

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

EDITION 07 – AUGUST 2026



Above: The late WO2 Ryan Leslie recovering a vehicle in WBTA when he was the 7 CSSB WORM. Photo provided by Mrs Tara Leslie.

Left: The late CFN Brendon Payne. This photo was captured from a video of Brendon who was towing a recovered vehicle on exercise. It was shared by Dylan Pearce.

What's Inside this Edition

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.....	2
OUR CORPS TODAY	4
OUR PEOPLE.....	7
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	9
RAEME NATIONWIDE	13
IMPENDING EVENTS.....	19
DEFENCE NEWS.....	22
OUR UNITS	24
BREAKING NEWS.....	26
MEMBER GUIDANCE	27
WELFARE MATTERS	29

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Five years on — Remembering Ryan and Brendon

On 30 August 2026, the RAEME family will mark five years since the tragic deaths of Warrant Officer Class Two Ryan Leslie and Craftsman Brendon Payne.

Ryan and Brendon lost their lives on 30 August 2021 while participating in a military exercise near the Townsville Field Training Area. Their deaths were deeply felt throughout the Australian Army, particularly among their families, friends, colleagues and the wider RAEME community.

Ryan had served in the Australian Army for more than 22 years and had deployed to East Timor and the Solomon Islands. At the time of his death, he was serving with the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment. His colleagues remembered him as a genuine leader, a mentor, a consummate professional and a bloody good Recovery Mechanic who cared deeply for his soldiers. His energy, humour and larger-than-life personality made him a much-loved member of every workshop and unit in which he served.

Brendon joined the Army in March 2020 and was undertaking his first posting with the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment after completing his training. Although his Army career had only just begun, he had already earned the respect and friendship of those around him. His mates remembered his strength, determination, cheeky smile and willingness to do whatever he could to help others. He was someone with skills you would expect from a much more senior soldier. He was a kind man.

In the years since their passing, the Corps has continued to honour Ryan and Brendon and to support the families and friends who carry their memory. A permanent memorial rest stop was established near the accident site on the Dotswood–Mingela Road, providing a quiet and safe place where visitors can pause, reflect and remember.

The memorial was made possible through the generosity of the extended RAEME family, which contributed approximately \$45,000 towards its construction. Designed and built with the involvement of RAEME personnel, and developed in close consultation with Ryan and Brendon's wives and families, it carries individual plaques and incorporates a seat and a place for visitors to leave messages.

On 30 August 2023, the second anniversary of their deaths, the memorial was formally unveiled by the Leslie and Payne families, supported by senior Australian Defence Force representatives, local dignitaries and members of the wider military community. Since then, it has become an enduring place of remembrance and a tangible expression of the respect and affection held for both men.

Five years may have passed, but for many it may still seem like only yesterday that the tragic news of Ryan and Brendon's passing was received. The passage of time does not diminish the loss experienced by their families, friends and mates, nor does it lessen the importance of remembering two soldiers whose service, character and friendship had such an influence upon those fortunate enough to know them.

For the RAEME family, their memorial is more than timber, concrete, chains and plaques. It represents mateship, service and the commitment that those we lose will continue to be remembered. It also provides a place where stories can be shared, memories preserved and future generations reminded of the people behind the names.

As the fifth anniversary approaches, members of the Corps are encouraged to pause and remember WO2 Ryan Leslie and Craftsman Brendon Payne—not only for the tragedy of their loss, but for the lives they lived, the service they gave and the lasting impression they left upon their families, friends and fellow soldiers.

Arte et Marte

Rest in Peace — Ryan and Brendon.



To remember two mates and to share in the fellowship that continues to surround their families and their memory, the North Queensland Recovery fraternity warmly invites all family, friends and colleagues of Ryan and Brendon to join them for a Memorial Service.

This will be held at the [RAEME Recovery Mechanics Memorial](#) on Dotswood–Mingela Road from 1030-1200h on Sunday, 30 August 2026. Those attending will then gather after the service at the Twin City Hotel in Thuringowa.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Vale Brian Touhy

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Brian Touhy — known affectionately as “BT” or “2E” — a larger-than-life mate whose enthusiasm for service, friendship and adventure defined his decades within the Corps. Brian first joined the CMF in 1975 as a Craftsman at 107 Field Workshop, Warradale Barracks, shortly after completing his Fitter and Turner apprenticeship with General Motors Holden. He quickly embraced Army life as part of the Citizen’s Military Force (CMF). Promotion came quickly for Brian. As a Corporal, he held the position of PMC of the OR’s Mess, where he became known for running outstanding functions and bringing people together.

Brian continued his CMF career in the GE Platoon, progressing to SSGT. In around 1982-83, to the surprise (and disappointment) of many, Brian decided to transfer to the Regular Army. Despite being required to take a reduction in rank back to CPL, he accepted the challenge without hesitation. After completing trade training at the RAEME Training Centre in Bandiana, he posted to Puckapunyal Workshop Company, where he commented that his first year felt like a test to prove himself because he hadn’t come through Apprentice School. He had no concerns with proving not only his technical ability but also his passion for our Corps. From there he served in

Darwin, Bandiana, MAS (Sydney) and Townsville, always approaching life with his trademark energy and sense of adventure.

Brian’s dedication and professionalism saw him promoted to WO1, and later to CAPT — after many achievements of which he was immensely and justifiably proud. After retiring, he and his wife, Brenda, set off around Australia in their caravan, eventually returning to Adelaide where they reconnected with the local RAEME community and became regulars at both RAEME-SA and 107 Bluebell Club events. True to form, even retirement brought memorable stories — including the infamous Flinders Ranges trip where BT accidentally filled his diesel tank with AdBlue, destroying the fuel system in spectacular fashion! It was a costly mistake he would later come to joke about.

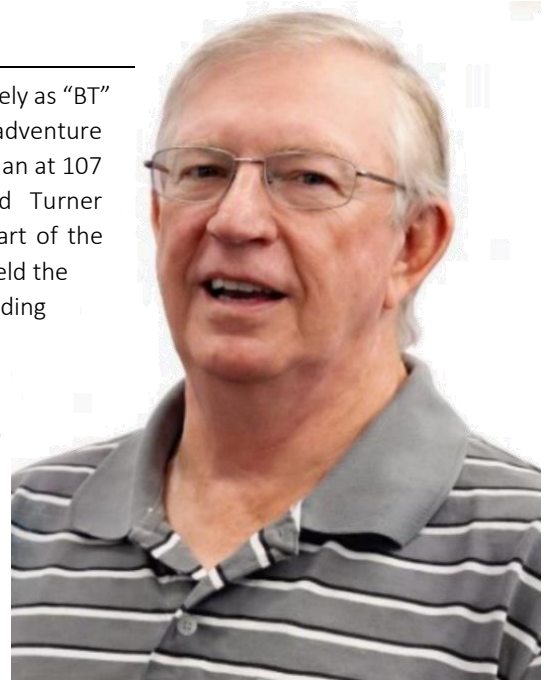


Brian later accepted a role with Joint Logistics Unit – South, settling back into civilian life with ease. Their sons Brad (who lives in New Zealand) and Ben (in Western Australia) built families of their own, and in late 2025 Brian and Brenda moved to WA to be closer to Ben and their grandchildren. Around this time Brian was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, which slowed him down a bit but never dampened his spirit. After a wonderful trip to New Zealand to visit Brad and his family, Brian suffered a fall at home. Tests revealed advanced lung cancer that had already spread to his brain. He was given only weeks to live and passed away shortly thereafter.



Brian will be remembered as a proud RAEME soldier, and a terrific enthusiast for the Corps who was actively involved in the RAEME Association. He was a founding member of the North Queensland Association who even helped design the Association emblem.

Brian was also a devoted family man, and a mate whose humour, generosity and zest for life left a lasting mark on everyone who served alongside him.



The RAEME family extended its deepest condolences to Brenda, Brad, Ben and their families as well as to all of his mates and those in the Corps he inspired throughout his career. Arte et Marte. Rest in Peace, 2E.

OUR CORPS TODAY

The following report was extracted from an email provided by the Corps RSM on 10 Aug 2026. Additional information for serving Corps members may be found on the RSM's page on the Defence Protected Network (Objective number: [fBQ17265966](#)).

Points addressed in this report include:

- Health and wellbeing check – mates
- Regimental Members of the Corps
- RAEME Corps EOIs and Positions
- Notable Promotions
- Corps Awards
- Corps Conference – Heavy
- St Eligius Competition
- Farewells
- Recognition of Service Documentation
- Corps Subscriptions
- Course Information
- Employment Category Managers
- Corps Port

Health and wellbeing check – mates

After a personal scare recently (minor Heart Attack (old age thing)), it became very evident that I had not done some of the things / behaviours I preach; checking in on others and yourself. At all stages in life there will be a moment where you should take the time to consider what's important.

I ask all of you after reading this today to reach out to someone and ask if they are okay.

None of us are bulletproof, nor will the majority of us tell others we are hurting (mentally or physically). Accepting help or even simply picking up the phone can alleviate someone's doubt and may be the catalyst they need to ask for further assistance.

We are a Corps that prides itself on 'Esprit de Corps'; now is the time to step up and show it.

Regimental Members of the Corps

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Corps has lost some very high performing Warrant Officers, which has led to a massive gap between the RSM cohort and the Warrants. We as a Corps have reached a critical decision point: do we actually want a Regimental Stream (definitely my preference) or rely purely on ASMs to fill the roles as part of the Head of Corps Function.

For those not aware, the RAEME Corps Instruction Two states 'The Corps RSM is assigned to the RSM ASEME'. History now shows this is no longer a prerequisite; as such, we will have the Corps Instruction changed. The Corps Instruction allows a Corps Warrant Officer to be appointed only if a non-RAEME RSM fills the RSM ASEME. For the (now) third time in the Corps' history, we will be enacting this clause.

Any members interested in undertaking the Regimental pathway, please contact me. I wish to build a list for people who follow after to me IOT ensure support and engagement is continued.

