

*The*  
**RAEME**  
**CRAFTSMAN**

**THE MAGAZINE OF**  
**The Corps of Royal Australian**  
**Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**



MAY, 1998

ISSUE NUMBER 40

## Head of Corps (HOC) RAEME Membership Database

I have taken on the task of generating a database of RAEME full time, part time and retired personnel. The database of members will assist the HOC with their tasks including the correct distribution of the Craftsman. To ensure that important notices go straight to you, an up-to-date mailing list is required. The database will also assist the HOC organisation to contact individual members and personnel holding committee positions.

Information from a database is only as good as the data that is fed into it. To ensure accurate and up to date information it is requested that all members of the Corps, whether full time, part time or retired complete the survey below and return it to MAJ Peter Williams, SO2 GEW, DME(A). My postal address is:

PO Box 4955WW  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

For those that have E-mail access you can send the information in electronic format to:

E-mail: [pwilliams@mea.army.defence.gov.au](mailto:pwilliams@mea.army.defence.gov.au)

Information will be held in the strictness of confidence.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service No : \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Nominal: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (either unit or home or both)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your method of entry into service? (Circle correct response)

RMC, OCS, DEO, Apprentice, Adult Trade, Other (please specify)

If you were an apprentice which intake were you? \_\_\_\_\_

Current mode of service: (Circle the correct response)

Full Time / Part Time / Retired

Outline any Corps functions you perform (eg organise regional Corps Dinners, Regional/Unit Rep, Corps Committee Member, Honorary Commandant etc):

\_\_\_\_\_

What unit are you currently serving in? \_\_\_\_\_

Part time and Retired personnel only:

Current Job: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_



# The RAEME CRAFTSMAN

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE CORPS OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

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## FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles should be sent to:

**The Editor**  
**The RAEME Craftsman**  
**PO Box 4955WW**  
**Melbourne**  
**VIC 3001**

**DEADLINE**  
**30 September 1998**

*Please note: Photos should be coloured if possible, with caption included.*

*Consider generating your articles on computer (Word/WP/AMIPRO). Send us your disk and photos and we'll take it from there.*

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## EDITORIAL

This is the first issue without a Directorate Electrical and Mechanical Engineers-Army (DEME-A) to oversee and coordinate the issue of the *RAEME Craftsman* Magazine. Since the disbandment of the Directorate, the Editorial board now consists wholly of volunteers to produce *RAEME Craftsman* Magazine. The *RAEME Craftsman* will continue with the emphasis being placed on the soldier and units.

The new Editorial Board is keen to see the standards and traditions of the *RAEME Craftsman* continue towards the next millennium. With that aim in mind the Board looks forward to articles submitted to the *RAEME Craftsman* by units and individuals.

MAJ Graeme Toms  
Editor  
editor.raeme.craftsman@mea.mat.  
army.defence.gov.au

## CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial .....	1
The Director's Message .....	3
AEME/RAEME Association ACT - Internet Site.....	3
Vale .....	3
Message from the Head of Corps.....	5
Notice to all Mech Recovs .....	5
<b>FEATURE ARTICLES</b>	
Head of Corps (HOC) Strategic Plan for RAEME.....	7
Army Maintenance Engineering in the 21st Century .....	11
Army Apprentices 50 Anniversary .....	15
End of an Era 1953-1996 and 1960-1997	
RAEME Sergeants Mess - North Bandiana .....	19
Memorial to the Craftsman.....	27
From the Past .....	31
The History of RAEME in the Top End .....	33
Unit Jottings .....	36

## FRONT COVER PHOTO

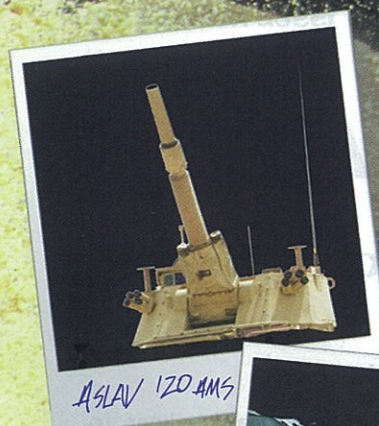
### Army Apprentices 50th Anniversary

Keith Thomas pushing Roy Thompson in the wheelchair (Roy passed away shortly after the reunion and his ashes will be among the first to be spread at the Craftsman Memorial). Also shown are Peter Jackson and Brian Stapleton.

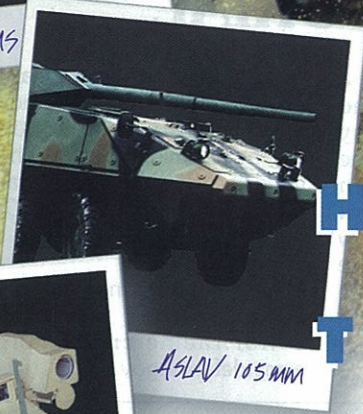
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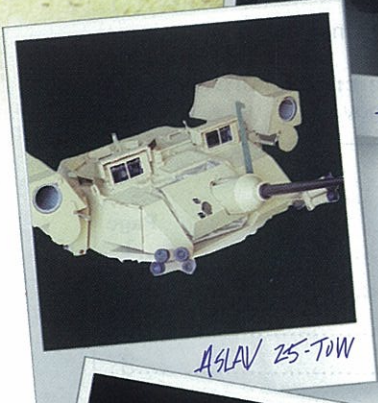
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ASLAV-CSV

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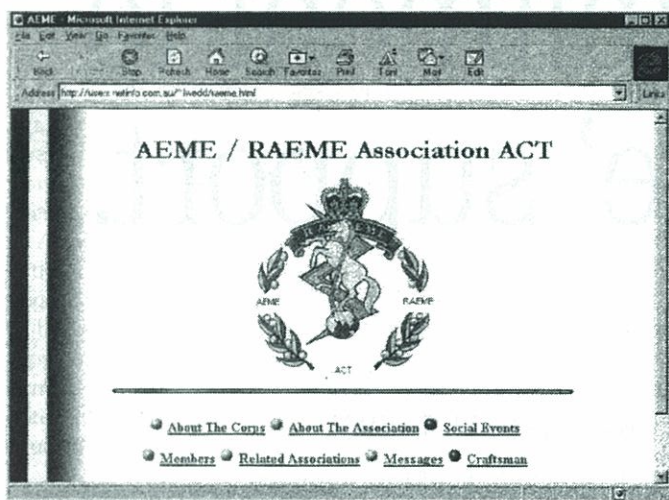


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# RAEME CORPS NEWS

## AEME/RAEME Association Act - Internet Web Site

The AEME/RAEME Association in the ACT has developed a web site to provide general corps information and information for members in the ACT. The site was developed by the association committee members: COL Larry Foley, Lyell Wedd, Lorrie McDonald and Trevor Bonney. The site contains over 40 pages of text and over 50 images and paragraphs.



The web site address is <http://users.netinfo.com.au/~lwedd/raeme.html>. The site can also be found using keywords aeme or raeme in the Alta Vista internet search engine.

## CONTENTS

### About the Corps

This section contains summary information about the Corps and provided details on areas such as the Prince Philip Banner, the Corps History Book, the Corps Centrepiece and other areas of interests including images and photographs.

### About the Association, Social Events, Members

This section summarises the role of the association, provides the committee contact details and includes other social event and member information.

### Related Associations

This section provides contact details for related associations in other states and also provides links to other related internet web sites.

### Messages

This section provides messages for coming Corps events (e.g. Corps dinners) or other notices such as the Corps shops (e.g. Corps History Book copies still available for sale).

### Craftsman

This section provides a comprehensive index of all issues of the RAEME Craftsman magazine including the table of contents, units jottings, images of the covers of all magazines and a full catalogue of names for both the magazines and the Corps History book.

## VALE

### CAPT Graham Petroni

The Director and members of the Corps respectfully inform members of the wider RAEME community of the passing of a colleague. To his wife Gail and sons Darren and Adam, we extend our sincere sympathy.

