

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

EDITION 08 – SEPTEMBER 2026



INTRODUCTION

Maintenance Matters is Changing

Maintenance Matters has received some great feedback from around the nation since we launched earlier this year. Some people enjoy various elements more than others but most seem to appreciate how we are able to capture a snapshot of what is happening around the Corps, all in one place. Although the feedback we've received so far has been overwhelmingly positive, one suggestion we regularly receive is: Make it shorter! In this edition, we will trial a reduced format.

After reviewing all feedback, we've decided to refocus on one of the core reasons this combined newsletter exists — **to strengthen connections across our Corps, our Associations, and our veteran community, both serving and former-serving members.**

To support that goal, we will trial the following adjustments to each main section of the newsletter:

- **Introductions.** These will be omitted unless a Corps member has a specific message. This will be open to all with priority given to Association Presidents and Head of Corps cell reps.
- **Our Corps Today.** The RSM's Reports on the Corps will continue when they are available.
- **Our People.** Our People will remain unchanged — recognising and supporting our members is central to who we are. Elements such as *Above and Beyond* and *We Are Family* will remain.
- **Announcements.** Announcements will continue, though some items may be shortened.
- **RAEME Nationwide.** This is a prime section that will remain as is, given its importance in showcasing what our members and associations are doing across Australia.
- **Impending Events.** This section will be limited to one (or at most two) pages to detail those upcoming events for the next month or so. This will also include details of significant events in the future that require detailed or advanced planning.
- **Our Units.** We will continue to welcome articles from serving units.
- **Breaking News.** This section will be expanded to incorporate the following old sections but rather than providing full stories, summaries will be provided along with a link to the original so more detail can be read if desired:
 - **The Old Breaking News.** Summaries of reports from various ESOs such as DVA, the RSL, the Minister for Defence etc.
 - **Defence News.** Defence-published news that affects members of the Corps will be published as short introductions only.
 - **Health and Wellbeing.** Reports or news from supporters such as Open Arms or Invictus Australia will be included where warranted; however, rather than inclusion of full programs nationwide, links to news or activities will be provided.
 - **International EME.** Reports from our sister-Corps in Canada and the UK will continue when topics of broad interest are found.
 - **Member guidance.** Updates to Pay and Conditions released by Defence will be included as brief summaries only, again with links to the full information as required.
- **Welfare matters.** Remembering our fallen or ill members or reports on welfare support requirements will continue.

These changes are not intended to restrict content, but to sharpen our focus on what makes our Corps special: **our people, our stories, our shared identity, and the connections that bind us.** We will place greater emphasis on reporting events and sharing association updates from recent activities. We welcome all submissions.

We will also introduce a "[mobile-friendly](#)" edition which will provide readers an interface to check out each edition whenever they like.

Finally, we strongly encourage all members to submit photos and short reports from anything you've been involved in — unit activities, association events, reunions, achievements, or simply moments worth sharing. Photos are especially valuable.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for helping shape a newsletter that truly reflects the spirit of RAEME.

Arte et Marte.

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.

Cover Photo Description

101 Fd Wksp (1 CSSB) tradies flying the tri-colours with pride whilst on Project Convergence Capstone 6, California, USA. Pictured are: CFN Ambuga (226), CPL Old (229 - Task Commander), CFN Cuthel (421), CFN Noble (146).

Image courtesy of the NT RAEME Association

SUPPORTING OUR OWN



As members of the RAEME community, we understand that we're not just a Corps — we're a family. And like any good family, we look out for each other, in and out of the workshop. Just as we're skilled at maintaining Army's equipment, we need to be skilled at maintaining each other's well-being.

Recently, we've seen a few of our own facing some tough personal battles. Some of us are already stepping in, as brothers and sisters should, but it never hurts to have a reminder: our strength is in our unity.

We wouldn't think twice about taking our car in for a check-up when it is playing up. We have no trouble visiting an accountant when we need some help with our tax returns. Why is it that not enough of us seek similar support when we seem to be challenged with our thoughts, emotions or just general sense of self?

Unfortunately for many, when our mental health suffers, we try to tough it out, typically because we don't want to be seen as weak, we don't want to put our burdens on our mates, we think we are fine, we think others have it worse or some other equally wrong reason. At the extreme end, we may think that our family, friends or the world in general would be better off without us. **Nothing could be further from the truth.**

The truth is that it's natural for all of us to face challenges that make us question ourselves. That is totally normal. It is also true that we all fall into dark holes at some point in our lives; we all do.

When we start our descent into the darkness, we generally feel that we are still in control but we get to a point when we aren't. What we tend to overlook is that the darker the hole gets, the less we are able to see clear options for getting out of it. We eventually get to a point when we can see every element of a problem but we can't sort it out. It is like looking at your toolbox when it is in a mess. You know you need to sort it out but you struggle to get started because your mind is fixated on that 10mm socket you lost some time ago.

When you aren't in the right headspace, you almost certainly will not make the right decisions.

What comes next: We need to be there to lend support our mates, free of judgment, and help them find the right resources to get back on track. If you see a mate who may be struggling, ask them how they are in a way that works for you both. This may be something like:

"Hello Mary, RU OK?"

"Oy Fred, what's up, mate? Let's grab a quiet brew and have a chat."

"Morning Sally, you look a bit out of sorts. How can I help you with whatever is troubling you?"

"Hey Mick, I know life seems a bit tough at the moment but I'm here for you. Let's talk about what we can do to sort this stuff out."