Some ideas I have considered (trade and regimental):

- **Recommended Postings:** How do they align with the MAE? What position gives you the greatest chance of succeeding at CMB? This could help improve interest and fill historically underrepresented postings and/or positions.
- **Career Pathway Promotion:** Sharing information on the various career progression options available to members may encourage broader professional development and help individuals shape their future within the Corps.
- **Corps Mentorship Program:** A structured initiative pairing junior members with experienced personnel to provide guidance and exposure beyond their immediate role. While this would require commitment beyond normal duties and may face engagement challenges, it has the potential to deliver long-term value if implemented effectively.
 - Note that the ASM-L & ASM-A have begun a mentoring program for ASMs.

RAEME Corps EOIs and Positions

A stalwart of the HOC Cell, WO1 Dave Clarke, will be stepping down as the editor of the Craftsman Magazine. Dave provided 15 years of service to the magazine, something we may never see again. With this in mind, the HOC Cell is looking for a SERCAT 3/5 member willing to take on the role (40-50 ARTD/year). Please submit an EOI to me via email.

I have received a few EOIs for ECN 418; however I still require EOIs for ECN 411 & ECN 412 for a two-year tenure commencing CMC27. If you have an interest, please email me directly and I will send the EOI template.

Notable Promotions

The below is not to discount the fact that all promotions are notable, however; these members have risen through the ranks with grit, hard work and dedication. They are amazing gentlemen with great careers ahead of them.

- Director General Logistics – Army – Colonel Kane Wright, on promotion to Brigadier.
- Director General GWEO Land – Colonel Edward Stokes CSC, on promotion to Brigadier.
- Army Marine SPO Director – Lieutenant Colonel Tim Soper, on promotion to Colonel.

Corps Awards

All Corps Award nominations are due to me or raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au NLT 28 Aug 26. This will allow the HOC team to vote and determine award recipients. All award winners will be offered an opportunity to attend the Corps Conference IOT receive their awards with the Corps, or receive them on the Corps Birthday.

OUR CORPS TODAY

Corps Conference – Heavy

Planning is complete, with the Admin Instruction due to be released as soon as HOC signs it. General concept: Welcome BBQ – Tue 13 Oct, Holsworthy Barracks; the conference beginning Wed 14 Oct and wrapping up with a dinner on 14 Oct 26.

I ask for anyone wishing to be farewelled from the Corps and the conference / dinner to please notify me asap. If anyone knows of members unable to attend, but wishing to also be farewelled, please also let me know.

The Conference Agenda is almost finalised (awaiting invited guest confirmations). Once complete, we will ensure it is made available to members. The organisers have confirmed that the use of video and voice will be made available for those unable to attend.

St Eligius Competition

St Eligius Competition is ready to go; the competition has expanded to include the long-forgotten cohort of the Corps (RAEMEAVN). The competition looks very exciting and has gained interest from other Corps and AHQ in its conduct.

Farewells

WO1 Dave Clarke. Those who have worked with Dave or have been on any specialist course within CATW (you'll know), will understand the capability loss to the Corps and ADF. After almost 45 years of military service Dave will be hanging up his greens, DPCU, AMCU, PD's & blue uniforms (RMIT, SMA, WIOT). Dave will be hitting the road with his wife and enjoying caravanning and retirement.

SGT Dave White. I knew Dave quite personally; he sold me his White Mess jacket when I was promoted to SGT (noting his previous ECN and role). He began his ADF career as a Driver in 1992, before seeing the light and undertaking the role of Tech Elec in 2010. Dave is a genuinely great bloke. Anyone who has interacted with him, will understand his passions and dedication. A great loss to the Army. Enjoy life on the other side mate.

WO2 Gary Collins. I had the privilege of working with Gary whilst he was posted to ASEME (VTW and CATW) and to be there when he was promoted to WO2. Gary has wrapped up 21 years within Army, taking time away to rest and recover, making family his priority.

WO1 Ashley Neilson. Ash has wrapped up a 28-year career. He was pivotal in the DFRT into trade and pay review whilst posted to ALTC and ASEME. Ash will now be a full-time farmer, mending fences and herding cows and sheep. Wish you all the best mate (even though you may not see this).

If anyone would like to be recognised (regardless of rank) by the Corps either via these means or at the Corps Conference, please email me directly. I think it's important to recognise all our members regardless of how they transition.

Recognition of Service Documentation

[Corps Instruction Twenty One](#) 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.

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](#) 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 due to:
 - 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 requestor
3. The package is sent via Aus Post (with tracking number). This can take up to 10 working days

Corps Subscriptions

As taken from [Corps Instruction Number Three](#) – RAEME Corps Funds Charter:

Membership in the Corps Fund signifies an individual's willingness to support the Corps efforts in building esprit de corps. Life memberships are sold to individuals willing to support the Corps.

The money received from subscriptions assists with gifts, assistance with welfare support, assistance with funding support for corps related activities & disbursements to the Regional RAEME Representatives. The intent has been (and will continue to be) that the use of the funds being returned to the members should encourage further contributions from non-subscribers.

Since we have reduced the cost per subscription, we have seen a small increase in subscribers; we need more. The more we have, the more we generate, the more we can spend. As an example, if we (as a Corps) wish to have gifts to be presented to members upon their separation from Army (dependent on time served) we need a way to fund it effectively.

Course Information

See the RSM's full report on the Defence Network for details of course availabilities

CATW Course Schedule

See the RSM's full report on the Defence Network for a link to CATW Specialist Courses.

OUR CORPS TODAY

Employment Category Managers

Land: Employment Category and Training Design (formerly Workforce and Training group), HQ ALTC

Following the recent name change, it was necessary to update our group mailboxes. The new mailbox addresses are as follows:

- For all Employment Category Issues/RFIs etc:
raeme.ecm@defence.gov.au
- For all Training Design Issues/RFIs etc:
raeme.training.design@defence.gov.au

This office regularly receives queries concerning Overseas Lateral Transfer members and the gap training requirements identified through the skills assessment process. These matters are often complicated when members compare their respective Letters of Offer (LOO) and note variations in the training requirements or employment conditions applied to individual cases.

As part of the Overseas Service (O/S) lateral transfer process, this office is required to conduct a skills assessment in order to provide the Overseas Lateral Transfer Cell with a recommendation regarding employment suitability. During the assessment process, the candidate's qualifications, experience, rank, and other relevant attributes are mapped against the Employment Specification for the relevant ECN.

The outcome of the assessment is a recommendation for employment (as a Grade 3 Technician or a 013-1 ART LAND), including any proficiencies that can be awarded upon enlistment and the gap training the member is required to complete IOT become fully employable within the category (transition to technician Grade 4 or 013-2).

Note: The identified gap training requirements will vary according to the candidate's qualifications, experience, and the rank at which they are employed.

Engagement with the overseas lateral transfer cell has occurred IOT have the following wording included within the member's LOO (ECN 229 example):

Should the identified training content/courses identified as gap training change between the time of the applicant's initial trade assessment and the applicant's successful enlistment, a request for an update to gap training requirements should be sought from the RAEME Employment Category Advisor at ALTC.

On successful completion of the identified gap training, the member's unit is to advise the RAEME Employment Category Manager (ECM). The RAEME ECM will confirm gap training completion and authorise categorisation of the member to skill grade S002571 Vehicle Technician Grade 4 (ECN 229-4), Pay Grade 6.

If you have any doubts, concerns or RFIs IRT Gap training or proficiencies that are not loaded on a member's profile, send an email through to the ECM email address above.

Note: CMA will only transition a member to Technician Grade 4 or 013-2 upon receipt of a completion of gap training minute from this office endorsed by the SO2 Employment Category.

2026 Corps Port

I was privileged to present bottles of the 2026 Corps Port to the Current Chief of Army and the Outgoing Chief. At the same time, I presented both RSM-As bottles of port. All members expressed their appreciation to the Corps for the gift.

A reminder that Corps Port 2026 sales are due to end on 30 Sep.

WO1 Jon Tynan

RAEME Corps RSM

Jon.Tynan@defence.gov.au

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)



OUR PEOPLE

We Are Family

Across the Corps, service doesn't just shape individuals — it weaves itself through families, passing from one generation to the next like a shared thread of pride, purpose and identity. This new section celebrates those families whose connection to RAEME spans decades, highlighting the sons, daughters, parents, grandparents and siblings who have all worn the Bluebell and carried our values forward. Their stories remind us that RAEME is more than a brotherhood or sisterhood; it is a family in every sense of the word, built on loyalty, craftsmanship, service and the deep bonds formed in workshops, units and deployments. Each month, we will honour these families whose continued service reflects the strength of our Corps and the legacy that lives on through them.

If service to our Corps spans different generations in your family, or even multiple members in the same generation, please share details with us via our online submission portal at: <https://raeme.org.au/publications/newsletter/article-submission>

The Riley Family – A Century of Service

We start this new segment by introducing the Rileys, a family that served our Nation across four generations, including from a period before our Corps was formed. What follows is an adaptation of an article written by Greg Riley.

Military service has shaped the Riley family for more than a century. It is a story that began not with the Corps of RAEME, but on the battlefields of the First World War, where Joseph Riley answered the call to serve Australia in 1915. On 06 Oct 1917, Joseph died of wounds suffered in battle as a member of the 26th Australian Infantry Battalion. He now rests at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.

In April 2012, the Riley family travelled to Belgium to stand beside Joseph's grave and pay their respects. Walking the battlefields of the Western Front and attending the Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux brought history into sharp focus. It was impossible not to reflect on the courage and endurance of those who had served before us. Looking back now, that journey represented far more than a pilgrimage. It quietly linked four generations together and reminded us that service is not simply inherited; it is inspired. Joseph's sacrifice became part of the foundation upon which future generations of service in the Riley family would be built.

In remembrance of Joseph and as a tribute to his sacrifice, Joseph's name will be projected on the exterior of the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory at 0417h on [Friday 15 January 2027](#).