### MAJ Monika Bakker

The Director and members of the Corps respectfully inform members of the wider RAEME community of the passing of a colleague. To her family, we extend our sincere sympathy.

### 31597 WO1 Roy Thompson

Roy was the first Victorian to join the Army Apprentice School, 1st Intake 1948. He graduated in December 1951 and was posted to 1 Central Workshop at Bandiana. Roy was discharged in 1971 having been awarded the LSGCM and MSM.

To his wife Fay and son Ross we extend our sincere sympathy.

### WO2 John Brown

The Director and members of the Corps respectfully inform members of the wider RAEME community of the passing of a colleague. To his wife Meryl, sons Michael and Steven and his daughter Debbie, we extend our sincere sympathy.

## 1998 RAEME OFFICERS DINNER

**23 OCTOBER 1998**

The RAEME Officers Corps Dinner will this year be held in conjunction with the dedication of the Corps Memorial. Many retired officers have indicated that they will attend the dinner this year and it is anticipated that the numbers attending will significantly increase over previous years.

As many of you have already experienced mess functions conducted under CSP you will be aware that greater forecasting and planning times are required.

### DETAILS

**Date:** Friday 23 October 1998

**Timings:** 1700 for 1730

**Cost:** \$35.00

**Dress:** Mess Dress - White Jacket

**Location:** Bandiana (somewhere)

**Accommodation:** It is the members' responsibility. Accommodation may be booked by contacting the Accommodation Cell at Bandiana on Ph (02) 6055

**Extra Messing:** Is payable to the mess at the relevant casual meal rates.

**Cut off Date:** Monday 12 October 1998

**Payment:** Cheques should be made payable to the RAEME Corps Dinner and forwarded to: SO2 Corps RAEME, MAJ D. Gammon, LCSC ALTC, Mil PO Bandiana 3694.

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## A total commitment to 'whole-of-life' support.

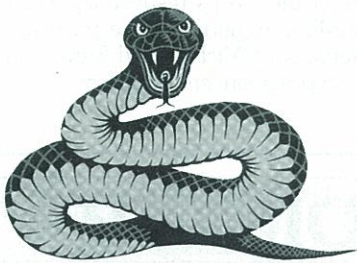
Mercedes-Benz is pleased to be associated with TAIPAN.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CORP

*Brig R L G Grant*

It is because of a quirk of nature, called the Defence Reform Program (DRP), that I once again find myself addressing you as your new Head of Corps (HOC). While I am naturally delighted, I find the prospect a little daunting. Firstly, I do not have the support of dedicated staff I previously enjoyed as DEME, although I am pleased to say I retain MAJ Doug Gammon, whose work ethic and commitment to the Corps over many years is legendary. Secondly, the challenge of keeping the Corps focussed on its core business during a time of dramatic change, which accompanies the DRP, is going to test not only those of us charged with safe-keeping its reputation and traditions, but also the volunteers responsible for managing our Corps' activities and cohesiveness. Finally, it is clear that as HOC, I have a completely different range of responsibilities from the former DEME which have yet to be fully specified and managed within the resources made available by the Chief of the Army (CA).

To help my new staff identify their new responsibilities and to ensure that all members of the Corps understand the direction the HOC will probably take, I have with the help of the Colonels' Commandant, devised a simple Strategic Plan. This plan is published in this copy of the *Craftsman* for your consideration and comment. I intend it to be a living document which will be reviewed annually and take cognizance of the ever-changing environment in which we find ourselves as soldiers today. If you have any ideas on how you would like your Corps managed, please provide your views to me or the S02 Corps, MAJ Doug Gammon.

To help you understand the approach the management committees and Colonels' Commandants would like to take, I have provided an article on page 7 that summarizes the key activities to which we will give priority. My personal priority for the Corps, as you will see from the Vision Statement, is to maintain and enhance the reputation of the Corps as a professional body of maintenance engineers and tradesmen, who can continue to work as integral members of the wider Army or Joint Services teams in the Army of the 21st Century. Time will tell if we are successful.

At this stage, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the last DEME, COL Bruce Amor. He had the unenviable task of disbanding the Directorate and dispatching staff to various locations while attempting to take up his new position as the

Director of Maintenance Engineering (DME) (formerly the Maintenance Engineering Agency). COL Amor was a fine DEME and is to be congratulated for finishing the many important projects he had underway, and passing others to the various agencies that inherited DEME responsibilities.

One particularly important project, the Army Maintenance Engineering Study for the Twenty-First Century (AME21) foreshadows many far reaching changes in the way we, as a Corps, deliver maintenance engineering support to the Army of the future. This study has found its way to my new organization, and as the Director General Engineering (DGENG), and the head of the Army Acquisition and Engineering Agency, I will shortly present it to the Chief of Army's Senior Advisory Group (CASAG) for their consideration. If the Reviews' recommendations are accepted, there will be many challenges for us as a Corps, and as individuals, to implement new engineering practices that meet the needs of a modern technologically based Army. However, we can take heart from our short history and remember those who established the Corps 56 years ago, those who have contributed to its reputation over the intervening years, and importantly, those who will come into the Corps in the future. There is a short summary of the AME21 report on page 11.

It is timely as the process of change continues unabated, that we pause during this year and honour our past. I invite you to attend the dedication of a memorial to the Craftsmen of the Corps in October, at Bandiana. The statue is in place and is a fitting tribute to our Corps members past, present and future. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, but more importantly, leading the Corps, as we take our first steps into a new era with the good men and women, represented by that statue.

## ARTE-ET- MARTE

PS. As we go to print, a number of our Corps members are unwell or have suffered injury or distress in recent months. May I wish you a speedy recovery and I include amongst these members COL Larry Foley, a previous DEME, who is recovering after a heart attack and Craftsman Legg who was injured in a work-related accident. I also extend our condolences to the families of Graham Patrone, Monika Bakker, Roy Thompson and John Brown.

## NOTICE TO ALL MECH RECOVS

What's new on the ECN 226 Mech Recov front? An ECN and Pay Case Review for the trade, that's what! Who's doing that you may ask? Trade Management Cell (TMC) within Training Development Group, ALTC, acting on behalf of the Commandant, that's who.

TMC, as the Trade Sponsor is responsible for the Trade Management, Viability and Structures of ORD, TPT, EME, CATR and PAY trades to meet Defence Initiatives. The cell also maintains a watching brief on the Health Services trades in the event they are transferred to TMC.

As the Trade Sponsor for the 226 trade, TMC is currently working on an ECN/Pay Case Review submission on behalf of all the 'Tow Rags' out there. On 9 July 1998, the TMC will present the Trade/Pay Case Review on the MECH RECOV ECN 226 trade to the Employment Category Review Committee (ECRC) and if endorsed further present the Review to the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) hopefully by late 1998. As the ECN 226 trade has not been reviewed since the Vietnam conflict the review is well overdue. The first hurdle is to get

through the gates of the ECRC and then focus on the DFRT endorsing the submission. We look forward to a favourable response and hopefully an improvement of your pay groups in 1999 if all goes well.

To enhance the submission, TMC has tapped into the inner depths of WO1 Peter Sandilands, OIC Recov PI, ALTC, who is assisting in the provision of technical trade and equipment advice, formatting the submission and to be an expert witness if required to support the Review. To ensure that the Review team has an affinity to the mysteries of the trade, Peter has invited the Review team to the famous Mech Recov playing area within ALTC to wallow around in the mud to fully appreciate the finer arts of the trade. We declined the offer.

The TMC will keep the Corps and the 'Tow Rags' posted on the progress of the submission. POC is MAJ 'Beans' Bevans, 02 6055 2256 or CAPT Julie Cassie, 02 6055 2051, TMC., ALTC.