Once you ask the question, listen for the answer and if required, ask again. We don't need to have all of the answers but we need to put out our hands to help our mates up. Now that you have read this, you may have a mate in mind who may need a helping hand. Have a chat with them and let them know you are by their side. Set a reminder in your phone to check in on them every so often, be that daily, weekly, monthly or whatever. Just do it.

A tough conversation now is better than attending a final goodbye later.

As soldiers, none of us go into combat alone. Don't let our mates fight their battles alone either. **Have a chat. Point them in the right direction. That's what families do.**

Open Arms – 1800-011-046

Lifeline – 13-11-14

Defence All Hours Support Line – 1800-628-036 (Serving members only)

If someone is in danger, call 000 immediately!

Mates For Life

"I am not an artist. I am a soldier. I bleed green. I served with pride. I fought and I thought. What did I see? What did I do? I tried alone. I cried alone. I died inside. Why won't that black dog stop barking at me? They don't get it. No-one will miss me. I'm sick of pain.

He was there with me but how could he help now? He knows my pain. That first step is the biggest. We can do this ... you must do this ... I will do this.

My mates are still with me. I'm more at ease. I can serve with pride again; with my mates. My mates, my life, for life.

Mates for life. Mates, for life."

[AWM2019.418.1](#)



OUR CORPS TODAY

The following report was extracted from an email provided by the Corps RSM on 15 Sept 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:

- Farewells
- Matt Stone Racing
- Historical Photos
- St Eligius Competition
- Corps Conference – Heavy
- Colonel-in-Chief Update
- Corps Awards
- Course Information

Farewells

Col Nigel Motley will retire at the completion of his tenure at Hydro SPO. COL Motley began his career in 1982, progressing to an extremely impressive 44 years of service. Sir, enjoy retirement.

WO1 Duane Maggenti enlisted in 1987 as a 42nd Class Apprentice (see Historical photos). For those who know Mags, he has been a stalwart of RAEME. His esprit de corps is beyond reproach and always goes that extra mile. He was a great ASM for his soldiers; always well respected.

Matt Stone Racing

WO1 Ben Munro and I had the pleasure of working with MSR at the ADFA Open Day last month. During our two days in Canberra we also had the extreme privilege to host Matt Stone, Zach Bates and Nick Testu at the Australian War Memorial.

For awareness of how successful the partnership between MSR and RAEME has become, the MSR public relations team has provide us with some statistics from the ADFA Open Day. Across Instagram and Facebook; the posts have had 40k views (and climbing). The post also accumulated 700 likes, over 100 shares and impressions/profile visits from 10k individual accounts.

Thanks must also go to ASEME, who parked the Team Army vehicle next to us, with the robot dog providing hours of entertainment to all those that visited both sites.

Members from 9 FSB had the honour of tagging the cars this weekend at Queensland Raceway. This location is usually reserved for stickers denoting race wins and/or podium finishes – so, pride of place.

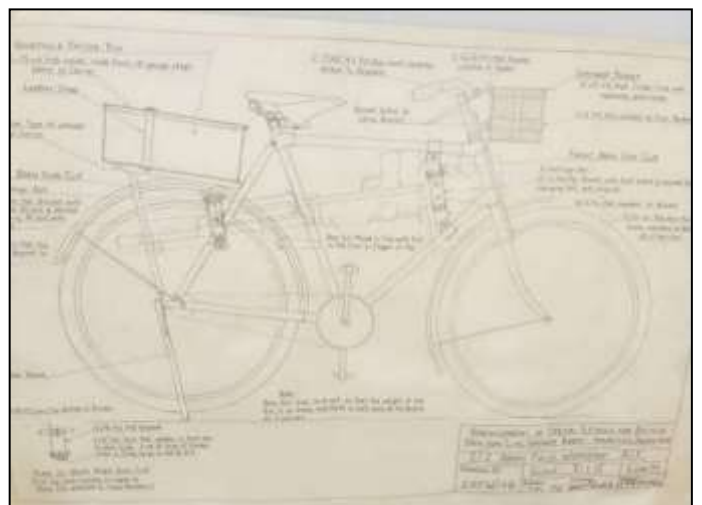


Historical Photos

A vast collection of historical photos, books and memorabilia has been found at ASEME. Maj Nigel Bellette has begun the tireless work of cataloguing all the amazing finds, some of which I will display below.



42nd Class WO1 Duane Maggenti at 16 years old.



*Pushbike with Bren gun fitted.
Something every good soldier needed in 1942.*

More images of the historical finds will be made available later.

OUR CORPS TODAY

St Eligius Competition

St Eligius Competition Administration Instruction has been released; we have confirmed 5 teams from across Army. The competition will have a different look & feel to it this year (whilst still staying true to the original intent). Expect your soldiers and officers to come home with great stories and experiences.

Corps Conference – Heavy

The Administration Instruction has been released. The conference dates for your awareness:

- Welcome BBQ – Evening Tue 13 Oct, Holsworthy Barracks;
- the conference beginning Wed 14 Oct and wrapping up with a dinner 14 Oct 26.

The dinner will be a 'Cocktail Party' at the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess, the Trybooking information is contained within the Admin Inst, places are limited please get in early. The Corps will be hosting 8 specially invited guests from MSR and BHP.

Anyone who knows of someone wishing to be farewelled from the Corps and the conference / dinner to please notify WO1 Christopher Gordon or myself ASAP.

The sooner we know the easier it will be to finalise the presentations. If anyone knows of members unable to attend, but wishing to also be farewelled, please also let me know.

Colonel-in-Chief Update

HOC received an email this month with an update from Army Ceremonial Cell. The email highlights that our request has progressed to the Palace via Government House. The request remains under consideration with the Royal Family. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism by which the process can be expedited.