Private Joseph Riley



WO1 Kevin Riley

The Riley family connection with RAEME began with Kevin Victor Riley. After initially serving in the Royal Australian Air Force, he transferred to the Australian Army and the Corps of RAEME in 1958. Over the next eighteen years he built a career that embodied the Corps' reputation for technical excellence, serving in Bandiana, Borneo and Vietnam before retiring as a Warrant Officer Class One, Artificer Electrical. Those who knew him remember not only his professional skill but also the lifelong friendships forged through shared service—relationships that reflected the enduring spirit of the Corps.

Inspired by that example, Kevin's son, Greg Riley, enlisted in August 1966 under the Adult Tradesman Scheme. His career would eventually mirror many aspects of his father's, including operational service in Vietnam. In July 1969, Greg deployed with B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regt Light Aid Detachment (LAD) to Nui Dat. His father was serving nearby with 106th Field Workshop. The opportunity to meet during an active deployment remains one of the most remarkable memories of their combined military service. Adding to that unique experience was Greg's uncle, Donald Riley, who was serving with the Royal Australian Air Force in nearby Vung Tau. Three members of one family serving simultaneously in Vietnam is a privilege few families may have experienced.

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



OUR PEOPLE

Greg's career continued through a variety of technical, instructional and staff appointments, including the Army Apprentice School in Port Moresby, Headquarters 1st Military District, Sydney Workshop Company and the Maintenance Engineering Agency in Melbourne. Looking back as an Artificer Armament after twenty-seven years of service, the greatest constant was never the postings themselves, but the people. Throughout every appointment, RAEME's culture of professionalism, technical mastery and mateship remained its defining strength.

The third generation carried the family tradition forward through Greg's son, Michael Riley. Beginning his military career as a Reservist with the Royal Australian Engineers before transferring to the Regular Army, he found his professional home within RAEME during operational service in East Timor in 1999.

Michael's decision to Corps transfer opened the door to a distinguished career in Army Aviation units, including deployment in 2019 as part of a United States Air Force advisory team supporting the Afghanistan Air Force Rotary Wing Command. Today, he continues to serve with distinction as an Artificer Aircraft Technician, demonstrating the same professionalism and commitment that has characterised each generation before him.

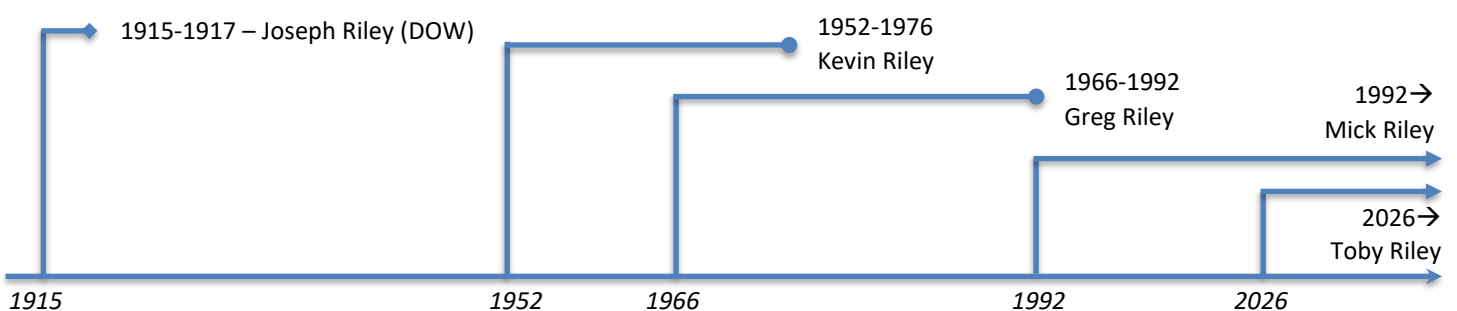
In June 2026, the Riley family's story entered its fourth generation when Greg's grandson, Toby Riley, marched out of Kapooka and commenced training as a Material Technician (Metalsmith). Watching him begin his journey within RAEME has been deeply rewarding. While each generation has served in different conflicts, different technologies and different eras, the values that underpin service have remained remarkably consistent.

Four generations of military service represent far more than an interesting statistic. It represents over a century of commitment, sacrifice and professional service to Australia. From the trenches of the Western Front to the workshops of Vietnam, from Army Aviation to the modern technical trades, the Riley family's story reflects the evolution of both the Australian Army and the Corps of RAEME itself.

Individuals have worn the Corps badge across four generations, but its significance extends beyond any one soldier. It represents a legacy of artisanship, resilience, quiet professionalism and service before self. While equipment, technology and battlefields will continue to change, those values endure. That continuity is the true strength of RAEME, and it is a privilege for our family to have contributed to that story for more than one hundred years.



CFN Toby Riley, WO2 Michael Riley, WO1 Greg Riley



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vietnam Veterans' Day – Honouring Service, Sacrifice and RAEME's Legacy in Vietnam

Each year on 18 August, Australia marks Vietnam Veterans' Day — a solemn occasion that coincides with the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. It is a day to honour the 60,000 Australians who served in Vietnam, the thousands wounded, and the 523 who never returned home. It is also a day to recognise the quiet, essential contributions of those whose work underpinned every mission: the tradesmen, technicians and recovery mechanics of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

RAEME's involvement in Vietnam was deep and indispensable. Across a decade of operations, RAEME soldiers served in every major theatre — Nui Dat, Vung Tau, Saigon and remote fire support bases across Phuoc Tuy Province. They kept vehicles moving, aircraft flying, radios transmitting and weapons functioning in some of the harshest conditions Australian soldiers had ever faced. Their work was often unseen, but never unimportant. Without RAEME, the Army simply could not fight.



Nui Dat, South Vietnam. 1970. RAEME troops of A Sqn, 1st Armoured Regiment working on Centurion tanks at 1st Australian Task Force.

Vietnam presented challenges unlike any conflict RAEME had previously encountered. The tropical environment was unforgiving: monsoonal rain, thick jungle, abrasive dust, humidity that corroded metal and clogged electrical systems, and terrain that punished vehicles relentlessly. Equipment that might have lasted years in Australia could fail within weeks in Vietnam. RAEME tradesmen became masters of improvisation, welding, machining, fabricating and rebuilding with whatever materials were available. They worked under pressure, often in austere conditions, knowing that lives depended on their skill.

RAEME's presence was diverse. Workshops at Nui Dat maintained armoured vehicles, trucks, artillery, generators and small arms. Forward repair teams deployed with infantry battalions and cavalry units, working close to the front line to recover damaged vehicles and restore critical capability. Recovery mechanics risked their lives to retrieve crippled vehicles under fire. Armourers kept weapons functioning in tropical conditions, and instrument technicians ensured artillery remained accurate. Every trade contributed, and every contribution mattered.

Beyond the technical achievements, Vietnam Veterans' Day reminds

us of the human story of service. RAEME soldiers forged bonds that lasted lifetimes. They worked long hours, often in extreme conditions, supporting mates who depended on them. They shared hardships, humour, fear and pride. They built a family within the Corps — one defined not by blood, but by shared experience and unwavering trust.

The reception many Vietnam veterans received upon returning home remains one of the most painful chapters in Australia's military history. Many felt their service was misunderstood or undervalued. For RAEME veterans, who often worked behind the scenes, recognition was even slower to arrive. Vietnam Veterans' Day helps correct that injustice. It ensures that every veteran — infantryman, medic, driver, signaller, gunner, technician or tradesman — is honoured for their service and sacrifice.

Today, RAEME continues to honour its Vietnam veterans through remembrance and storytelling. Many RAEME families have multiple generations who served — some beginning their service in Vietnam and others continuing it in the decades that followed. Their stories remind us that service is often a family tradition, passed down with pride and shaped by the example of those who came before.

As we honour Vietnam Veterans' Day, we recognise that RAEME's legacy in Vietnam is not just one of technical excellence, but of humanity. It is a story of mateship, resilience, ingenuity and quiet professionalism. Today, we remember them. We honour their service. And we ensure their legacy endures.

Arte et Marte



Nui Dat, South Vietnam. 1970. Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) troops from the 161st Independent Recce Flight working on an Army Sioux helicopter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Service to mark 25 years of Australian service in Afghanistan - Canberra

On Sunday, **11 October 2026**, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will conduct a national commemorative service at the Australian War Memorial to mark the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Afghanistan. The service will honour all Australians who served, the families who supported them and the coalition personnel alongside whom they served.

Between 2001 and 2021, more than 35,000 Australians served in Afghanistan and the Middle East Area of Operations in connection with the conflict. Australian personnel contributed to combat operations, reconstruction, mentoring and training, humanitarian assistance and efforts to improve security and stability in Afghanistan and the wider region.



The service will remember the Australians who lost their lives during, or as a result of, their service and acknowledge the lasting physical and mental health impacts experienced by many veterans and their families. Veterans, families and community members are invited to attend the free service in Canberra, with registration required. It will also be broadcast live on ABC iview.

Australians can also participate by attending local commemorative activities, watching the broadcast or contributing a personal reflection to DVA's online Wall of Remembrance. Further information, including registration, accessibility and transport arrangements, is available at www.dva.gov.au/Afghanistan-anniversary



Honouring the Hidden Service National Symposium

HONOURING THE

HIDDEN SERVICE

SYMPOSIUM

RECOGNISING. SUPPORTING. STRENGTHENING.
THE HIDDEN SERVICE OF VETERAN PARTNERS AND FAMILIES.

16 OCTOBER
2026

AUSTRALIAN WAR
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
CANBERRA

0945
TO
1500

TOGETHER,
WE RECOGNISE
THE HIDDEN
SERVICE
BEHIND
THE UNIFORM.