*Tow Rags, keeping the road ahead clear*



# HEAD OF CORPS (HOC) STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (RAEME)

AS AT MAR 1998

## HOC CORPS VISION

*RAEME enjoys a reputation that has been hard earned: it is a reputation that is highly valued. It has been won by several generations of professional officers and craftsmen committing themselves to the delivery of maintenance engineering, materiel maintenance and recovery support to the combat arms whose technical equipment is a key component of combat capability. Increasingly, the soldier of the future will depend on the technological edge this equipment brings to the modern, complex and fluid battlefield. In turn, the combat soldier will turn to the RAEME officer and craftsman to provide technological leadership/management and innovative maintenance methods that increase levels of equipment reliability, availability and maintainability. Thus the Corps' future on the new battlefield is assured. Most importantly, the Corps' reputation, as an active member of a team contributing to the defence of our Nation, can only grow richer: its spirit is in the hands of the people who comprise our Corps – past, present and future.*

*'Arte-et-Marte'*

### Mission of the Head of Corps of RAEME

To promote the image, spirit, reputation and competencies of the Corps – its past, present and future members.

### Goals of the Head of Corps of RAEME

The goals of the HOC Corps are as follows:

- Promote the Corps.
- Recognise the achievements of the members of the Corps.
- Provide a focal point for Corps members and Corps activities.

### Corps Strategies, Objectives, Tasks and Responsibilities

#### GOAL 1 – Promote the Corps

**Strategy:** *Using effective communication mediums and promotional activities to inform members of the Corps and the wider community, facilitate the celebration of Corps achievements.*

**Objective:**

- 1.1 Compile, edit, print and distribute two issues of the *Craftsman* magazine per year to a total of 5000 copies per issue.  
**Responsibility:** Editorial Board.
- 1.2 Facilitate the celebration of the national Corps birthday by Officers, WOs and SNCOs at Bandiana in May and October each year.  
**Responsibility:** Promotional sub-committee and SO2 Corps.
- 1.3 Facilitate the regional celebrations of the Corps birthday for all ranks in North Qld, South Qld, Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT, SA, NT & WA.  
**Responsibility:** Unit and regional representatives and RAEME Associations.
- 1.4 Provide lecturing support to ADFA, RMC and ALTC to attract new members to the Corps.  
**Responsibility:** HOC and appropriate volunteers.

- 1.5 Seek appropriate publicity for the achievements of Corps members.

**Responsibility:** Promotional Sub-committee.

#### GOAL 2 – Recognise achievements of the members of the Corps

**Strategy:** *Using funds raised by Corps members, provide prizes and public recognition to individuals and groups who represent the Corps in an exceptional manner.*

**Objectives:**

- 2.1. Provide the following prizes to the members of the Corps:
  - 2.1.1. Lieutenant Peter Jennings Award
  - 2.1.2. Brigadier Harry Martins MBE Award
  - 2.1.3. Artificer of the Year Award
  - 2.1.4. Senior Regimental Award
  - 2.1.5. Junior Regimental Award
  - 2.1.6. National Craftsman of the Year Award
  - 2.1.7. Regional Craftsman of the Year Award for both the Full time and Part time components.**Responsibilities:** SO2 Corps, Colonels Commandant, Corps Committee and Donors.
- 2.2 Participate in the development of the Army Museum – Albury/Wodonga.  
**Responsibility:** SO2 Corps, HOC, Colonel Commandant, Corps Committee and Donors.
- 2.3 Install and maintain the RAEME Memorial.  
**Responsibility:** SO2 Corps, COL COMDT, Corps Committee.
- 2.4 Raise funds for ongoing Corps operations, celebratory activities and specific projects.  
**Responsibilities:** Corps Committee and Promotional Sub-committee.
- 2.5 Bid for, and manage effectively, Defence funding for HOC activities for each financial year.  
**Responsibility:** HOC and SO2 Corps.

2.6 Consider annually special projects which can promote the Corps and recognise achievements of the members of the Corps.

**Responsibility:** HOC, SO2 Corps and Corps Committee.

2.7 Develop articles for publication on past achievements of the Corps.

**Responsibility:** Retired Members Working Group.

### GOAL 3 – Provide a focal point for Corps Members and their activities

**Strategy:** Recognising the resource limitations, establish, maintain and grow enabling organisations, systems and networks which can foster a dynamic Corps and its HOC Management Structure.

**Objectives:**

3.1 Maintain a dynamic group of Colonel’s Commandant, Corps Committee and HOC management structure.

**Responsibility:** HOC and SO2 Corps.

3.2 Promulgate the organisation shown at ANNEX A widely in the *Craftsman* and other media and explain its responsibilities.

**Responsibility:** HOC and SO2 Corps.

3.3 Develop, maintain and enhance an electronic database of all Corps members – past, present and future.

**Responsibility:** HOC, SO2 Corps, and Membership Sub-committee.

3.4 Collect Corps memorabilia and documentation and have it maintained in a sound condition for display and research purposes.

**Responsibility:** Promotional Sub-committee, all interested

donors and volunteers.

3.5 Maintain Corps instructions.

**Responsibility:** SO2 Corps, HOC.

**Note: Annex B provides detail of the composition of all committees, sub-committees and boards shown in the organisation at Annex A.**

### SUMMARY OF KEY TASKS FOR HOC MANAGEMENT

- Facilitate Corps Birthday celebrations in units and regions.
- Organise Corps prize giving.
- Publish the *Craftsman* Magazine.
- Establish, maintain and develop the Corps database.
- Gather and maintain Corps memorabilia, property, documentation and participate in the management and development of the museum.
- Undertake lecturing tasks at ADFA, RMC, ALTC and other venues.
- Manage Corps property, financial and other accounts, Corps funds, Corps Records and Conference minutes.
- Review and maintain Corps Instructions.
- Bid for Defence funds annually.
- Raise funds for the Corps Memorial.
- Review the membership of the Corps Committee and sub-committees annually and provide support.
- Identify and maintain regional and unit Corps representatives.
- Identify and maintain the Regional RAEME Associations.