Corps Awards

Corps Award nominations are now closed. The Regional RAEME Representatives will complete their independent review of all nominations prior to the state winners being submitted to the HOC Cell for voting of overall winners.

Course Information

See RSM report on the DPN.

WO1 Jon Tynan

RAEME Corps RSM

Jon.Tynan@defence.gov.au

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Recovery Memorial

A memorial service held at Dotswood, Qld on 31 August was conducted with dignity, respect, and a strong sense of family to remember the lives of WO2 Ryan Leslie and CFN Brendon Payne; two fine men taken from our ranks whilst on exercise in 2021; men who excelled at their craft; men who were loved by many.

Attendance included serving members, ex-serving personnel, local community representatives, and family members of those being honoured. All stood side-by-side in silence and shared warm laughter as memories were recalled.

The RAEME Recovery Memorial at Dotswood, with its open landscape and historical significance, provided an appropriate backdrop for remembrance. The importance of maintaining connections across generations, and the enduring values of service, mateship, and technical excellence were evident. The gathering reflected the deep connection RAEME maintains with its history, its people, and the region. This gathering reinforced the fact that Ryan and Brendon's service and friendships will never be forgotten.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 will 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 they 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.

RAEME Craftsman 2025

The latest edition of The Craftsman – 2025 Volume 76 is now available online.

The annual RAEME journal once again provides a great snapshot of our Corps, capturing the achievements, innovation, operations, people and activities that continue to shape RAEME and preserve our history for future generations.

There is plenty to read across the 114-page edition. Take a look now! You can download your copy from the [RNN website](#).



The proposed 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.

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 Babbington on his Mobile: 0456 620 577 or email: admin@ozbattlefieldtours.com.au

OUR PEOPLE

From the Governor-General of Australia

Recipients at a recent investiture ceremony at Government House remind us that service takes many forms. At Government House, Canberra, the Governor-General recognised 18 Australians whose contributions have enriched our communities and strengthened our nation.

From conservation and community to mountain biking, judiciary and public service, each recipient has demonstrated an enduring commitment to making a positive difference.

Recipients included RAEME's own WO1 Scott James Kelly CSM



From the Governor of Queensland

Her Excellency has presided over the second of seven Investiture Ceremonies being held at Government House this week, presenting Australian Honours and Awards to outstanding Queenslanders. Recipients included RAEME's own WO1 Wayne Davis OAM and LTCOL Jason Long CSC



Fighting Fires

Two absolute NT RAEME legends giving up their spare time to keep our community safe. Well done, Nathan Carnie and Ben Kolstad.



Keeping it in the family

57 years after Michael Berris marched out of a frigid 1RTB, his 18-year-old son, Andrew has achieved the same in mid-August. Andrew will head off to train as an Aircraft Technician.



A very proud moment for Michael. Welcome to the wider Corps family, Andrew. We hope to get a story about your family's service for a future edition.

Casualty Repair Excellence

On 6 August, 30 ADF medics graduated from the Joint Medic Course at Latchford Barracks, marking the culmination of high-quality, high-tempo, adaptive training designed to prepare them to deliver care when it matters most. The recipient of the Student of Merit award was none other than RAEME CPL Aaron Moro!



Congratulations, one and all!

RAEME NATIONWIDE

Taking the Corps to new heights

Former RAEME lads currently riding tuk-tuks across the Himalayas as part of "The Adventurist - Rickshaw Run Himalayas". The photo was taken today at Gue Mummy Stupa, Himachal Pradesh (approximate altitude 10,000ft).



SA Harry the Horse Luncheon – 1 September

The SA Association had a great turnout of serving and former members who all served together at various periods over the years, predominantly with 107 Fd Wksp.



A very memorable day with lots of 'war stories' to pass the time. This event is conducted by the SA Association every March and September at the West Adelaide Football Club.

The Scottish Tour

Harry made it to The Kelpies in Scotland with assistance from WA member, Peter Dutton.



He also took the opportunity to visit the Culloden Battlefield.



ACT Association Gatherings

The ACT team met up for their usual informal drinks on Tuesday 28 Jul and lunch on Friday 04 Sep. This aligned with the Association's custom of informal drinks on the last Tuesday of each month, less April and December, and a gathering on the first Friday of each month. The Friday gatherings alternate between mixed lunches and Spanner Clubs that come with the obligatory sausage sizzle.

The association was thrilled to have both current serving and recently retired members in attendance. These gents fielded multiple questions from the more senior retired members who took great interest in learning what is happening in the maintenance space these days. We look forward to seeing more serving members attend future events.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

101 Field Workshop – A global effort!

From across Australia to the other side of the world.

Soldiers from 1 CSSB have recently taken their skills on the road, deploying across Australia and overseas between May and July for a series of major training activities alongside Australian and international partners.

The journey began at Cultana Training Area in South Australia, where 1 CSSB personnel were attached to 1st Armoured Regiment for Exercise Black Prince 3. The activity provided an opportunity to operate within an armoured battle group environment while developing individual and collective skills.

From South Australia, the soldiers travelled to Fort Irwin, California, to participate in Project Convergence Capstone 6 (PCC6).

Reuniting with 1st Armoured Regiment and working alongside personnel from the New Zealand Defence Force, the soldiers formed part of Battle Group ANZAC, training alongside the United States Army in a demanding multinational environment.



CFN Ambuga, 1 CSSB Recovery Technician on Ex Black Prince 3, South Australia, Australia.