KEY TOPICS INCLUDE:

THE IMPACT OF
MILITARY SERVICE
ON PARTNERS
AND FAMILIES

MENTAL HEALTH,
WELLBEING AND
TRANSITION

CURRENT RESEARCH
AND LIVED
EXPERIENCE

GOVERNMENT
POLICY AND
FUTURE REFORM

BUILDING STRONGER
SUPPORT NETWORKS
FOR VETERAN
FAMILIES

LEST WE FORGET

★ RECOGNISING THEIR STRENGTH. RESPECTING THEIR SACRIFICE. SUPPORTING THEIR FUTURE. ★

PARTNERS OF
VETERANS
AUSTRALIA
— P.V.A. —
STRONGER TOGETHER,
HONoured ALWAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAEME Kokoda

An Invitation from retired RAEME Major Scott Babington to walk in the footsteps of our Nation's heroes.

After leading treks across Kokoda since 2019, I'm proud to have recently launched my own company, Australian Battlefield Treks and Tours (ABTT).

Our aim is simple: to make battlefield tours meaningful, enjoyable, affordable, and professionally led, while ensuring the stories of those who served are never forgotten.

Many of you will remember that on 17 April 2023, RAEME WO2 Paul "Dusty" Miller sadly passed away on the southern slopes of Ioribaiwa Ridge while trekking the Kokoda Track.

During our 2027 ANZAC Kokoda Trek, we plan to install and dedicate a small commemorative plaque at the location where Dusty passed away. It will be a simple and respectful ceremony to honour one of our own. It would be fantastic to have a strong RAEME contingent on the track for this special occasion.

The trek includes:

- ANZAC Day at Bomana War Cemetery
- 11-day Kokoda Trek (9 days on Kokoda – 2 days at the Northern Beaches Battlefields Gona, Buna and Sanananda)
- Professional Australian leadership, experienced PNG guides, quality equipment and a strong focus on the history, mateship and sacrifice that define the Kokoda campaign.
- The ANZAC Day Trek itinerary allows for an extra night at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby. After the Bomana Dawn Service you will return to the Hilton and can choose to either relax by the pool or head to the Papua Royal Yacht Club for lunch and 2-up.

At the end of the trek we will also visit Bomana War Cemetery where we will visit the graves of the RAEME men who are resting there. Having done a fair bit of research into these men, there are some really interesting stories here.

Whether you've always wanted to trek Kokoda or you're looking for an opportunity to commemorate ANZAC Day in a truly meaningful way, we'd love to have you join us.

If you'd like more information, please have a look at the ABTT website or contact Scott via:

- **Mobile:** 0456 620 577
- **Email:** admin@ozbattlefieldtours.com.au
- **Web:** <https://ozbattlefieldtours.com.au/>



Walk in their footsteps.
HONOURING THEIR MEMORY.

**AUSTRALIAN
BATTLEFIELD**
TREKS & TOURS

VETERAN LED • MILITARY HISTORY • MEANINGFUL JOURNEYS

KOKODA – ANZAC 2027
THE TRACK. THE LEGACY. THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC.

 COURAGE Strength in the face of adversity.	 ENDURANCE Pushing limits. Achieving together.	 MATESHIP United in purpose. Stronger together.	 SACRIFICE They gave everything. We remember.
--	---	--	--

13 – 26 APRIL 2027
WITH NORTHERN BEACHES EXTENSION

Lead by Scott & Meg
VETERAN | EDUCATOR | STORYTELLERS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual RAEME Get-Together 2027

The following update was received from the organisers of the 2027 Annual RAEME Get-together.

Dates: 26-28 February 2027

Location: Bjelke Petersen Dam, Moffatdale, Qld

Accommodation: At present all cabins/villas and powered sites have been booked, however there is plenty of room for all types of unpowered camping. There are 5 rooms available near the kiosk. Each room has a double bed, shared amenities and common kitchen. Cost approx. \$70 or alternately, 9 rooms at hotel in Murgon for \$150, shared amenities also.

Meals: Friday – Seafood and salad

Saturday – Pig on spit and desserts

Sunday AM – SAUSAGE Sizzle

NOTE: There will be an ALTERNATE meal for those that don't eat seafood or pork. If you are in this minority group, please let me know for catering purposes.

Cost: \$50pp, this includes all meals provided and a 10th Anniversary pack per couple or one per individual (incl stubby wine cooler and sticker), extras \$5 per pack. The price for all the above has been discounted as per Monty's direction for the Group. Micheal Wilkinson, aka Wilko, will publish the payment details later.

Port: A 10th Anniversary port will also be available for members to order & pay prior to Christmas for \$20 per bottle. Kies winery once again will produce the Ruby port in a 750ml bottle, many members will know how it tastes because they have sampled many a drop from the keg I provide yearly. I will publish payment details later.

Raffle: As already mentioned earlier this year the prize is a \$5000 Flight Centre voucher, donated by Monty. We are looking to have a few more prizes included. Any ideas/donations would be appreciated. The cost per ticket is \$5.

Any questions on any of the above please message me or phone 0488628188. I would ask those attending or still debating to please help the park out by paying for your accommodation prior to arrival. Please contact the BP dam during the week only on 07 4168 4746.

Operation Endurance 2026 – ADF Veterans Mountain Bike Event

Former serving ADF members are invited to join us at the ADF National Cycling Carnival at Mt Stromlo, Canberra, on 14–15 September 2026. Choose to enjoy a social ride with fellow veterans or challenge yourself in the Gravity Enduro Stage Race. FREE coaching from [RideTechnics](#) on 14 September is also included to help build your skills and confidence. [Click here](#) to Register.

To participate you'll need to:

- Be a former serving ADF member
- Have a suitable mountain bike and helmet (full-face helmet required for the Gravity Enduro race)
- Wear the provided event jersey
- Hold current third-party cycling insurance



Invictus Team Australia preselection camp – Canberra

In less than 12 months, Team Australia will proudly wear the green and gold at Invictus Games Birmingham 2027.

In late July, around 50 serving members and veterans gathered at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra for the Team Australia preselection camp. Over four days, participants carried out team activities and played sports featured at next year's Games, while experiencing the powerful role sport can play in recovery, rehabilitation and connection.

The camp marks the first step on the journey to Birmingham for those aspiring to represent Australia on the world stage. Good luck to all participants embracing the challenge and embodying the Invictus spirit.

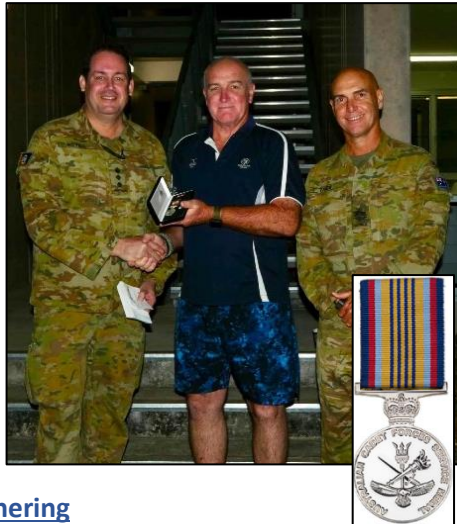


RAEME NATIONWIDE

Service Recognised

Former RAEME boffin, Rick Gorle was recently presented with an Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal in recognition of his 17 years of dedicated service to the Army Cadets.

Well done, Rick!



Sunshine Coast Gathering

The second RAEME Sunshine Coast Chapter casual get-together for 2026 was held on 26 July 2026, with a change of venue to the Brightwater Hotel.

A perfect winter's day allowed the team to gather in the hotel's outdoor undercover area overlooking the beautiful lake. The relaxed setting proved to be an excellent choice and, for the first time, everyone was able to enjoy easy conversation, even as the afternoon progressed and the refreshments encouraged a little more enthusiasm and volume.

Due mainly to the usual winter ailments, attendance was slightly lower than normal, with around 35 members and guests enjoying each other's company. The combination of a new venue, outstanding weather, and great company made this one of our most enjoyable gatherings to date. It was also wonderful to welcome several new faces to the group.



A special thank you goes to Lynette Yates for managing the raffle tickets and expertly keeping everyone organised. Thanks also to Peter Yates and John Dack for their efforts in organising another successful event.

The next Sunshine Coast get-together will be held on 22 November 2026 at the Brightwater Hotel.

Before then, however, we look forward to our Annual Luncheon at the Maroochy RSL on 12 September 2026. The luncheon will feature a three-course Gold Plate meal, a guest speaker, and an update on all things RAEME.



Tickets are \$34.00 per person for RAQ members and \$54.00 per person for non-RAQ members. With the standard meal price being \$64.00, this event is generously subsidised by both RAQ and the Maroochy RSL, making it exceptional value.

This is always a highlight of the year and an afternoon not to be missed. More details will follow shortly; however, tickets are limited to 100, so don't delay. They are available NOW through the RAQ website



RAEME NATIONWIDE

RAEME Association SA Newsletter

The SA Association recently released their latest Association newsletter, the *RAEME-SA Bulletin*.

This edition contains reports on

- Maintenance Matters
- Diary dates
- Vale Notices
- RAEME SA ANZAC Day Function
- ANZAC Day report including REME Vietnam Veterans/members
- Membership reminder/Soldier On
- RAEME Port and Whisky Sales
- OVEL 2026 Rocket league Tournament - Registration now open
- Article from our REME Mates – King's Birthday Parade

Take a moment to check the newsletter out at: <https://sa.raeme.org.au/publications/newsletters>



11 CSSB Recovery on Task

As part of Joint Task Force 629, personnel from 108 Field Workshop, 11 CSSB, assisted the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers with the recovery of a PMV-L during Ex AUSTRAL SHIELD 26 in Far North Queensland.



A late-night task, vehicle technicians and recovery technicians worked together to assess, diagnose and

execute the task, balancing tactical considerations with safety and efficiency.

Spanner Packs – How to Reach or Support the Team

If you are currently deployed on operations, posted overseas, undertaking long-term training, or are aware of a fellow RAEME member in such circumstances, please let us know.

You can do so by reaching out to your Association or by emailing the coordinator at: Spannerpack@qld.raeme.org.au

The team will do their best to organise delivery of a Spanner Pack, ensuring our deployed members receive a reminder that the RAEME family stands firmly behind them.