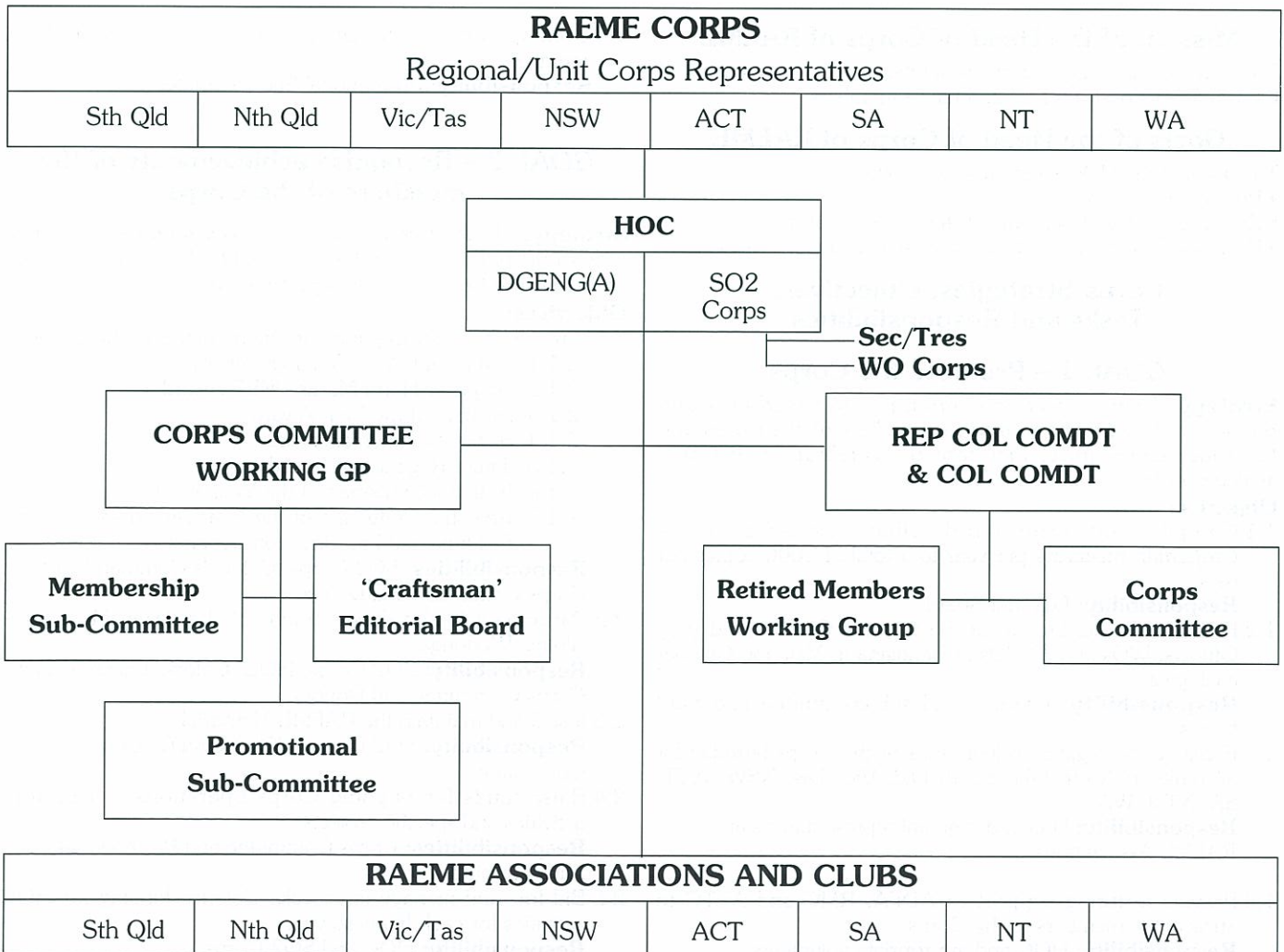
**Annex:**

A) Head of Corps Management Structure

B) Composition of HOC Committees, Sub-Committees (Not to all)

## ANNEX A TO HOC STRATEGIC PLAN – DATED MARCH ‘98

### HEAD OF CORPS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



# ANNEX B TO HOC STRATEGIC PLAN DATED MARCH 1998

## COMPOSITION OF HOC COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES

### Corps Committee:

Representative Colonels Commandant  
Colonels Commandant  
DGENG-A  
WO Representative  
OR Representative

### Retired Members Working Group: To be advised

Corps Committee Working Group:

Membership Sub-Committee:

MAJ Peter Williams

### 'Craftsman' Editorial Board:

MAJ Graeme Toms  
CAPT Doug Wheadon  
CAPT Simon Anderson  
WO1 'Boat' Davies  
WO1 Phil Thompson

### Corps Promotion Committee:

MAJ Dave Hutton  
WO1 Mick Shanahan  
WO2 Rex Whip

### RAEME Regional Representatives

Qld – MAJ T Hawkins (SQLGP) (07) 3323667  
Eastern – MAJ R.P. Playford (DNSDC) (02) 96004216  
Southern – MAJ K.N. Hoppe (DME(A)) (03) 92827522  
Tasmania – CAPT D. Edwards (Southern Log Bn Hobart Det) (03) 62377401

Central – MAJ R Parker (16 AD Regt) (08) 83890290

Northern – LTCOL C Wrangle (JLU North) (08) 89470597

Western – TBA

**RAEME Associations:** Contacts to be provided next article

**Unit Representatives:** Contacts needed please contact  
SO2 Corps

## A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE HEAD OF CORPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

In the succeeding pages, I have provided a version of a Strategic Plan, which has been developed for the Head of Corps (HOC) and the Corps Committees to assist in the management of various Corps' activities. As I mentioned in the Message, the plan's development has involved many people, including the Colonels' Commandants, and has already had limited circulation and re-writing. There is still room for improvement, so if you have any views, please forward them to MAJ Doug Gammon or me.

The key elements of the plan are the Vision Statement, the Goals, the individual strategies to support those goals, those people who have accepted important responsibilities to progress the Corps' reputation and the organisational structure to support the achievement of those Goals.

The Vision tries to encapsulate the importance of the Corps' reputation which has been developed over a relatively short period as well as the value of contributions made by individual Corps members in many combat service support teams. Additionally it encapsulates the need to look to the future of the emerging and important role the Corps must play in a modern Army; and above all the professionalism of our people. We shouldn't dwell too much on the past, although it is important, but I am reminded of Ketterings' comments: "I am only interested in the future, as that is where I intend to spend most of my time." The future is where our reputation will be tested time and again and I know we are not going to be found wanting.

I believe the key areas of the Plan that support the vision, and which the HOC and his volunteers will be required to devote their efforts, is as follows:

- **Promotion of the Corps.** This can be achieved in part through the traditional means that we have always employed such as the *Craftsman* magazine. I will ensure that all means available to us are used to maximise our exposure as a Corps and the good work that we do. I cannot stress enough however the need for the various soldiers and officers of the Corps to take an active role in promoting RAEME whenever they can without "guilding the lily".

- **Recognise the Requirements of the Members of the Corps.** One of the real strengths of any Corps is the people who make it what it is. We must never forget these people and I intend to ensure that the numerous awards currently available to RAEME personnel are continued. Through this process I hope to reward those who achieve levels of service and commitment beyond the ordinary.

- **Provide a Focal Point for Corps Matters.** This refers to the way we celebrate our Corps, its people and activities. I am keen to see dinners, parades and birthday celebrations continue given the

limitations of workload and funding. The forthcoming dedication of the RAEME Craftsman memorial is a good example.

The strategies, which will have to be implemented, are spelt out in the Plan and are fairly self-explanatory. They do, however, require the direct involvement of a large and dispersed group of volunteers. While the Colonels' Commandant will continue to devote their valuable time to maintaining Corps traditions and history, maintenance of morale and management and administration of many aspects of Corps life in their respective regions, I see a broader role for other members of the Corps.

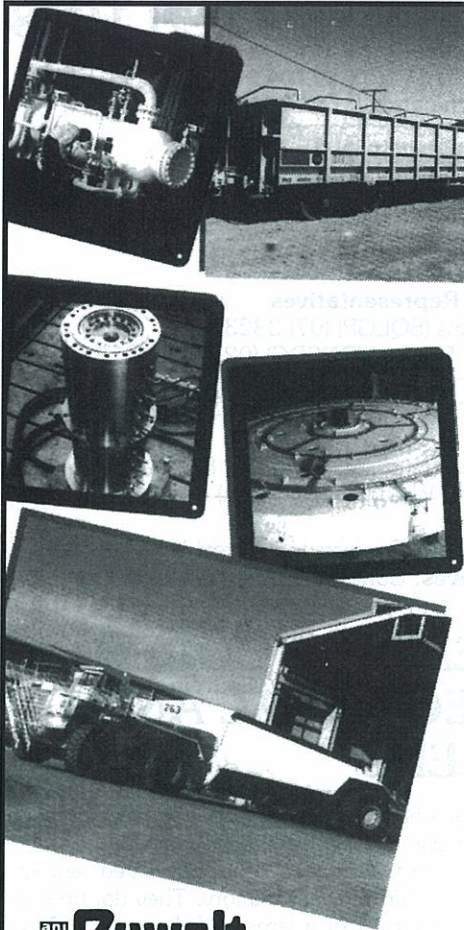
We will need correspondents in all military regions who can write and submit regular articles for the *Craftsman*. This is a task, which keeps everyone aware of what we do as members of RAEME. We need active associations in all regions who involve past and serving members in social and other activities. We need technically qualified members who can develop and maintain databases of all our members – past, present and future. The data base is important as it will one day be the basis of our mailing list for the *Craftsman*, invitations for our annual Corps dinners and other significant activities like the "Craftsman Memorial" dedication on the 24th October of this year.

We will also require people who can promote the Corps activities and on occasion help raise funds for, again, such worthy causes as the memorial, our museum displays, recording our history and maintaining funding for the large number of awards which we provide for our soldiers, NCO and young officers. This last activity is something the Corps can be justifiably proud of as we currently provide some 12 prizes each year.

The organisation as illustrated as part of the Plan is designed to help the HOC and the SO2 Corps, MAJ Doug Gammon, manages these many ambitious activities. The names of the first volunteers is also included for your information. If you have need of their assistance or you believe you can assist them, please get in touch on the phone numbers shown.

