemetery from 12:30pm.



242724 Major Harry COLE retd

Harry passed away at Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick at on 1 Jun 2026. Harry started his career as a 7th Intake Army Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic and gave many years of valuable service to RAEME and the Army over 24 military postings. He rose to the rank of Major. Harry was exceedingly loyal to his staff. If any were in trouble, he would go the extra distance to assist them. He is survived by his wife Judy, sons Anthony, Paul and Peter, with their families.



38498 Sergeant Robert "Bob" ZITZELBERGER retd

Bob passed away on 21 March 2026. Bob served with several aviation units, as an airframe fitter, but importantly in 161 (Indep) Recce Flt from 10 May 1967 until 21 May 1968 as a Corporal Airframe Fitter, and then again from 01 July 1970 until 04 February 1971, as a Sergeant Airframe Fitter. He received a Mention in Despatches for his service in SVN and had a deep involvement with the rebuild of a US Army "Bird Dog" aircraft, known as Bunny II.



38910 WO2 Brian Thomas 'Bung' REARDON retd

Bung passed away peacefully in Toowoomba on Tuesday 26 May 2026, aged 84, following a courageous battle with cancer. Brian served with distinction, including during the Vietnam War where he deployed with 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance as the unit's Radio Sergeant. Brian maintained a lifelong connection to Army Aviation and military history through his work at the Army Flying Museum at Oakey. Brian and his late wife Judy were well known and respected within the RAEME and veteran community for their friendship, loyalty, and camaraderie.



316073 Captain Stevan VUJOVIC retd

Stevan passed away at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, on 22 May 2026 following a stroke, aged 69 years. Stevan commenced his Army career as a member of the 28th Intake Electronics Technician, graduating in 1975. He later graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, in the June 1980 class. During his service, he served with both RAEME and the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) before transitioning to the Army Reserve (ARES) in 1986.



Sick Parade

We have received notifications that the following Corps members are facing significant health concerns at the moment.

Colonel Larry FOLEY retd

Larry had a fall on a slippery boat ramp on 15 May 2026. This resulted in a broken femur. Larry is however in good spirits especially now that he is home under the care of his wife, Margerete, his children and his grandchildren.

WO1 Russ CLIFFE retd

Russ has returned home (Gladstone) after the hospital stay that followed his stroke in May. He has a long way to go to regain his mobility but he is in good hands with the wonderful, Leissa. Russ welcomes any calls from his RAEME family – 0413-732-917.

How to provide welfare notifications

You can provide any welfare notifications on the [RAEME Welfare Notification page](#).



Ladies and Gentlemen of RAEME,

It gives me great pleasure to stand before a Corps whose very existence proves that the Army runs not merely on courage and discipline, but on ingenuity, grease, and the occasional well-aimed hammer. You are the craftsmen of capability — the ones who keep the wheels turning, the engines humming, and the rest of the Army moving forward rather than walking home.

Now, I am told that your Corps newsletter bears the rather splendid title *Maintenance Matters*. I must say, it's a name that leaves no room for doubt — though I suspect it also serves as a gentle reminder to certain officers that maintenance does, in fact, matter. It is a publication that celebrates the skill, humour, and resilience that define RAEME, and it deserves to be filled with the stories only you can tell.

Each of you carries a trove of experiences — moments of triumph, improvisation, and sheer mechanical wizardry. Whether you've rebuilt a gearbox in the rain, coaxed a reluctant generator back to life, or fashioned a repair from nothing but wire, wit, and willpower, these are tales worth sharing. They are the living history of your Corps, and they remind us all that excellence is not born of comfort, but of challenge.

I therefore urge every serving member to contribute to *Maintenance Matters* with the greatest of haste. Do not wait for someone else to tell your story — write it yourself. Send in your accounts of ingenuity and adventure, your reflections on service, and even your lighter moments. For humour, I assure you, is as vital to morale as oil is to machinery. You will strengthen not only the Corps' record but its spirit — the enduring fight to maintain humour, pride, and unity among those who serve.

So, my challenge to you is simple: take up your pens as you would your spanners, and set to work. Let *Maintenance Matters* become the workshop of your words — a place where stories are repaired, polished, and passed on to those who will follow. In years to come, when new generations read of your exploits, they will know that RAEME was a Corps of storytellers, innovators, and custodians of the Army's beating heart.

May your engines run smoothly, your humour never falter and your submissions arrive promptly.

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

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