RAEME ACT

Two events held by the ACT Association included evening drinks at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club on Tuesday 28 Jul and a Spanner Club (and sausage sizzle) at RMC Golf Club on Friday 07 Aug 2026.

Both events were fortunate to have not only the regular retired members in attendance but also some serving members. This gave a great opportunity for all to share in each other's company, as well as sharing some well-cooked snags.

The ACT crew were also fortunate to have Lillie McGlashan from Open Arms in attendance. Lillie is the Community and Peer Advisor for ACT and NSW so she brought with her a deep care for veterans. We look forward to further strengthening Association links with Open Arms to ensure more veterans get the support they may need.

Build a bridge and do what??

As they say, build a bridge and.....fly the tri-colours from it. As recently posted on 21 Const Sqn's Facebook page, that is exactly what the 21 Const Sqn Workshop recently did.

Up the old red rooster!!



RAEME NATIONWIDE

Army Apprentice News

The Army Apprentice association recently released their latest newsletter, *The Apprentice About*.

The "bumper" August 2026 edition of the Australian Army Apprentices Association Newsletter "The Apprentice About" is up on the Association Website. An excellent article from our Secretary Simon Brooks on Kelvin Ferris's (13th Intake Fitter & Turner) experience in Vietnam during the Battle of Coral and Balmoral fills the extra pages out nicely.

This content-rich publication can be viewed online at the AAAA website: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/newsletters/>

Recovery Students of Merit

LCPL Liam Hutchinson (6 ESR) was recently awarded the Student of Merit award following his outstanding performance on a recent Subj 4 CPL Recovery Course.



Likewise, CFN Brandon Choi (8 OSU) demonstrated his leadership potential by taking out the Student of Merit award on the recent Subj 4 CPL RAEME course.



4 CSSB Happenings

The 105th Workshop Company (4 CSSB) team recently had a fantastic turnout at the Geelong Careers Expo alongside 8/7 RVR and ADF Careers. Students loved exploring ADF pathways, trying on tactical gear, and checking out our equipment displays.

A special highlight was a visit from the Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Defence and the Mayor of Geelong, who commended our team's community engagement.

Special thanks and congrats to all who supported this activity.



RAEME NATIONWIDE

RAT Get-Together – Saturday 15 August

The Central Highlands Lodge was the perfect venue for the RAEME Association of Tasmania's (RAT) annual get-together at a location that was central to all three respective regions for members and partners to meet. As a point of interest, and for those who don't know, the Lodge is located at Miena adjacent to the Great Lakes in Central Tasmania. The weather gods were kind to us for this time of year offering sun, a stunning backdrop of clear blue skies and a sparkling lake.



Though the turnout of 16 people was slightly down on what we expected, the event was still a success, bringing together members and partners for a memorable day.



Two highlights of the afternoon were:

- “RAEME Association of Tasmania beer coasters”, which were crafted by our webmaster Glen Hay, were used as raffle prizes. These will soon be available for purchase through our Merchandise Officer. Great job Glen. The RATs thank you for your time and effort in manufacturing the coasters.



- The lucky door prize and raffle. Congratulations to Mick Moran, Ken Dobie and Merv Simmons who were the lucky winners.

Finally, it was great to see some familiar faces and to welcome those who travelled afar for the lunch. Overall, it was a very pleasant afternoon with great company and the beautiful lake setting. It was a risk in planning the event at this location but it well and truly paid off.



Melbourne Spanner Club

The Melbourne team had a great get-together on 13 Aug at Ladida for their August Spanner Club. Thanks to all who braved the Melbourne weather to come along.



Maintenance Matters

Web: <https://raeme.org.au>

Editors: Newsletter@raeme.org.au

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

This Newsletter is published monthly by the RAEME Association National Network (RNN) for RAEME members, be they serving or otherwise. The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in this Newsletter belong solely to the author of each article. They do not reflect those of the RNN, ADF or any part of the ADO, the author's employer, the editorial team, any association, committee, or other group or individual.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

Darling Downs Luncheon

The latest regional RAEME function brought together a close and engaged crowd, with around 25 attendees enjoying an afternoon marked by camaraderie, shared history and genuine connection. Despite many members heading north to escape the winter chill, the turnout reflected the strength of the local community and the value placed on these gatherings.

Ross and Leonie Grant spent the afternoon circulating among old friends, while Rod Brown arrived with Vietnam veterans Don McKenzie and Pat Smyth, whose presence added depth and meaning to the day. Pat delivered a short, heartfelt reflection on his service in Vietnam, including the extraordinary moment he unexpectedly crossed paths with his brother overseas. His account of the reception Vietnam veterans faced upon returning home was a sobering reminder of the challenges many endured, and it was clear his memories still carried weight.



First-time attendee Graham Noll was warmly welcomed, and the arrival of Bruce and Kathryn added to the sense of occasion. With three Vietnam veterans present — the most seen at one of these functions — the afternoon carried a special significance. Conversations flowed easily, the crowd lingered well past 3pm, and the atmosphere throughout was one of respect, warmth and genuine togetherness.

Winners of the \$50 Harvey Norman gift vouchers for the day were Dave Smith (again), Sandra Pile (who has already spent it) and Ted McKellar.



101 Fd Wksp Reunion

A Great Reunion Filled with Mateship...!

What a fantastic weekend at the Ex 101 & Friends Reunion, held at the Currumbin RSL!

With more than 80 people in attendance, it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old mates, reminisce about the good old days and, of course, meet plenty of new mates along the way. The turnout was a true testament to the mateship, camaraderie and friendships that make RAEME so special.

As one of Queensland's active Quilts of Valour representatives, I was incredibly proud to present 17 Quilts of Valour to our veteran mates as a small token of appreciation and recognition for their service to our country. It was a privilege to be able to share these special moments with so many veterans and their families.



A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the night such a memorable one. The laughter, stories and memories reminded us all that the friendships formed through our military careers really do last a lifetime.

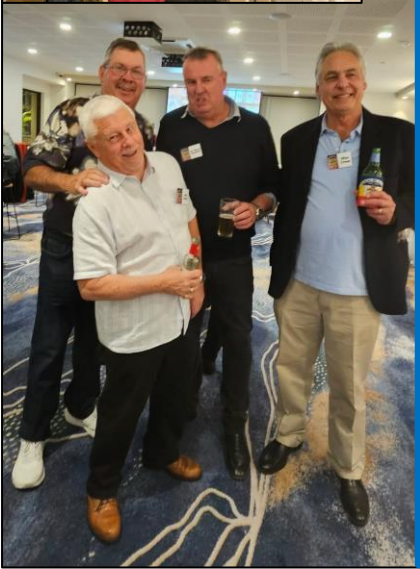
Mark your calendars — the next reunion is August 2028! You definitely won't want to miss it. I'm already thinking about what's next... so watch this space! Until then... keep the mateship alive!



Photos of the event follow on the next page but below are the two amazing event organisers, Karen Cairns and Michelle Lafferty.

Well done, Ladies!!!





IMPENDING EVENTS

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

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

- **Serving members:** Send details through your Senior Regional Representative who will be able to inform the Newsletter Editors to confirm details and on-base access requirements as applicable
- **Former-serving mbrs:** 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, as are days of national significance.

August

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.
Sat 15 th	Ross, Tas	RATs Statewide Luncheon	Central Highlands Lodge Miena
Sun 16 th	Toowoomba	Darling Downs Luncheon	Toowoomba Golf Club from 1200h
Tues 18 th	Canberra	RMC Lanyard Presentation	Olim's Hotel – Carlton Room from 1800h.
Tues 18 th	Day of Reflection	Vietnam Veterans' Day	We remember the sacrifices of those who died and say thank you to almost 60,000 Australians who served during the war. Click here for your Vietnam War Kitbag.
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
Sun 30 th	Dotswood, Qld	Memorial Service – WO2 Ryan Leslie and CFN Brendon Payne	Dotswood Recovery Memorial from 1030-1200 followed by a gathering at Twin City Hotel, Thuringowa.
Mon 31 st	Day of Reflection	Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day	The day we recognise and remember the Australian service and sacrifice of veterans who served in the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation

September

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

IMPENDING EVENTS

September continued

Fri 04 th	Canberra	Mixed Lunch	Ainslie Football Club from 1230h
04 th – 06 th	Nungarin WA	Nungarin Veterans Muster	WW2 armoured vehicles on display, bus tour to Merredin Military Museum & local WW2 sites. Camping and accommodation available. For more details, 08-9046-5040 or nungarinheritage@bigpond.com
Thurs 10 th	Ingleburn	NSW Committee Meeting & Casual Luncheon	Ingleburn RSL Club
	Melbourne	Spanner Club	Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St from 1600h
Sat 12 th	Maroochydore	RAQ Sunshine Coast Luncheon	Maroochy RSL from 1230h. Seats must be booked and paid for by Thursday, 3 September 2026. Cost: \$34.00 for RAQ members and \$54.00 (usually \$64.00) for non-members. POC: sandlesj@y7mail.com MC: Terry Johnson Host: LTCOL Alex McDonald Guest Speaker: Suzanne Shipp
Tues 14 th	Day of Reflection	National Peacekeepers' Day	National Peacekeepers' Day honours all Australian peacekeepers, peacemakers, peacebuilders and peace enforcers.
17-18 Sept	Canberra	Imperialism and Resistance: Australia's First Wars	<i>Imperialism and Resistance: Australia's First Wars</i> is a two-day conference that brings together authors, historians, and curators to reflect on the Australian Frontier Wars and Australia's earliest overseas military commitments to the British Empire. Australian War Memorial
18 th – 20 th	Wodonga	Recovery Reunion 2026	Fri 18th – Day trip to Yackandandah with a dinner that evening Sat 19th – Visit to Recovery Platoon for show and tell, static display and witness some Recovery tasks in Dustbowl followed by social drinks that afternoon. Sun 20th – Breakfast catch-up and goodbyes. POC is Ken Roberts
Sat 19 th	Townsville	RAQ NQ Gathering	The Fairfield, 78 Abbott St, Oonoonba, from 1230h
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