The Corps Committee, which now comprises the following appointments, meets annually at Bandiana where it addresses many issues including the selection of annual prize winners. The Colonels Commandant has a large part to play in the administration of Corps funds, in particular, the investment strategies to guarantee ongoing viability of the Corps and the prize-giving program.

Further advice on where we go from here will be provided in each issue of the *Craftsman* – make sure that you or your section are on the mailing list and please contribute where possible.



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# ARMY MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING IN THE 21st CENTURY (AME 21)

In Apr 97, ACMAT-A, MAJGEN J.W. Kingston, as a result of growing concerns regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of Army's maintenance engineering arrangements, commissioned the AME 21 study. A small team was assembled to undertake and complete tasks identified in the Terms of Reference for the study. The study is now complete and will be considered by the Chief of Army Advisory Group shortly. This executive summary outlines the principal findings and key recommendations of the study.

## STUDY AIM

To define a maintenance engineering regime that will provide effective maintenance engineering advice and support to Army in the 21st Century.

## STUDY APPROACH

A simple six-phase approach to the study was adopted. Phase 1 was an analysis of existing maintenance engineering arrangements to identify current problems and deficiencies. Phase 2 examined the likely impact of recent Defence and Army initiatives on the future provision of maintenance engineering advice and support. Phase 3 benchmarked Army's maintenance engineering system against RAAF, RAN and comparable commercial maintenance engineering systems. Phase 4 involved determination of Army's future maintenance engineering requirements. Phase 5 required development of a maintenance engineering model that would meet Army's future maintenance engineering requirements. Phase 6 developed a strategy for implementation of the model.

### Phase 1 - Current situation

Analysis of the current situation was achieved primarily through the use of two surveys. An occupational analysis survey identified maintenance engineering tasks currently being performed (what tasks, by whom, where, and how often). A second survey of customers identified the importance of maintenance engineering tasks in realisation of customer objectives and the level of customer satisfaction with the maintenance engineering service provided. Supplementary research data was obtained from unit visits, interviews with key customers and document reviews. Analysis identified significant weaknesses in the delivery of maintenance engineering support to the field Army. These deficiencies have a direct and adverse effect on combat capability and include:

- a. Ill-defined and poorly articulated maintenance engineering objectives for Army;
- b. Ambiguous or non-existent chains of engineering authority and management;
- c. The technical integrity of weapon systems and equipment not able to be guaranteed;
- d. Sub-optimal availability of weapon systems and equipment; and
- e. Poor value for money from the maintenance engineering service.

Further deficiencies were identified in the provision of advice and support to the equipment acquisition process. These shortcomings have the potential to attract significant long-term,

downstream cost penalties and to have a deleterious impact on weapon system and equipment through-life support. Of particular concern were deficiencies in the:

- a. Provision of reliability, availability and maintainability (RAM) advice and support;
- b. Integration of maintenance engineering with logistic and system engineering principles; and
- c. Inadequate provision of maintenance engineering input during the early and critical stages of ILS and LSA planning.

### Phase 2 - Future direction and strategic requirements

An analysis of the impact of initiatives such as DER/DRP, RTA and A21 LOG on the provision of future maintenance engineering advice and support was conducted in Phase 2. This analysis identified a number of factors critical in determining the shape and role of Army's future maintenance engineering service. Principal among these were:

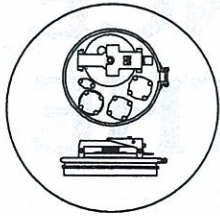
- a. Army's increasing inventory of technologically complex weapon systems and equipment;
- b. The requirement to achieve better value for money;
- c. The need for more technologically aware and competent personnel;
- d. An increased focus on joint and integrated business functions and operations; and
- e. A reduction in the number of uniformed personnel and a concomitant increase in the use of Industry in the provision of maintenance engineering services.

### Phase 3 - Benchmarking

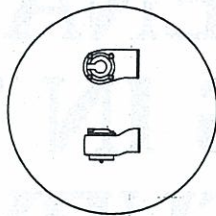
To provide a baseline against which Army's current performance could be assessed, and from which a future maintenance engineering system could be constructed, a simple benchmarking process was conducted. Comparisons were made with the provision of maintenance engineering services in Industry, RAN and RAAF and, to a limited degree, with the British Army. Although complicated by differing organisational cultures, structures and objectives, benchmarking identified, due to the increasing size and technological complexity of its weapon systems inventory, that Army will face an attendant increase in engineering risk and liability. To minimise and contain this risk, Army needs to ensure that future maintenance engineering processes, products and personnel competencies conform to best practice. This will require development and implementation of an engineering management system centred on a 'chain of engineering authority'.

### Phase 4 - Future maintenance engineering requirements

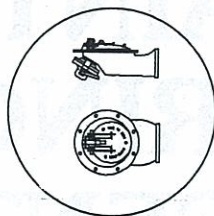
Analysis of the current maintenance engineering system, including identification of its deficiencies and an assessment of Army's future strategic needs, led to an assessment of Army's future maintenance engineering requirements. The primary aim of Army's future maintenance engineering system must be to provide a service that is responsive to the needs of its customers and ensure the reliability, maintainability and supportability of weapon systems and equipments. The maintenance engineering



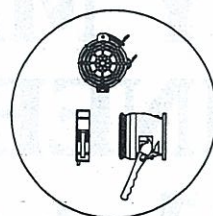
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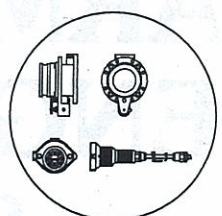
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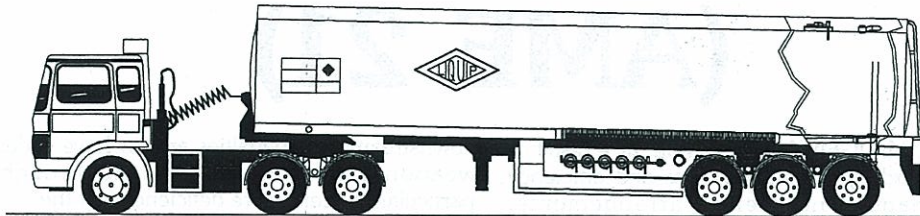
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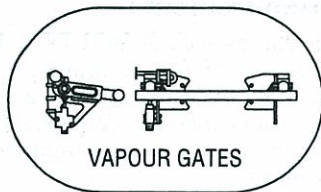


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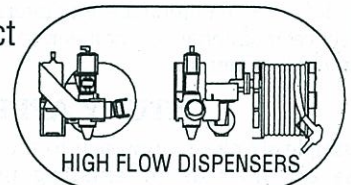
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system must also be robust and sustainable, staffed by technically competent personnel, and capable of adapting to meet changing customer needs, strategic requirements and environmental constraints. Finally, the maintenance engineering system must, in the most cost-effective manner, assure the technical integrity of weapon systems and equipment. A model that will provide these capabilities has been developed.

### Phase 5 – Maintenance engineering model

Army's future maintenance engineering system can be articulated as a model represented by the overarching objectives of maintenance engineering supported by the three pillars of engineering products, technical processes and competent personnel. The objectives, products, processes and personnel are supported by a quality system that assures the integrity of the model and provides a mechanism for the audit and continuous improvement of the structure. A simple model of the structure proposed is shown in Figure 1.