Exercise Black Prince 3 and PCC6 placed 1 CSSB personnel at the forefront of Army's ongoing modernisation and experimentation activities, exposing them to emerging capabilities, new ways of operating and valuable opportunities to learn from Australia's closest military partners.

The deployment provided an outstanding opportunity for 1 CSSB soldiers to build their professional skills, contribute to multinational training and proudly represent the Battalion – from South Australia to the other side of the world.



Celebrating Connections at Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC

On Saturday, 22 August, we conducted a lunch at the Mermaid Beach [AEME] Surf Lifesaving Club on the Gold Coast. We had 40 ex-RAEME members and their partners come along for what turned out to be a really great day, both weather-wise and lunch-wise. Though it was an overcast sort of day, there was no rain and it was not cold.

As well as our usual old and bold, including the likes of Geoff Small, Dave Grant and Blu Morrissey, we also had some new faces for the day, including Gary Mikkelsen, Roger and Lyn Smith, and Mike Averay. With any sort of luck, we will have them back next year.

The tucker was just great and the club staff were excellent. How they produce what they do in the kitchen is beyond me! They must have Gordon Ramsay in there cracking the whip or something.



There were no great formalities; the guests were brought up to date on a few things happening within the club that strengthen its roots and links to its AEME/RAEME founders.

Namely, they were apprised of where the club was at with producing a memorial plaque recognising the AEME founders, including their names, a RAEME badge and tricolour, together with a little of the club's history dating back to World War II. An update was also provided on the naming of the club's new coffee shop with a RAEME-themed name.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC continued

It was also announced that the club intends to put about four or five possible names for the coffee shop to its members for a majority vote, so we live in hope. The name "Crafties" is getting a good run!!!



Now that the club has approval from the Corps for the use of the RAEME badge and tricolour, thanks to Ed Smeaton and Piers Cambridge, it will now proceed with obtaining costings.



The Surf Club takes its AEME/RAEME roots very seriously. The two lucky draw prizes were won by Marg Riley and Ed Smeaton.

More photos from the day are available in the [Photo Gallery](#) on the RAEME Association Queensland website.

Enduring Service

RAAOC WO2 Steven Spokes was recently presented with his 5th and 6th clasps to his Long Service Medal and his Federation Star from BRIG McGammon to mark his 45th year of honourable service. Present was his son, RAEME SGT Brendan Spokes.



Do you remember this beast?



Jason Sofield is a volunteer at the Bandiana Army Museum. He is currently restoring an AM General 816 wrecker that has the 21 Construction Rooster on the doors. [Click here](#) to reach out to Jason if you know anything about this old girl.

11 CSSB Happenings

Even ambulances need their tummies rubbed sometimes. Thankfully, the 108 Fd Wksp team were on hand to help them out. This was during the very successful weekend training exercise for all elements of the unit to refine their respective individual and collective training skills.



Congratulations are also in order for a number of 11 CSSB members who were awarded a Command Commendation in recognition of their noteworthy service.



11 CSSB remains proud of its officers and soldiers living by the unit motto 'Tenacious in Adversity'.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

RAEME Marine Technicians in Alabama

Three RAEME Marine Technicians are gaining valuable experience on a modern landing craft while supporting a collaborative training initiative between the Australian Army and the United States Marine Corps (USMC).



Marine Technicians SGT Matthew ‘Doogs’ McDougal, SGT Warren ‘Squizz’ Taylor and CPL Tyler ‘Ty’ Griinke (above) are among 15 Australian Army personnel from the Brisbane-based Littoral Manoeuvre Group (LitM Gp) deployed to Alabama in the United States.

The initiative follows discussions conducted during the 2025 Australian Army–USMC Staff Talks and contributes to the Limited Technical Assessment and continued development of the USMC’s Ancillary Surface Craft capability. The Ancillary Surface Craft is a modern landing craft designed to support littoral operations and logistics and provides Australian personnel with experience relevant to the Army’s future Landing Craft – Medium capability.

Between July and September 2026, personnel from the Littoral Manoeuvre Group’s 1st Landing Craft Battalion are providing sustained crewing support for the two-month assessment. Working alongside their USMC counterparts, the Australian crews are gaining practical experience in the operation and maintenance of the craft under realistic conditions.

For the three ECN 222 Marine Technicians, the activity provides an important opportunity to develop their technical knowledge of contemporary landing craft systems while contributing their own skills and experience to the combined team.

The partnership enables Australian Army and USMC personnel to train together, exchange operational and technical knowledge, and capture lessons that will inform future force-development objectives. It also demonstrates the strong and mature relationship between the Australian Army and the USMC while further strengthening interoperability and shared amphibious capabilities.



Marine Techs SGT Matthew McDougal, SGT Warren Taylor, and CPL Tyler Griinke conduct inspections and familiarise themselves with the Ancillary Surface Craft’s machinery and control systems during the collaborative training activity.



The members with their Spanner Packs.

The experience being gained by these soldiers comes at an important time for Army’s littoral capability. Construction of the first of 18 Landing Craft – Medium and eight Landing Craft – Heavy is scheduled to commence at Henderson, Western Australia, in late 2026.

Source: Article adapted courtesy of information and photographs supplied by WO1 Jason Peterson, ASM, 1st Landing Craft Battalion, Littoral Manoeuvre Group.

Our new hat badge

Terry Jones recently shared this image of his slouch hat with the new hat badge.

Looks pretty good to me!

What do you think?



RAEME NATIONWIDE

RAEMUS Rover Happenings

Quite a bit happening in the Raemus Rover world with yet more adrenalin-based support programs for veterans and supporters.