IMPENDING EVENTS

October continued

Wed 07 th	Brisbane	RAQ Monthly Meeting	Kedron Wavell Services Club from 1730h
Thurs 08 th	Melbourne	Spanner Club	Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St from 1600h
Sun 11 th	Canberra	25th anniversary of Australian service in Afghanistan	Australian War Memorial from 1100h Registration to attend: Click here
12 th – 13 th	Sydney	St Eligius Competition	Details to follow
14 th – 15 th	Holsworthy	Corps Conference – Heavy	Details to follow
Mon 19 th	Day of Reflection	War Widows Day	War Widows Day is a reminder of Australia's history and the ongoing contributions of the families of our veterans.
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
Thurs 05 th	Melbourne	Spanner Club	Ladida, 577 Little Bourke St from 1600h
Fri 06 th	Canberra	End-of-Year Dinner	Gyphonns Bar and Caffe
Weds 11 th	Day of Reflection	Remembrance Day	It's a day when we acknowledge those who died or suffered while serving in wars, conflicts and peace operations.
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
	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
			Warragul RSL from 1630h. POC is Paul Turner – 0402013137. Guest Speakers:
Sat 28 th	Melbourne	RAEME Birthday Muster – Melbourne	• John Burke and Mark Bain – Recovery Mechanics with deployment stories. • Dennis Clarke – A vehicle mechanic conscripted to serve in Vietnam • Danny Hayes – A contracted recovery mechanic in Iraq and Afghanistan

DEFENCE NEWS

The following stories have been published by Defence in various forms, including Army News. Links to the full, original stories are provided where they are available.

Who you gunna call?



WHILE combat units manoeuvred across the Townsville Field Training Area during Exercise Southern Jackaroo, Army recovery mechanics worked behind the scenes to recover damaged and immobilised vehicles.

Operating across difficult terrain and often away from the spotlight, CFN Aiden Nydrle, a recovery mechanic attached to 2 Cav Regt, said they played a critical role in sustaining battlefield mobility and preserving valuable capability during large-scale training activities.

For the full story, [click here](#).

RUTHLESS program marches forward



Updates from the Reducing Unnecessary Tasks to Help Lethality, Efficiency & Strategic Success (RUTHLESS) program include:

Non-fair wear inspection

Army policy (Land materiel maintenance standard operating procedures) has been updated to remove the requirement for non-fair-wear inspections for unexpected damage to land materiel. The policy changes include removing the requirement to conduct a complete technical inspection that details a total cost breakdown, the introduction of a technical damage assessment for non-fair-wear, and amendments to align the new processes with the introduction of SAP S4.

AIRN data input – weapons

Following CA's removal of AIRN requirements, there is no longer a need to print, sign, scan and upload documentation for weapons training tests and WTSS shoots. This change is estimated to save more than 7000 hours of administrative effort annually.

For the full story, [click here](#).

Readiness no longer a checklist



Army's approach to operational readiness has been changed to reflect the realities of modern warfare, with the removal of the Army Individual Readiness Notice (AIRN).

Under Project RUTHLESS, the AIRN framework was removed on July 1 to restore command and individual accountability on how soldiers meet their readiness for modern combat.

For the full story, [click here](#).

The 'boffins' who keep Army's Apaches in the air



While Australian AH-64E Apaches fired Hellfire missiles, rockets and the 30mm gun on Exercise Possum Guns, aviation maintainers from 1 Avn Regt worked to keep the fleet in the sky and guns blazing.

Avionics technicians such as CPL Jamen Caulfield maintain the Apache's electrical and electronic systems, including navigation, weapon sighting and communications.

Known as 'boffins', they diagnose faults reported by the pilots, test and calibrate communications and sighting systems, and replace faulty components.

They also conduct pre-flight checks in the workshop and stand by on the flightline immediately before Apaches launch, for last-minute troubleshooting.

For the full story, [click here](#).

[Keeping vets connected](#)



Veterans transitioning to civilian life are now able to continue accessing Defence bases for up to two years under a new program created in response to Recommendation 82 of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The first Veteran Defence Common Access Card (DCAC) recipient under the program, David Humphry, who spent 50 years in the ADF, said it was important to maintain strong connections with former colleagues following transition from full-time service.

For the full story, [click here](#).

[RAEME Trialling New Equipment](#)

The Australian Army is exploring Advanced Manufacturing applications for the land domain as part of a Joint Logistics Command-led, Defence-wide effort. Advanced Manufacturing capability is enhancing supply chain resilience, operational adaptability, and interoperability. This activity brings together Joint Logistics Command, Joint Logistics Unit – Victoria, Defence Science and Technology Group and the Services working collaboratively to trial and operationalise Advanced Manufacturing sustainment techniques.

Additional photos are available by [clicking here](#).



A Heavy Stores Module converted into a deployable advanced manufacturing shelter deployed to Cultana, South Australia.



[Hosting the Crown Prince of Brunei](#)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei recently visited Australia and who better to host him than one of our own, MAJGEN Andrew Freeman.

You can find more details about and photos from this event on the [Defence Imagery website](#).

[Salary extension to improve retention](#)

Eligible personnel transferring into critical trades will maintain their current higher salary for up to five years, under the new salary extension pilot.

The program, which will run until April 2028, targets SERCAT 6 and 7 members from private to sergeant and lieutenant to captain. The initiative aims to improve retention by removing a financial barrier often associated with changing employment categories.

Personnel can choose from 15 designated critical categories across logistics, engineering, aviation, cyber and communications.

This includes high-demand roles such as aircraft technician, recovery technician and battlespace communications specialist.

Members can also transfer into vital support positions such as chefs or retrain as signals officers and pilots.

Approved personnel keep their higher salary for five years or until their new trade's pay catches up.

However, this salary extension offer does not extend to members currently drawing specialist rates, such as medical officers, chaplains and legal officers.

Those interested in switching trades without taking a pay cut are encouraged to contact a trade-transfer-and-retention WO to discuss options.

Fact sheets, process guidelines and official application channels have been centralised on the designated Army salary site.

For the full story, [click here](#).

OUR UNITS

Part 8 of 8 – Formation of the 1st Aviation Regiment's Operational Support Squadron.

The 1st Aviation Regiment's (1 Avn Regt) Operational Support Squadron (OSS) was first formed in January 2025 in both Darwin and Townsville as a part of Army Aviation's force reorganisation. 2025 also saw the first year of the Regiment's transition from Robertson Barracks in Darwin to Hamel Lines on RAAF Townsville. The Regiment's headquarters, 162 Squadron, and OSS – Darwin (OSS-D) – continued to operate the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) Tiger from Robertson Barracks and maintained an attack helicopter capability for Army while the Apache commences Introduction Into Service (IIS). 161 Squadron and OSS – Townsville (OSS-T) commenced the establishment of the unit in Townsville and involved preparations for receipting the first of the fleet of AH-64E Apache aircraft at the end of 2025.

OSS, both Darwin and Townsville, was born from, the now-disbanded, TSS and flying squadron Technical Support Troops (TST). Additionally, OSS-D took in the remnants of the Logistic Support Squadron (LSS), which was disbanded at the end of 2024. LSS consisted of all logistics elements that supported 1 Avn Regt such as Aviation Groundcrew, Transport, Q-Store, and Ground Support Troop.



First AH-64E Apache arrival into Townsville

In 2025, half of the LSS elements from 1 Avn Regt transitioned to Townsville to join 16 ASB while the rest came under OSS-D. Additionally, the TSTs were removed from the flying squadrons, 161 & 162 SQN. The 161 SQN TST formed 161 TST under OSS-T, and 162 SQN TST joined OSS-D. At the end of 2026, OSS-D will be disbanded and will see the remaining logistic elements transition to join 16 ASB, and the remaining aircraft technicians transition to form 162 TST under OSS-T; or as it will be known from the start of 2027, OSS 1 Avn Regt.

OSS has a rich and long history tied to the Army Aviation capability as the Tasmanian Devils of the TSS have been supporting 1 Avn Regt since its formation on 26 Apr 1966. TSS and the historical TSTs of 161, 162 and 171 FLT / SQN have supported numerous platforms such as Cessna, Porter, Kiowa, Sioux, Iroquois, in many places around Australia and the world, notably in South Vietnam, Malaysia, PNG and Indonesia. 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight and its TST (or unit workshop) at the time, was awarded the United States Army Meritorious Unit Commendation for the actions in South Vietnam during 1965 – 1966.



First OSS Apache Technicians Practical Course in Ft Eustis VA, USA

OUR UNITS

OSS is represented by the Thorny Devil

The Thorny Devil was chosen as it is one of Australia's hardest native animals. Able to withstand the harsh conditions of Australia with ease, it is one of the country's most resilient creatures. It is also completely covered in razor-sharp thorns making it somewhat difficult for any non-thorny devil to handle. These are many of the traits shared by the members of OSS. Being another native devil, it also pays respect to the origin of OSS, being the Tasmanian Devils of TSS. The squadron motto of INVENIUM VIAM is Latin for "I Shall Find a Way", and is a shortened version of Hannibal's famous quote, "I shall either find a way or make one". The squadron logo of the Thorny Devil Head centred in the cog with crossed spanners represents the attitude that continues from TSS, unity in maintenance.

Operational Support Squadron to date and ahead

OSS spent the majority of 2025 preparing for the arrival of the first Apache platforms. This included a great deal of work including theoretical and practical training for the two Forward Repair Team (FRT) technicians; development and production of tool kits; reviewing and re-writing technical policy; establishment of the Apache Tool Store; creating the administrative



processes and procedures for the new squadron; and preparing the maintenance facilities for arrival.

With most of the squadron away conducting training and only manned to 40% strength, it was truly an incredible feat to complete all the required actions to stand up a squadron, and establish a maintenance capability for a new platform ready to commence operations, within months. Despite the first aircraft only arriving in late-2025, flying operations commenced immediately, and all initial milestones were achieved prior to the end of year break.