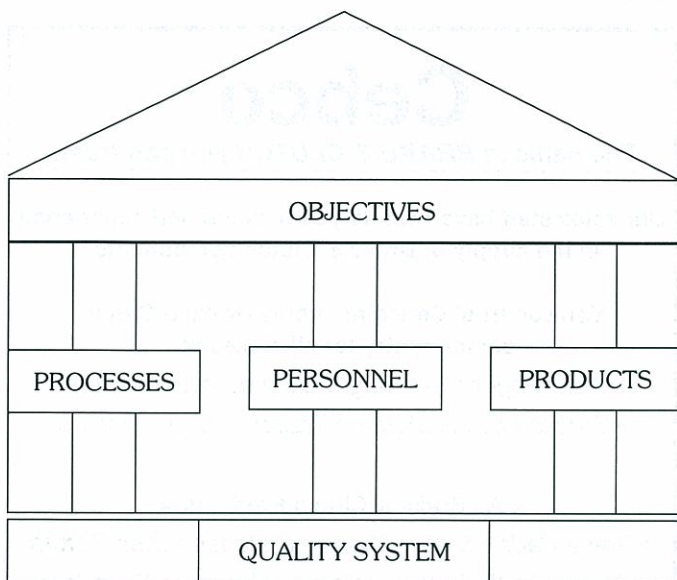


Figure 1 – AME 21 Maintenance Engineering Model

There is also a requirement to establish an engineering chain of authority, exercised through the extant chain of command, that will provide consistent maintenance engineering policy, instruction, guidance, advice and support at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. The technical processes required to support the maintenance engineering objectives must be viewed from an acquisition and an in-service perspective. An engineering chain of authority, with DGENG(A), firstly as Army's Design Approval Authority (DAA) and concurrently as Army's Maintenance Engineering Authority, responsible and accountable for achieving CA's maintenance engineering goals is shown in Figure 2.

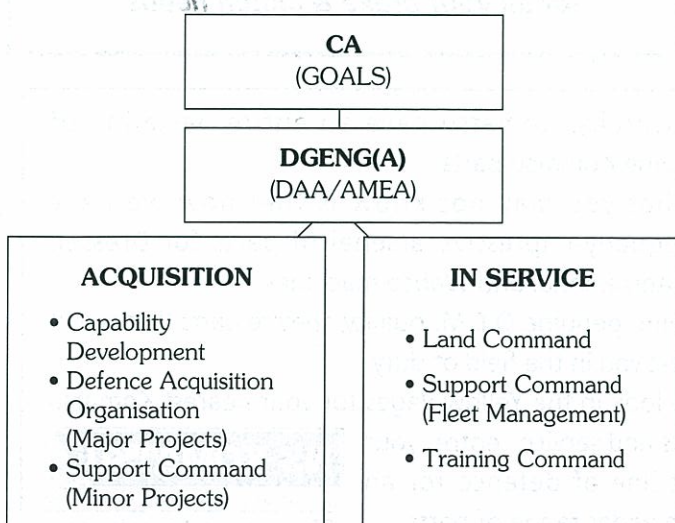


Figure 2 – Engineering Chain of Authority

An important component of weapon system technical integrity is the technical competence of maintenance engineering personnel involved in the acquisition and in-service support of those systems. It is clear that identification of training requirements and thus the competencies for maintenance engineering personnel should involve the "subject matter expert" for maintenance engineering training. Although not yet appointed, this should ideally be DGENG(A).

### Phase 6 – Implementation

Implementation of a system, based upon the model, to satisfy Army's future maintenance engineering requirements requires a two-pronged approach. The first prong requires improvement and optimisation of extant maintenance engineering arrangements. Some elements of the existing maintenance engineering function, for example maintenance evaluations and the provision of reliability, availability and maintainability (RAM) advice and support, because of their fundamental relevance to Army's objectives and goals, will be required in any future maintenance engineering structure. Improvement of these elements will be undertaken in a continuous and incremental fashion. Ultimately, the improvement process will become an integral and ongoing element of the quality system that underpins the model.

The second prong will require radical change to existing business practice and processes. Realisation of Army's future objectives will demand maintenance engineering products, processes and skills not present in, or provided by, the current maintenance engineering system. New products might include a Weapon System Technical Integrity Report. Produced in the acquisition phase, this could accompany the system throughout its life and provide commanders with an assurance that the weapon system satisfies all mandatory maintenance engineering, OH&S and operational performance requirements. The establishment of an engineering chain of authority will require new processes to be developed to link all stakeholders in the maintenance engineering system. Due to the increased complexity of Army's weapon system inventory there will be a need for maintenance personnel to have more highly developed diagnostic (fault-finding) skills. This need will generate a new training requirement for cognitive (problem-solving) skill development.

Introduction of these new elements needs to be accomplished quickly if the maintenance engineering system is to meet Army's future requirements. The timeframe required for design, development and introduction of these elements will be approximately 18 – 24 months. Although the model can be implemented within a two year timeframe, it must be noted that it will be approximately five to seven years before the new maintenance engineering system will be fully functional. The major constraints will be the time taken to generate personnel with the required level of engineering competency and the time required to develop maintenance engineering objectives, policies and procedures to meet a still embryonic and thus evolving strategic need.

The practical aspects of implementation will see the need to establish a small team dedicated to the task of implementation. This permanent team would be necessary for two years to initiate the major recommendations and would work direct to DGENG(A). After the first two years implementation could be managed by DGENG(A).

### CONCLUSIONS

Present maintenance engineering arrangements do not adequately meet Army's current needs and will not satisfy future requirements. To overcome current systemic deficiencies and to meet Army's future requirements there is a need to develop a maintenance engineering service that is responsive to the needs of customers, guarantees the technical integrity of Army's weapon systems and equipment, and provides value for money. The development of a system based upon the maintenance engineering model proposed will provide a structure capable of meeting these aims. If endorsed, the model will provide the foundation for development of a 'best practice' maintenance engineering service capable of realising Army's future objectives.

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# ANNIVERSARY

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*By LT COL Jim Hislop (RTD)*

**T**hey came from every state and territory, they came from England, Canada and Papua New Guinea, and they were in all shapes and sizes, all with a tale to tell and friendships to renew. About 2300 of them congregated in Albury/Wodonga for the "Mother of all reunions". Love the Ex-Apprentices or hate them they have played a major part in the history of the corps.

The reunion started with registrations and fellowship at the Albury racetrack on the Friday evening and like any activity attended by Ex-Apprentices about 200 late registrations were received (after 50 years nothing has changed). Saturday commenced with a parade, followed by a B-B-Q and finally an "Ex-Apprentices formal dinner" (is that a contradiction in terms? App's and formal). Sunday saw an excellent gathering at St

Peter's church Bonegilla, of course some asked if the conscientious objectors had to sweep the gutters.

The registration was the place when many attendees met up with friends they had not seen for many years. Wild stories were the flavour of the night, stories of illegal cars parked near Balcombe Creek, the pay night hamburger runs, mid-night motors and many many more. All that changed as the function moved into the early hours of Saturday is that the stories grew.

Maj Gen J C Hartley AM, a former commandant of AAS agreed to review the parade and his presence demonstrated to the gathering the importance that senior members of the Army placed on the contribution of the school to the ADF. The parade host was BRIG R Grant, the parade commander COL D Cocker and the Musical Director MAJ I McLean all of whom are Ex-



*Keith Thomas pushing Roy Thompson in the wheelchair (Roy passed away shortly after the reunion and his ashes will be among the first to be spread at the Craftsman Memorial). Also shown are Peter Jackson and Brian Stapleton*

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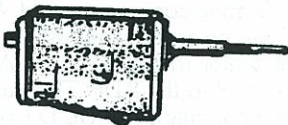
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*Christine Zupan (Nutting) and baby. Christine was the first Female Motor Mechanic to graduate from AAS*

Apprentices. The term parade is used in its broadest terms. Just over 2000 ventured onto the parade ground in intake groups (as always there were cries from the non-marchers). Every intake from the 1st to the 49th was represented and it was pleasing to see some females from later intakes in the march. GEN Hartley's address covered the significant role the AAS had played in producing tradesmen and women who served in every operational theatre since 1951, in all UN peacekeeping forces where Australian troops have been involved and in many overseas countries. GEN Hartley inspected the front rank of the parade (whilst the band played "we're a pack of b..... how could any red blooded Ex-Appy resist the urge to sing during the inspection). As GEN Hartley was about to leave the parade ground Ex-SGT Jock McGuire (AAS Balcombe staff 51 -55) stepped forward and orchestrated three cheers for the General. As previously mentioned the term parade was used fairly loosely.

The dinner was well attended by a lucky 1000 who were able to obtain tickets. There were no facilities in the area large enough to take the crowd so a large tent was erected at the Albury racetrack. This excellent function was enjoyed by all.