Wednesday this month was maintenance day. With the workshop open, veterans got to head on down, and chew the fat, whilst working on race cars and talking about all things veteran.



After running such an absolute cracker of a veteran program, the team went into the 2026 Don River Dash full of confidence. The track was the wettest since they started the race 7 years ago, but still a great challenge.



Unfortunately, on Day 1, the team suffered a component failure: a steering arm bolt snapped. This resulted in the dreaded tractor tow out of the river.

Day 2, all was repaired and the team again faced the challenge. After getting out of the blocks really well, they got bogged (nearly 80% of the field were bogged at some stage) at the 23km point. Once free, they continued on.

The cars, trucks and buggies had the predicted effect of changing the track surface every lap. This time at the same region of the track, we had to slow whilst crossing a creek flow to avoid hitting a slowed vehicle (some vehicles really slowed during the crossings). The wall of water was deep and we ended up stopped

sideways in the crossing. This was not good. The Raemus Team managed to move the car to the edge but she gave her last gasp as the engine ingested too much water into the engine and it's now locked solid. They bent the 2GR, aaaargh, they loved that engine.



On the plus side the Raemus Team managed to get veteran Camaron Carroll a race to remember. He focussed on getting his health better to be able to endure the race and he did an awesome job as navigator.

A massive thank you to the whole Raemus Rover Off-Road Racing team who supported the car and veteran. The team will rebuild and be ready for the 2027 season.



Source: Raemus Rover's social media

Update from the Annual RAEME Get Together 2027

Port for our 10th Anniversary will once again be supplied by Keis Winery from South Australia. It's a ruby port and the bottle size is a healthy 750 mL for only \$20 per bottle.

Collect it at BP dam in February. Members not attending can arrange for someone to pick up on their behalf. Postage is NOT an option. If you live in the Brisbane/Ipswich area you can arrange pickup from Greg Riley.

To place an order, pay the total amount into the following account:

- NAB account: Greg Riley
- BSB 084742
- Account 289879166
- Reference: Use your name

Closing date for orders is 15 December 2026.

RAEME NATIONWIDE

ALTC News

Remembering. Reflecting. Leaving no one behind.

Ahead of the 25th anniversary of 11 September 2001, trainees from Vehicle Technology Wing's Automotive Techniques Section came together for a commemorative workout, tackling 2,200 steps and 170m of elevation at the Albury Monument.

The effort reflected the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day, and the courage of the first responders who ran towards danger. More than a physical challenge, it was a reminder of the values at the heart of our profession: service, courage, respect, integrity and excellence.

Our thoughts are with our US brothers and sisters on the 25th anniversary of the September 11 tragedy.



[Click here](#) for more photos.

Homemade M113A1 MRV

Anyone with M113 experience or anyone who enjoys the design and build process might want to take a look at the replica M113 MRV built by a former RAAC member, Trevor.



Edition 08 – September 2026

Apprentice Quarterly Lunch – ACT Region

By Jeff Heron, 21st Intake Radio Mechanic, ACT Regional Rep

Nineteen attendees enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Ainslie Football Club on Wed 09 Sept, with representatives from Intakes 2, 14A, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 33, and 40.

We welcomed Dave and Trudy Giles, 40th Intake Carpenter & Joiner (C&J) from Esperance, making two from that trade. The electrical trades were most heavily represented (eight), then two Vehicle Mechanics, one Fitter & Turner, and one Musician. Our elder statesman, Herb Taylor, 2nd Intake C&J brought along his tank (actually it's a cigarette box under the sliding turret with a space for matches under the hinged gun – see image) that was built in 1951, and has the names of all 12 x 2nd Intake C&J graduates.



Herb also brought along a Canberra Times special centenary list "Canberra 100 list: the Canberrans who made our city" from 3 September 2026, which included Chic Henry, 19th Intake Blacksmith, the Summernats founder who sadly passed away in 2022.



Image of Chic Henry courtesy of [Social Media](#)

RAEME NATIONWIDE

RAQ Sunshine Coast Chapter Annual Luncheon

The RAEME Sunshine Coast Chapter annual luncheon was held on 12 September 2026 at the Maroochy RSL, with 72 guests registered to attend. A few unfortunately had to pull out at the last minute due to colds and influenza, but those who made it along certainly made up for it!

The lively crowd was buzzing before, during and after the luncheon, with plenty of conversation, laughter and the usual RAEME camaraderie.



The Maroochy RSL once again delivered an exceptional three-course meal, which certainly set the tone for what turned out to be an excellent afternoon.



Our guest speaker, Suzanne Shipp, delivered a captivating and inspirational presentation, sharing how she progressed from humble beginnings, overcame challenges and ultimately made a real difference in her life and the lives of others.



A big thank you to Suzanne for sharing her story and reminding us of the importance of having the courage to set high personal goals, and then having the determination to achieve them.

LTCOL Alex McDonald provided a well-received update on matters affecting RAEME personnel and gave us an insight into some of the issues and developments relevant to the Corps.



RAQ Chairman Pete Matthews was then called upon to propose the toast to the Corps. Pete followed this with a brief RAQ update, including welcoming new members in the audience and paying our respects to those members of the RAEME family who have passed away.

Overall, it was a great afternoon of mateship, memories and RAEME camaraderie, with many first-time attendees already committing to joining us again next year.



A big thank you to Charmaine, JD and Pete Yates for their assistance in helping bring the luncheon together.



And, of course, a sincere thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day such a success.