2026 has seen the arrival of new members to OSS-T, all of whom require Apache technical training, with all scheduled to be



Commencement of Apache flight ops from Hamel Lines

completed soon. OSS-T will primarily support barracks flying operations as 161 Sqn commence qualifying their aircrew to receive an Australian type qualification. In addition to this, the inaugural Apache gunnery activities are planned and will also serve as an opportunity for 161 TST to prepare and rehearse Apache deployed maintenance operations also involving 16 ASB ALSE, RPS, and AG. Another quantity of Apaches will arrive over 2026 bringing the fleet size up by the end of the year.

2027 will be the last year of significant change and transition with the remainder of 1 Avn Regt transitioning to Townsville. This final large move will see OSS-T become OSS, as OSS-D collapses, and 162 TST will be raised in Townsville. The OSS Apache workforce will continue to grow in Townsville, when it is expected that OSS will have its full complement of military and contracted technicians.

MAJ Sean Hobson
OC OSS, 1 AVN REGT

Images courtesy of Defence



Apache maintenance operations from Hamel Lines – Townsville

DVA News

New VetAffairs

DVA recently released the latest edition of their newsletter, *VetAffairs*.



The new Agency was launched on 1 July 2026 and is now in its initial stage of operations.

In line with the Royal Commission's recommendations, the Agency is initially focused on supporting veterans and families most at risk during transition from the ADF.

Broader veteran and family support is available through website resources, a service directory and a phone line (a free-call 1800 number) to help find and connect people with the right support.

The Agency is acting as a connector and coordinator, linking veterans and families with the right support – including Hubs.

Importantly, this measure includes flexibility for DVA to fund allied health services above the \$5,000 threshold where there is a valid clinical need, ensuring veterans receive the care they require.

DVA will commence a consultation process from next month to inform the design and operation of the new arrangements.

Information about the consultation will be widely shared with stakeholders and veterans, as is DVA's usual practice. You can register your interest to participate in allied health consultations on the [DVA website](#).

Hot Issues

The new [DVA Community Questions Answered page](#) brings together current issues where there has been confusion or misinformation in the community.

The focus is on seamless transitions between services so people don't have to navigate the system on their own.

The Minister announced the appointment of Brendan Cox as the inaugural Chief Executive of the Agency, who commenced in the role on 27 July 2026.

Find out all about the new Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency at www.veteranwellbeing.gov.au.

Allied Health Measure

The Budget provided \$169.7 million over 5 years to increase allied health provider fees for Veteran Card holders from 1 July 2027 (Royal Commission Recommendation 71).

This is the largest investment in veteran allied health provider fees in more than 2 decades, improving choice and availability of services for veterans and families of veterans.

A \$5,000 annual threshold for veterans' allied health services is being introduced from July next year. Veteran Card holders will continue to access the treatment they need while ensuring they are not taken advantage of by providers looking to increase profits through overservicing.

This page is your up-to-date, straightforward and reliable source of truth to answer questions about how DVA support works.

Medicinal cannabis

The 6-month grandfathering arrangements for Veteran Card holders with medicinal cannabis prescriptions were put in place to allow veterans time to work with their doctor to meet new requirements, and will end on 31 August 2026.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Vietnam Kitbags

The kitbag includes a suggested order of service with flag protocols, music, the Ode of Remembrance and other poems, and a brief history of Australians who served during the Vietnam War.

[Click here](#) for your Vietnam War Kitbag.



The opening pages of this content-rich publication provide some helpful advice regarding the new VETS Act and changes to payments under DVA rules. There is also an abundance of guidance relating to: Health and Wellbeing, Open Arms, Families, Transition and much, much more.

You can enjoy it in various forms, as:

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

Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency

The launch of the [Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency](#) responds to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The Agency supports a shift towards a more person-centred system that strengthens prevention and early intervention and broader wellbeing.

Veterans and the families of veterans will be better supported through transition from ADF service and at times of need.

MEMBER GUIDANCE

Pay and Conditions Updates

On 14 July 2026, Defence released an [update](#) to introduce changes that: increase the rates of child supplement allowance and location allowance; increase the amount you'll need to contribute to your child's early childhood education; move most overseas conditions of service definitions into PACMAN Chapter 12; remove temporary removal benefits that were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic; improve overseas health care benefits for eligible dependants and APS employees; add new Military Factor allowances for members who are posted to a nuclear submarine as part of an AUKUS career pathway or are undertaking duty on a nuclear submarine as part of an AUKUS career pathway; expand eligibility to the Recruit Instructor allowance so members of the Air Force may now be eligible; updated the Maritime Warfare Officer – Submariner employment category, changing the category name to Submarine Warfare Officer and increasing the pay grade for Submarine Executive Officers; and update housing contribution rates from 30 July 2026.

Below is a breakdown of what's changed and how it may affect you.

Child supplement allowance increase

The child supplement allowance helps you with the costs of having a child live with you at your overseas posting location. The rate of child supplement allowance has increased. The amount you get depends on your child's age and your location.

Learn more about the [child supplement allowance and how much you may get](#).

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 15 Pt 2A Div 4 of PACMAN](#).

Location allowance increase

Location allowance is one of the extra benefits you may get if you're working in a hardship location overseas for at least 28 consecutive days.

The rate of hardship allowance has increased.

Learn more about [hardship locations and how much location allowance you may get](#).

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 16 Pt 2A of PACMAN](#).

Contribution rate increases for early childhood education assistance

Defence offers financial assistance to members on a long-term posting overseas who have children under the age of 3 living with them.

If your child is enrolled in a centre-based, early childhood education facility, such as a daycare centre, Defence may help you pay the fees.

If you meet the criteria, you'll need to pay a minimum contribution amount of the fees each year. You can claim the cost of the fees and Defence will reimburse you for the amount you've paid above your contribution. Your annual contribution amount for early childhood education assistance has increased to:

\$14,861 if you're an unaccompanied member

\$20,665 if you're an accompanied member.

Learn more about [early childhood education when you're overseas](#).

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 15 Pt 6 Div 1A of PACMAN](#).

Overseas benefit definitions in PACMAN

To make it easier for you to understand your benefits and conditions of service, PACMAN includes definitions of specific policy terms and phrases used throughout its chapters.

The definitions relating to your overseas conditions of service were originally spread throughout chapters 12 to 17, making it hard for people to find the meaning of a particular term.

These definitions have now been grouped at the beginning of Chapter 12, so you only need to look in one place.

Find the updated policy definitions in [Ch 12 Pt 3 of PACMAN](#).

Temporary COVID-19 removal benefits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ADF members and their resident families who were posted to new locations faced additional costs and challenges due to movement restrictions. Between 2020 and 2021, Defence introduced temporary benefits to support them with the added costs and pressure of relocating during the pandemic.

As COVID-19 movement restrictions are no longer in place, Defence has removed some of the temporary benefits introduced during that time. If you got your Toll Movement Plan Letter (MPL) before 2 July 2026, you may still get the temporary COVID-19 benefits, even if your move happens after that date. If you get your Toll MPL after 2 July 2026, you won't get the temporary benefits.

In addition to a funded move with [Toll](#), you'll continue to have access to other [benefits if you relocate for a posting of 6 months or more](#).

Find the transitional details in [Ch 1 Pt 2 Div 2 of PACMAN](#).

Overseas health costs

Defence may cover some of the costs for your dependants who join you on a long-term posting overseas. From 1 July 2026, your eligible dependants may be able to claim more health care costs and pay less out of pocket.

These changes expand the types of health services you can claim and better clarify the benefits that are available, making it easier to plan and manage your family's health care while living overseas.

Learn more about the types of [healthcare costs Defence may cover](#).

Find the updated policy details in [Ch 15 Pt 5](#) of PACMAN.

MEMBER GUIDANCE

New Military Factor allowance added for nuclear submarine

Military Factor allowances compensate members for hardships associated with service in specific environments such as sea, flying, field and other types of duty. These allowances are not static and over time the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal may add new allowances to account for the ever-changing needs of the ADF.

The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal has created a new group of allowances, Maritime Crew G allowances, for members who are either posted to, or are undertaking duty on, a nuclear submarine as part of an AUKUS career pathway.

To accommodate the creation of these allowances, Defence has introduced 2 new Military Factor tiers: Tier M and Tier N.

Learn more about [Military Factor allowances](#).

Find the updated policy definition in [Ch 4 Pt 2a Div 1](#) of PACMAN and the pay rates in [Annex A.1](#) of PACMAN.

Expanded eligibility for the Recruit Instructor Allowance

Recruit Instructor Allowance is an allowance paid to qualified recruit instructors posted to an approved training establishment. It recognises the difficulties associated with long hours, adverse working conditions and loss of regular contact with family for extended periods.

On 2 July, the Recruit Instructor allowance was expanded to include members of the Air Force who are qualified to undertake recruit instructor duties and are posted to a position at an Air Force school as a recruit instructor.

Learn more about [Recruit Instructor Allowance](#).

Find the updated policy definition in [Ch 4 Part 2a Div 4 of PACMAN](#).

Changes to Maritime Warfare Officer – Submariner employment category: new employment category name and increased Executive Officer pay

To provide a more appropriately experienced, multi-skilled and sustainable workforce within the Navy, from 2 July:

- the employment category Maritime Warfare Officer – Submarine will be known as Submarine Warfare Officer
- certain members of the Submarine Warfare Officer will get a pay increase.

If you're categorised as an SM Executive Officer, you'll move from pay grade 7 to pay grade 8, meaning you'll get a pay increase from the 2nd of July.

You'll see the increased pay into your bank account from the 16th of July.

Find your pay grades in [Schedule B.2 of PACMAN](#).

New housing contribution rates from 30 July 2026

If you get subsidised housing through Defence, the contribution amount you pay towards it will change on 30 July 2026 as part of the annual Group Rent Scheme (GRS) adjustment process.

You'll see the new amount reflected in your pay from 13 August 2026.