A church service conducted by Chaplain Alan Kendall ably supported by two Ex-App's who are clergymen was very special. Ex-app Fr David Lamont read a lesson and then Ex-app Fr Terry Gross delivered an address about the Apprentice, an address with much depth and meaning that could only be delivered by one who had been there and done that. Prayers were also said for the Ex-App's who gave their lives in service to their country.

After church there was a B-B-Q in the grounds of the museum and inspection of the developing AAS museum exhibition.

The reunion was about people, those who had lived together at AAS and those that served together. The attendance of about 25% of the total graduates was true testimony to the strong bonds that were formed during service. Some of those attending included Neil Toyer, Shorty Cooper, Alan Cook, Jack Westernhagen, Sid Cheeseman, Stuart Woolscob, Bill Wallace, Ross Bland, Alf Lee, Reg Hall, Arthur Newman, Wally Cove, Ron Perry, Tom Heesom, Brian Winsor, Bernie Cannon Clive Connor, Brian Kelly, Geof Coat, Bob Swan, Stew Meiklejohn, Terry Dillon, Peter Perry, Mal Drechsler, Bill Taylor, Kerry Tumbridge, Pat Shannahan, Peter Atkinson, Peter Lawrence, Bruce Keevers, Ron Dyne, Mick Farrar, Peter Iarard, Alan Lazarus, Anthony Heron, Mick Eaton,, Bill Amor, Russel Gordon, Bob Clarke, Mal Campbell, Daryl Finton, John Davies, Pat English, John Kemp, Rod Hughes, Chas Allom, Ian Malcolm, John Yates, Colin Murphy, Ray Cuzens, Brett Collins, Chris Moon, Ian Nicholls, Mark Lamrock, Warren Lamrock, Terry Oakes, Bob Stower, Mark Hutchins, Filip Licker, Tim Wilde, Greg Wadley, Tony Cramp, Darren Potter, Andrew Carter, Richard Hayes, Suzanne Taylor, Greg Badcoe, Mathew White, Kim McDean.

The reunion was conceived at the Stump hotel Wodonga after the parade to Lay Up the AAS Governor Generals banner. The committee can be proud of the total success of the reunion.

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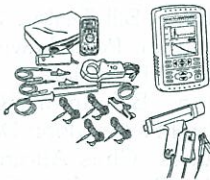
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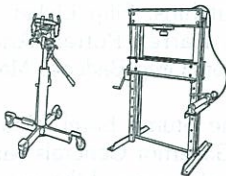
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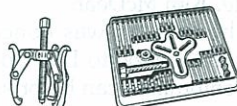
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# END OF AN ERA

## 1953-1996 AND 1960-1997

### RAEME SERGEANTS MESS

### NORTH BANDIANA

*Written by WO1 P.J. Keily OAM TRG DEV GP ALTC*

**O**n Tuesday 13 May 1997 the PMC of the Army Logistic Sergeants Mess (ALSM) announced that the Sergeants Mess at North Bandiana was to close. The Sergeants Mess at this time was designated the North Annex of the ALSM. The North Annex was formerly the home of the "RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess". The closure date was set as Sunday 30 November 1997 at 2300hrs. To honour the closure of the Sergeants Mess building, the final official Mess function was held over the weekend of the 14th and 15th of November 1997 together with an impromptu evening BBQ and wake on Sunday 30 November 1997.

The "End of an Era" has two dates, firstly the date 1953-1996 spans the duration that a RAEME Sergeants Mess was located in the North Bandiana area. The second date, 1960 - 1997 represents the period that the current building was occupied as a Sergeants Mess.

#### **HISTORY OF THE RAEME SERGEANTS MESS**

Over the period 1952-1953 RAEME Training Centre moved from Ingleburn NSW to Bandiana VIC. In August 1953 the RAEME Sergeants Mess was formed under control of the first PMC WO1 F.D. Scott (Aug 53-Jan 54). At that time the Sergeants Mess was housed in an old wooden building, with an FS table to sit a Keg on as a Bar, Warrant Officers and SNCOs posted to RAEME Training Centre during the formation of the Mess paid a levy to financially start the Mess.

In 1956 the Mess was designated the "Royal Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Sergeants Mess" by an AAO (Aust Army Order). A new brick structure with facilities for 130 members and accommodation for 100 was built. In 1960 the current Mess was officially opened and was known as the



*Section of the large crowd attending the official function on Saturday 15 November 1997*

“RAEME Training Centre Sergeants Mess”. This building remained the Sergeants Mess until its closure on 30 November 1997.

At a Corps Committee meeting on 17 September 1984 WO1 Ray Norman, RSM of RAEME Training Centre (later Maj Norman OAM) proposed that the committee approve a submission that the RAEME Training Centre Sergeants Mess be designated the Corps Mess with the title “RAEME Sergeants Mess”. The saga of the Corps Mess title continued, until a Corps Committee meeting on the 30th September 1986, gave the task of clarifying the mess title to the staff of RAEME Training Centre, who were to submit a proposal to Army Office. The name to be requested was “The RAEME Sergeants Mess”. On 18 May 1987 the Mess was dedicated as the “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” under control of WO1 Paul Bond OAM as the PMC (May 86 - May 87).

On 1 February 1996 the “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” at North Bandiana, the RAAOC Sergeants Mess at South Bandiana and the Army College of TAFE Sergeants Mess at Bonegilla amalgamated to form the Army Logistic Sergeants Mess at South Bandiana. The “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” is now incorporated into the ALSM at South Bandiana together with a number of other Logistic Corps Sergeants Messes. The Sergeants Messes at North Bandiana and Bonegilla were designated as the North Annex of the ALSM and the Latchford Annex of the ALSM respectively. During the period of August 1953 till the amalgamation in February 1996 the “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” had 58 PMCs with WO1 Greg Gillam the final PMC (Jun 95 - Feb 96) at North Bandiana. WO1 Greg Gillam was then appointed DPMC of the ALSM (North Annex) till June 1996. From June 1996 the North Annex of the ALSM was under control of the “Senior Member” WO1 Geoff Abbott until the Sergeants Mess was officially closed on the 30th November 1997.

Over the years the “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” was known by a number of titles and had significant improvements to make it one of the finest Sergeants Mess in the Australian Army. From its humble beginning in an old wooden building in 1953 to its closure in 1997 the present building had a number of notable

improvements (most if not all, were self help projects by members). These were, the extension and covering of the old beer garden incorporating the “Reg Wildermuth Bar”, the naming of the main bar in the Ante Room as the “Mick Kolpak Bar”, the addition of a Pool and Spa together with landscaping and fencing of the Mess complex and the installation of the RAEME leadlight window at the Mess entrance.

This was all in the past and now all that remains is 44 years of mateship, esprit de corps and memories.

### END OF AN ERA - FINAL OFFICIAL FUNCTION

On 14 and 15 November 1997 the Corps of RAEME held a buffet function at the North Annex of the ALSM. The function was held to honour the amalgamation of the “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” together with other Messes to form the ALSM and the closure of the RAEME Sergeants Mess building on the 30th November 1997. The buffet function spanned from 1600hrs Friday 14th November until 2300hrs Saturday 15th November, with approximately 380 members, past members, honorary members and staff of the “RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess” in attendance over the two day period. It was pleasing to welcome the civilian staff from the kitchen, bar and dining room to attend this very important occasion with the members. The civilian staff have served both the Mess and its members admirably over a long period. The participants came from all over Australia and even one former PMC (WO1 Paul Bond) from Indonesia to be at this important event. The gathering included 14 previous PMCs with the most notable WO1 Jack Lucas the PMC during the period January 1955 till January 1956. A special and most welcome visitor attending the function was Mrs Kolpak, the widow of our beloved barman Mick “The Tick” Kolpak. Mrs Kolpak was escorted to both the Friday night activity and the Saturday activities by a former PMC of the Mess WO1 Geoff Parker (May 88 - Nov 88).