Maintenance Matters – RAEME's Newsletter

RAEME NATIONWIDE

Nungarin Museum Antics – Part V

Only had a few of us up there but got stuck into a few vehicles which proved to be troublesome. Why do engineers hate mechanics so much? And this is coming from an electrician!

Alex and Peter – the Stag



Got the power steering working, which was a surprise. It has its own electric pump! It only took 30 minutes of reading the manual to find where the switch was to turn it on! You'd think it would be on the dash next to the engine ignition switches... Nope! Middle of the vehicle, just out of reach of the driver... must have been a co-driver job? The exhausts were refitted (which basically meant remanufacturing the insane pipework – no clearance from anything), and we connected up the fuel system. Through some very dodgy plumbing and an electrical fuel pump! If only we could find the pump we removed? One engine fired up beautifully, the other, the much tighter of the two, put up a pretty good fight. After resetting the timing, and some extra volts... we got her to fire-up and idle! Sure... we may have had only one small electrical fire and one cooked battery... A rather exciting time really! Who knew that when a steel screen sheathed cable comes into contact with the positive battery voltage, that a lot of current is drawn and heat is generated? You could argue that we broke the rule about keeping the smoke in the cables! No real harm, so no foul.



After we were comfortable with the engine running, we decided to reinstall the radiators so we could run the engines properly... And again, this is where Alex starts abusing Perry (an engineer by profession) ... Why in God's name would you install a radiator on a 30° lean through a gap that a postage stamp would be lucky to squeeze through? Don't forget that it leans over the lower hose, that somehow you are supposed to be able to reach down past the engine and fit and tighten the hose!

So at the end of the weekend we have started to unbolt and remove all the ancillary equipment that we worked hard to install over the previous weekends to instal the radiator.

Alas... Not driving yet! Two steps forward, one step back.

Wes – the Ferret

Fixing the brakes should be relatively easy. Providing the wheel cylinders and drums want to co-operate. In this case they didn't. Fit the master cylinder and bleed the brakes, they say... Should be straightforward, right? So this is where they put the master cylinder...



So after Wes folded himself up into a ball and rolled himself into the foot well, he was able to refit the master cylinder and fill it up. After extracting himself and 20 minutes of stretching to regain blood circulation, he started on bleeding the brakes. And of course... A steel bleed nipple (rounded of course) into an aluminium wheel cylinder... Didn't bind too much really! We all got a quick lesson on a dual-acting park-brake/wheel-cylinder assembly—impressive, to be honest, just not friendly to work on. So, after a lot of heat and a crap ton of interesting words, the bleed nipple was extracted without damage to the wheel cylinder housing.

Wes and the boys had to leave, so the mantle was passed to Dick to bleed and finish adjusting the brakes. Thankfully that was completed without too much fuss.



RAEME NATIONWIDE

Nungarin Museum Antics – Part V continued

During the last visit, the lads replaced the spider gear in the hub and installing the missing drive shaft from the right forward drive. We look to be in a position to start her up again on our next visit. The last time the engine was started was about 3 years ago. We're looking forward to it.

Wes Jnr x 2 – Bren Gun Carrier



Wes's young lads are a rare breed for this day and age! They worked tirelessly pulling apart the Bren Gun Carrier's exhaust and cooling system to allow them access to the seized water pump. And for whatever reason, some genius thought it would be a good idea to make the water pump part of the engine mount! Whoever designed the cooling system on these ensured that there is no way to drain the radiator without creating a lake. Did I mention that the colour of the water drained from the engine made the Yarra River water look potable! These things have a way of chewing time... so this will be another task that will be carried over... So maybe a job to complete next time.



Dick – the Studebaker

Dick started out looking at the old 6-volt starter motor. The one left next to the old girl, after some detailed scrutiny was confirmed as incorrect for the engine. Fortunately, the Museum

has another Studebaker that graciously donated its starter motor for the cause. Dick fitted it up and started the pre-start check and found that there was no water in the Radiator. As Colesy had only fitted a new head gasket and a machined head on his previous visit, he thought it wise to find the leak prior to starting... And that's when he found the water pump. Getting it out turned out to be a bit of a mission!



Another story of "Engineers who hate mechanics!". Stripping it out required removal of the distributor, unbolting the complete assembly to remove the drive gear from the casing it out of the casing. It is a single shaft that is connected to the gear, which drives the gear for the distributor, through to driving the water impeller. Genius... NOT!

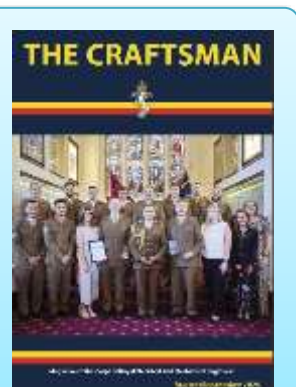


You gotta love these old mechanically-coupled pumps, but this one does need a bit of serious work due to 80+ years of corrosion.

REME Magazine

REME recently released it latest *Craftsman* magazine.

[Click here](#) to check it out.



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.

September

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
Fri 25 th – Mon 28 th	WA	RAEME WA Family Get Together	An opportunity for our RAEME family to connect over the long weekend – Camping in an informal environment. 36 Hastings Road, Barragup (Off Pinjarra Road – 9 minutes from Mandurah). Contact Grant Stinson 0477 700 828 or gbstinson1@gmail.com ASAP to confirm numbers for group bookings or further info
Tues 29 th	Canberra	Mixed Drinks	Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club from 1930h

October

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

IMPENDING EVENTS

October continued

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
Fri 30 th	Adelaide	All Ranks Log Dinner	Venue: Barton Room, Caledonian Hotel, 215 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, from 1830 h for 1900 h Dress: Coat and tie with medals Tickets: Click here to book your ticket.