The subsidised housing and housing assistance affected by the GRS include:

- living-in accommodation
- Service residence
- rent allowance
- temporary accommodation allowance
- disturbance allowance.

Learn more about [annual housing contribution adjustments or find your new contribution rate](#).

These changes will be reflected in PACMAN from 30 July 2026:

- [Ch 6 Pt 1 Div 1](#) – Disturbance allowance
- [Ch 7 Pt 4 Div 4](#) – Contribution for living-in accommodation
- [Ch 7 Pt 5 Div 5](#) – Rate of contribution for temporary accommodation allowance
- [Ch 7 Pt 6 Annex 7.A](#) – Contributions for Service residence or rent band choice accommodation
- [Ch 7 Pt 8 Annex 7.D](#) – Contributions for rent allowance
- [Ch 7 Pt 8 Annex 7.E](#) – Rent ceilings
- [Ch 7 Pt 9 Div 1](#) – Contribution for meals
- [Ch 7 Pt 10 Div 2](#) – Contribution for utilities.

Join our Movember Team

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

Why?

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

Whether you can grow a magnificent mo or not, your participation and support will make a real difference.

How?

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

Team Name?

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

R _____ A _____ E _____ M _____ E _____



Vale

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

354584 CFN Kevin Warrick 'Tiny' BATCHELOR retd

Tiny passed away suddenly on 5 August 2026, aged 63, at Latrobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon. A Recovery Mechanic, he will be remembered by those who served alongside him as a good mate. His funeral will be held at 1.00 pm on Thursday, 20 August at the Latrobe Valley Funeral Services Chapel, Morwell, followed by burial at Gippsland Memorial Park Cemetery, Traralgon.



433330 CAPT Brian TOUHY retd

Brian passed away on 5 August 2026 following a period of serious illness. He joined the CMF in 1975 as a CFN at 107 Fd Wksp, Warradale, after completing his Fitter and Turner apprenticeship with GMH. Brian was instrumental in raising the N-Qld RAEME Association as Member No. 2, and later reconnected with RAEME Association South Australia and the 107 Bluebell Club.



57467 Rhett Steven TURLEY retd

Rhett passed away on 2 August 2026 at Wickopin, south-east of Perth. A proud member of the 28th Army Apprentices Intake, he graduated in 1974 as a Vehicle Mechanic. His passing is felt deeply across the Appy and RAEME families, and he will be remembered by his former classmates, service mates and friends. A funeral will be held on 2 September 2026; 1330 for 1400h start at Mareena Purslowe, Victoria Park WA.



62404 WO1 Phillip Craig 'Phil' LOWE retd

Phil passed away on 2 August 2026 after a long battle with cancer. A member of the 27th Apprentice Intake, he graduated in 1973 as a Fitter and Turner and served in technical, instructional and maintenance engineering appointments at Adelaide Workshop Company, 1st Base Workshop Battalion, 20th Divisional Engineers Support Squadron and 2nd Cavalry Regiment. He later served as a Technical Instructor at Bandiana and as a Project Officer with the Maintenance Engineering Agency in Melbourne.



2767874 / 2172402 MAJ Leslie John PRESTIDGE RFD ED retd

John passed away on 18 July 2026, aged 89. Called up for National Service in 1957, he trained at Ingleburn with the 13th National Service Training Battalion before service with 1st Corps Troops Workshop and 51st Communication Zone Workshop. He served in the CMF and Army Reserve for about 29 years, attaining the rank of Major, and was awarded the RFD, ED, Australian Defence Medal and Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal. A Life Member of Epping RSL Sub-Branch, he served 20 years as Secretary and 22 years on The Epping Club Board.



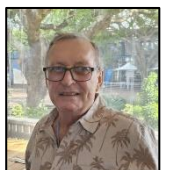
58989 Stefan Gunter Herwarth SCHMIDT retd

Stefan passed away on 11 July 2026, aged 65. He joined the Army Apprentice School as a member of the 31st Intake and graduated in 1977 as a Fitter and Turner. His funeral was held at Yanchep, Western Australia, on 20 July, where members of the 31st Intake were able to farewell one of their apprentice brothers and old mates.



217281 Dallas Noel SCHOFIELD retd

Dallas passed away peacefully in his sleep on 10 June 2026. A member of the 22nd Army Apprentice Intake, he graduated in 1969 as a Fitter and Turner. His passing is a sad loss to the wider Appy and RAEME families, particularly the members of the 22nd Intake.



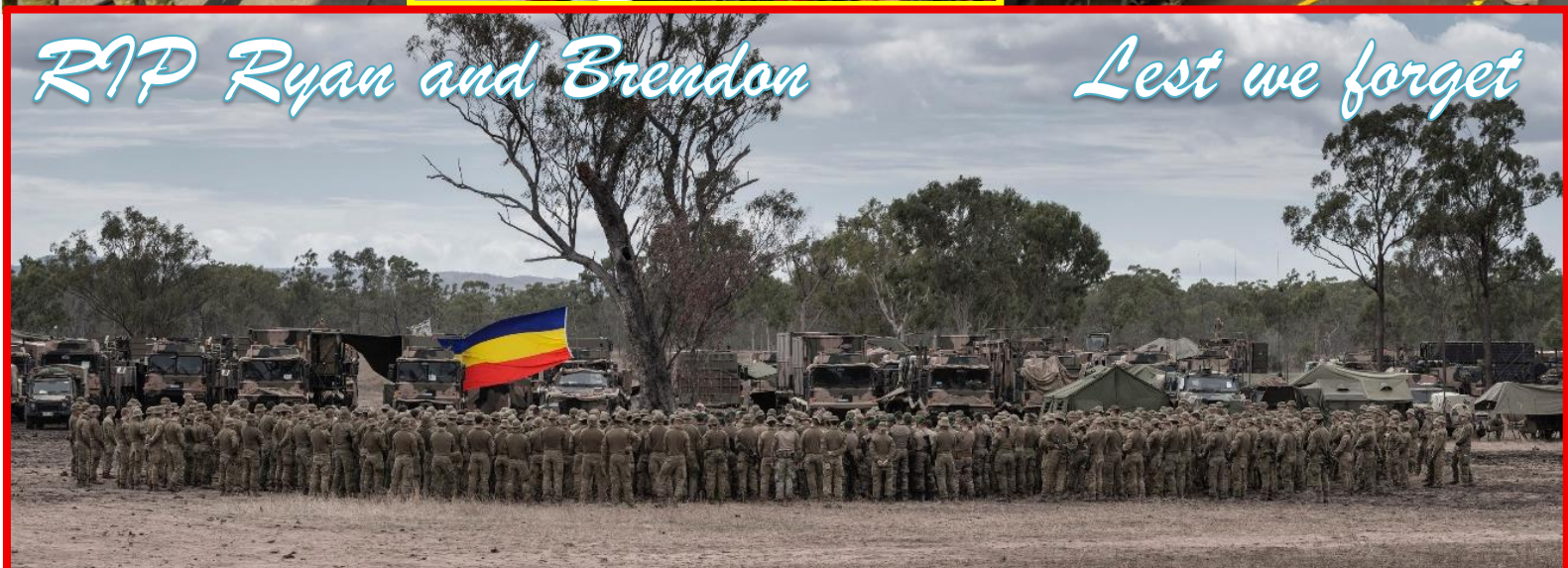
How to provide welfare notifications

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



RIP Ryan and Brendon

Lest we forget



STOP PRESS

The RAEME Craftsman magazine – 2025 Edition

The 2025 edition of *The RAEME Craftsman* magazine is now available. This magazine is presented in a new format to better align with Army publishing expectations for formatting.

This edition captures another year of achievement, innovation and Corps pride across our Army. This publication remains one of the most important records of our Corps' heritage, showcasing the professionalism, adaptability and technical mastery that define RAEME.

From senior leadership messages to unit highlights, operational insights and award recognitions, this year's volume reflects the breadth of our Corps and the people who keep Army moving.

Inside, readers will find detailed updates from the Head of Corps, Deputy Heads of Corps, and Corps RSM, alongside articles covering major capability developments, training evolution, aviation support, littoral manoeuvre, and the growing integration of industry partners. Unit Jottings provide a snapshot of activity across Australia, while the Corps Awards and Vale sections honour excellence and remember those who have served with distinction.

This edition also marks significant milestones: the Army's 125th anniversary, RAEME's 84th year, and the 40th anniversary of the Prince Philip Banner. Together, these stories celebrate our past, recognise our present, and inspire the future of our Corps.



This can be downloaded from: <https://raeme.org.au/publications/raeme-craftman-mag>

The RAEME Craftsman magazine – 2026 Edition – Call for Submissions

Work is now underway for the 2026 edition of *The Craftsman*, and we are inviting contributions from across the Corps, the wider Defence community, and our veteran network. This annual journal is one of RAEME's most important historical records, capturing the achievements, challenges, innovations and stories that define who we are. Every article, photo and reflection helps preserve our heritage and ensures future generations understand the depth and diversity of our Corps.

The editorial team welcome submissions covering unit activities, capability developments, technical innovation, training achievements, operational experiences, Corps history, and personal reflections on service. Articles from all ranks and all ECNs are encouraged, as are contributions from associations and retired members. **If you have a story worth telling, a lesson worth sharing, or an achievement worth celebrating, we want to hear from you.**

To submit content, please send articles and images to raeme.hoccell@defence.gov.au or contact the Editor, WO1 David Clarke, directly. **The deadline for the 2026 edition is 11 December 2026.** Photos can be embedded in your Word doc. However, it is important that you also submit the photos separately as the photos lose resolution when added from a Word doc. DO NOT include photos taken from publications or the internet!

Your stories are the heartbeat of our Corps. Help us capture another year of RAEME excellence.

Nominations for Corps Awards are due now!

A new Corps Instruction 28 has been released. 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 award structure include:

- 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.

The nominations for awards are due to the HOC Cell NLT COB 11 September 2026. Make sure you spend the time to submit a thoughtful nomination to ensure our people are recognised for their fine efforts!