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
Wed 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
Fri 13 th	Canberra	End-of-Year Dinner	Gyphonn's Bar and Caffe
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)	Shipp Inn, Brisbane Details to be confirmed
	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 – 0402-013-137. 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
Sun 29 th	Brisbane	RAQ All Ranks Luncheon	Port Office Hotel

BREAKING NEWS

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.

Experienced hands getting dirty



ASM WO2 Shayne Salau, 7 CSSB, prepares a tyre for the installation of a wheel rim using the Tyre Changing Station during Exercise POZIERES RUN at Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Queensland.

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

DVA News

VetAffairs

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



[Click here](#) to download a PDF, view it online as a flipbook, view it as an HTML file or listen to it as an audio file.

Have your say on future DVA allied health arrangements



The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has opened consultation on proposed changes to allied health arrangements for Veteran Card holders.

Veterans, families, health service providers, ex-service organisations and other interested stakeholders are invited to provide feedback before the new arrangements are finalised.

Key date:

- Consultation closes: Friday, 30 October 2026

Members wishing to learn more or provide their own feedback can:

- [Read the DVA discussion paper](#)
- [Submit feedback to DVA](#)
- [Read DVA's overview of the proposed arrangements](#)

Support for veterans affected by brain injury



For veterans, brain injury can be a significant health concern, affecting multiple aspects of their physical, cognitive, and psychological wellbeing.

DVA will fund assessment and investigations to help you get a diagnosis and treatment if you have a Veteran Card – All Conditions (commonly known as a Gold Card) or a Veteran Card – Specific Conditions (commonly known as a White Card) with a relevant accepted condition.

[Click here](#) for more information

Tinnitus treatment and support: how early intervention can make a real difference



Tinnitus affects many veterans and serving members and is one of the most common service-related conditions.

DVA funds a range of treatment pathways to support veterans experiencing tinnitus, including options that may provide access to treatment before a claim has been assessed.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Are you the child or grandchild of a Vietnam veteran? Apply for the 2027 Long Tan Bursary



Applications are now open for the 2027 round of the Long Tan Bursary.

Eligible children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans can apply for up to \$12,000 over 3 years to assist with the cost of their education at an Australian university, TAFE college or registered training organisation.

More information on the Long Tan Bursary, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found on the Long Tan Bursary page.

The Long Tan Bursary scheme is administered by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) on behalf of DVA.

To apply, visit the AVCAT website. Applications close 31 October 2026.

[Click here](#) for more information.

BREAKING NEWS

Military Life

Defence Member and Family Support



How much do you know about the work of DMFS and how they can support your family?

If the answer is “not much”, [click here](#) to learn more.

Soldier On + Invictus Australia

Joining forces – Stronger together



Soldier On and Invictus Australia have launched a new partnership designed to strengthen connections, opportunities and support for Australian Defence personnel, veterans and their families as they navigate life beyond military service.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Open Arms

Preventative self-maintenance

Open Arms offers a range of free group programs to assist the serving and ex-serving community, as well as their families, live their best life. Call 1800 011 046 to speak with an Open Arms staff member for assistance in finding the right program for you.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

REME News



REME CONNECT is live!

REME already have nearly 3,000 members who have registered on REME CONNECT. Please spread the word and encourage REME serving personnel, veterans and families to download the app and register now!

The Military App is not an MOD platform; no OFFICIAL + comms are sent through the platform. The App should be installed on personal devices like other publicly accessible platforms. The Web App is recognised by MODNet and can be accessed as such. Our advice to new member Regiments / Corps is to add the Military App to your list of registered social media channels and follow the same strict content filters for these in accordance with guidelines set by Army Comms (or equivalent).

You can search for other members in the Mobile and Web App. You can search by regiment, location, tour/base as well as industry and years of service.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how REME communicates with their serving and retired members using this app.

Pay and Conditions Updates

On 13 August 2026, a new Determination introduced changes that:

- improve child education assistance for members posted within Australia;
- improve child education assistance for members on a long-term posting overseas;
- update the list of operations eligible for deployment allowance and their associated daily rates
- increase the trainee's dependant allowance earnings threshold to align with the National Minimum Wage
- add a new posting location to the ADF district allowance eligibility list
- add a new posting location to the additional recreation leave eligibility list; and
- increase travel and meal allowances, commencing 8 October 2026.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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.

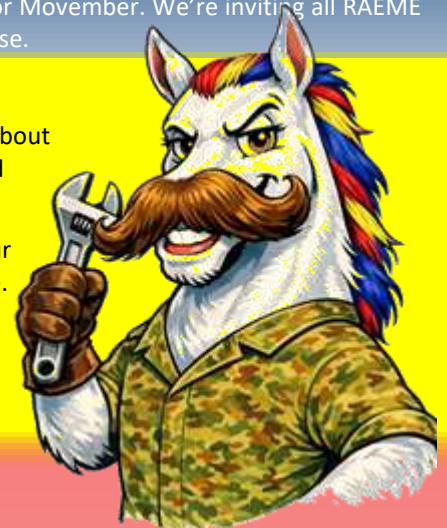
How?

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 and 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](#).

2142225/222849 CPL Ronald William James 'Pop' ARCHER ret'd

Pop Archer died on 1 September 2026. A Corporal with 22 years of service, Pop served in the CMF from 1960–66 and the ARA from 24 January 1973 to 29 January 1988. He was called Pop as when he transferred to the ARA, he had to go to Kapooka at age 31. As a Vehicle Mechanic, Pop was well known across numerous postings, most notably with 1st Field Engineer Workshop when they were involved with the construction of the Lord Howe Island airfield. Pop was a respected and much-loved RAEME mate.



3147917 WO2 Ronald James 'Ron' COTTIER ret'd

Ron died on 9 September 2026. A former WO2 who served 25 years in the Army Reserve, Ron's dedication was recognised with the Efficiency Medal (1976), the Reserve Force Medal (1984) and First and Second Clasps (1984, 1990). He was deeply respected in the Drouin community through decades of voluntary service. Ron's funeral will be held at David W Bull Drouin Funeral Home on 17 September 2026 at 1100h, followed by burial at Drouin Cemetery.



44632 COL David Robert 'Dave' COCKER ret'd

Dave passed away on 26 August 2026 from leukaemia. A COL and 23rd Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic, Dave served 30 years after enlisting on 15 January 1968. Commissioned from OCS Portsea, he deployed to Malaysia (1985–86) and later instructed at the US Army Logistics Management College. His distinguished career included commanding multiple workshops and major logistic units. Dave is survived by his wife, Robyn.



1200604 WO1 Geoffrey Raymond 'Geoff' MOLLER ret'd

Geoff died on 3 September 2026. A WO1 Artificer Aircraft, Geoff served with distinction in RAEME, including warlike service in Vietnam as a Temporary Sergeant with 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight from 9 April 1968 to 2 April 1969. He later served widely across Oakey's aviation units and was highly respected in the Aviation-RAEME community. [Geoff's funeral](#) will be held at T.S. Burstow Chapel, Kearneys Spring, on 18 September 2026 at 1430h.



216566 SGT Wieslaw 'Wes' LUGOWSKI ret'd

Wes passed on 28 August 2026. As a Vehicle Mechanic, Wes served on warlike operations in Vietnam with 17th Construction Squadron Workshop from 7 June 1967 to 9 April 1968. He continued his RAEME career across engineer and base workshop units and was remembered as a respected leader and great mate.



16082 WO1 James Stuart 'Jim' JORDAN ret'd

Jim was taken from our ranks on 27 August 2026. As an Aircraft Artificer, Jim served many years in RAEME, including warlike service in Vietnam with 161 Reconnaissance Flight and 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight from April 1966 to April 1967. He later held aviation workshop appointments at Oakey and was remembered as a humble, knowledgeable and highly respected tradesman. Jim's funeral will be held at the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance on 24 September 2026 at 1000h.



Robert 'Bob' GOURLEY

Bob Gourley died on 29 June 2026. A Vehicle Mechanic, Bob began his RAEME career on 1 June 1972 and served more than 32 years across postings including 2 Base Workshop, 102 Field Workshop, and Adelaide Workshop Company. He remained connected to the Corps through the RAEME Association SA from 2007. Bob is remembered as a long-serving and valued member of the RAEME family.



46606 SGT Allen Wayne WHITTING ret'd

Allen passed away on 21 August 2026. A Vehicle Mechanic, Allen served 22 years after enlisting on 5 September 1972, working across RAEME, combat and support units including 3 Base Workshop Bn, 3RAR, HQ Logistic Command, 20 Divisional Engineer Support Squadron Wksp, and 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, with deployments to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. He was a valued member of RAEME Association and is fondly remembered by all who knew him.



WELFARE MATTERS

Vale

173948 MAJ Noel Raymond MYLER retd

Noel died on 6 June 2026. A MAJ who served in the Royal Australian Army Pay Corps, Noel deployed on warlike service in Vietnam with the Australian Force Vietnam Cash Office from 2 July 1970 to 30 June 1971. A long-standing member of RAEME Association Queensland, he was well known for his dedicated support to the annual RAEME Reserve Reunion. Noel is fondly remembered for his commitment to mateship and service.



1201083 Ernest Charles 'Spider' BLAKE

Spider was taken from us on 22 August 2026. A 22nd Intake Apprentice Fitter & Turner, Spider enlisted on 1 January 1967 and graduated in 1969. He is fondly remembered by his fellow apprentices and RAEME mates for his character and camaraderie. After battling cancer and complications from a recent fall, Spider passed away peacefully. He will be remembered with respect by all who knew him.



46405 WO2 Neil Gordon WOOD retd

Neil died on 23 August 2026. A WO2 Artificer TESG, Neil served many years in RAEME across a wide range of Australian and overseas postings, including service in the United Kingdom and Germany, reflecting his depth of technical expertise and contribution to the Corps. Highly respected throughout RAEME, Neil was farewelled on 31 August, with a gathering at the Wodonga RSL to honour his life and service.



Funeral / Memorial Updates

CAPT Brian TOUHY retd

A wake for Brian will take place on Saturday, 10 October at the West Adelaide Football Club, 57 Milner Road, Richmond, SA, commencing at 1400h and concluding at approximately 1600h. The bar will be open for the purchase of drinks. Light snacks will be provided. For those of you who are unable to attend but would like to share a story, anecdote, or memory of Brian, please feel free to forward them to jurisjaudzems@hotmail.com to ensure they are shared on the day.

Sick Parade Updates

WO1 Russell CLIFFE retd

Russ is back home and in the care of his partner following his stroke. Although Russ had made good progress prior to his release from hospital, he is struggling a little now in that he is barely able to stand, let alone walk unaided and he hasn't regained the use of one hand. Russ would love to have a chat with old mates. If you have the opportunity, please take a moment to give him a call on 0413-732-917. Better still, if you are in the Gladstone region, please pop in and say hi.

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](#).