The former Secretary’s office was set up for the function as a shrine to the Mess with significant Corps Mess property and memorabilia on display. An array of present Army vehicular



*Ex PMCs WO1 Laurie Lilley (January 1971-February 1972 and February 1974-May 1974) and WO1 Ron Metham (July 1969-January 1970) enjoying a convivial drink at the official function on Saturday 15th November 1997)*



*Ex PMC WO1 George Reid (May 1987-May 1988) and Sgt Paul Allen cutting the celebration cake at the official function on Saturday 15 November 1997)*

equipment including the ASLAV, a Leopard Tank, an ARVL, a Fitters Track, Recovery vehicles and a Landrover FFR with RAVEN equipment installed, were on display around the Mess complex for the olds and bolds to reminisce. The organising committee thank WO1 Pete Sandilands, Recovery Section ALTC and Sgt Rusty Russell, Electrical Wing ALTC for their efforts in organising and setting up the display.

The festivities for the weekend started with the bar promptly opening at 1600hrs on the Friday. A BBQ tea at 1730hrs was enjoyed by all especially the participants who came from far and wide. The honorary members led by Mr "Bomber" Lancaster were up to their old tricks of conning money out of attendees for raffles (All proceeds went to a good cause, across the bar on the final trading day). The bar finally closed at 2330hrs with the die-hards (armed with eskies) continuing to revel until the wee hours. Numbers on this night were judged to be in the order of 140.

The next item on the sequence of events, breakfast on a fine sunny Saturday morning in downtown Bandiana. Another 120 or so people, attended the BBQ with plenty of black coffee, which according to all reports was just what the doctor ordered. Following the BBQ breakfast a number of activities were arranged during the period of 0930hrs and 1130hrs. A bus supplied by BLG toured the areas of both South and North Bandiana allowing visitors to be dropped off at various locations and then return to the Mess. Visitors could inspect the new RAEME stand at the Army Museum South Bandiana (special thanks to Maj John Lord and Maj Doug Gammon OAM for their tireless efforts in putting the RAEME display together). Then it was on to peruse the RAEME Corps Banner at the Army Logistics Officers Mess South Bandiana. Finally visitors could attend a RAEME Corps Memorabilia Auction held at Warehouse 3 North Bandiana, for property which had been removed from the Corps Mess prior to the function and was not required at either the ALSM or Museum.

At 1130hrs on the Saturday the bar duly opened prior to the arrival of the official guests at 1155hrs. The invited guests included Colonel B.T. Amor, Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - Army hosted by SGT J.J. Vander Donk

of the 1st Signal Regiment Technical Support Squadron and Mr Jack Lucas (now aged 84) and his wife Dulcy who were duly hosted by the Senior Member, WO1 Geoff Abbott. Completing the guest list and representing the organising committee was WO1 Pat Keily OAM. Following the arrival of the official guests, donations started going across the bar with Mr "Blue" Draper (one of the founding members of the RAEME Sergeants Mess) putting \$150 across. This was followed shortly after by \$500 from the organising committee with further donations from other attendees, including COL Amor, throughout the afternoon. A short speech on the direction the Corps is heading was made by COL Amor, with responses by WO1 Pat Keily and WO1 Geoff Abbott.

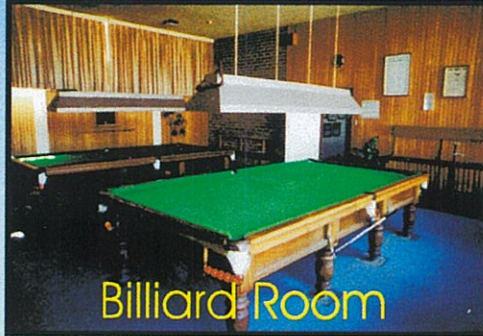
The honour of the last Corps Grace at the Sergeants Mess Bandiana was given to WO2 Dave West, Electrical Wing ALTC, with the buffet commencing directly afterwards. The catering/stewarding staff headed by the ALSM SAM SGT Simon Cook, excelled with the presentation, the quality and quantity of the meal. Not just for the buffet but over the entire function. At 1330hrs SGT "Morgs" Morgan, Electrical Wing ALTC proposed the Loyal toast and shortly thereafter, the last PMC WO1 Greg Gillam proposed a toast to the Corps. The port used for the toasts was brought down from Sydney by Mr Bob Bunbury (Ex WO2). The barrel actually came from the Sergeants Mess of the now defunct Sydney Workshop Company. The port was a mixture of every RAEME port bottled. Then the celebration cake (kindly donated by the RAEME Corps Fund) was cut by members of the same family but a generation apart. WO1 George Reid former PMC (May 87 - May 88) and SGT Paul Allen (Son-in-law) cut the cake, Paul is an instructor at Electrical Wing ALTC. That was the end of all official items on the agenda.

Now we started with responses from the audience, it began with a thirty-five minute captivated speech by WO1 Laurie Lillie former PMC of the RAEME Sergeants Mess (January 1971 - February 1972 and February 1974-May 1974). He summarised the deeds and lives of most past PMCs of the "RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess", an informative narrative enjoyed by all in attendance.

The official end of the function was 2300hrs on the

# END OF AN ERA -

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Billiard Room



Reg Wildermuth Bar



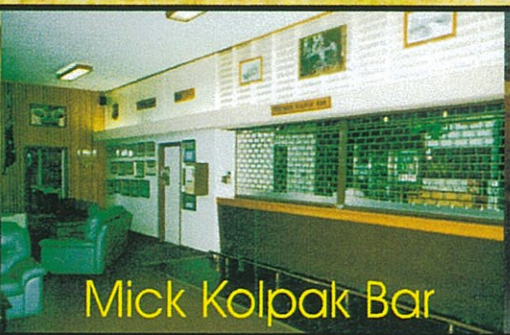
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# RAEME Corps Se



Lounge Area



Mick Kolpak Bar



Fu



Stayers and players at the closing of the shutters on the final trading day of the Sergeants Mess at 2300 hrs Sunday 30 1997

### FOOTNOTE

For all current Warrant Officers and SNCOs of RAEME, the annual RAEME Corps Dinner will continue and your support of this important annual occasion is warranted. The annual dinner will be held at the ALSM South Bandiana of which the "RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess" is part.

The dinner will be held as usual in the first week of May. The 12th RAEME Corps Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 1 May 1998 with WO1 B. "Henry" Gibson BEM as the Dining President

### "Arte et Marte"

#### Presidents of the the RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess

WO1 F.D. Scott	Aug 53-Jan 54	WO1 N. Pierce	Jul 66-Feb 67
WO1 F. Watts	Jan 54-Jan 55	WO1 Dickinson	Feb 67-Jul 67
WO1 J. Lucas	Jan 55-Jan 56	WO1 R. Irons	Jul 67-Aug 67
WO1 C. MacNamara	Jan 56-Jan 57	WO1 H. Russell	Aug 67-Jan 68
WO1 J. Wylie	Jan 57-Aug 57	WO1 J. Emond	Jan 68-Jul 68
WO1 L.L. Heffeman	Aug 57-Jan 58	WO1 S. Gibbs	Jul 68-Jan 69
WO1 W.S. Swinger	Jan 58-Jan 59	WO1 H. Atkins	Jan 69-Jul 69
WO1 C. MacNamara	Jan 56-Jan 57	WO1 R. Metham	Jul 69-Jan 70
WO1 J. Wylie	Jan 57-Jan 57	WO1 R. Kern	Jan 70-Jul 70
WO1 L.L. Heffeman	Aug 57-Jan 58	WO1 J. Taylor	Jul 70-Jan 71
WO1 W. Swinger	Jan 58-Jan 59	WO1 L. Lilley	Jan 71-Feb 72
WO1 C. MacNamara	Jan 58-May 59	WO1 J. Heppell	Feb 72-Aug 72
WO1 C.P. Huttley	May 59-Apr 60	WO1 D. Simms	Aug 72-Feb 73
WP1 R.J. Yall	Apr 60-Oct 60	WO1 A. Kendrick	Feb 73-Aug 73
WO1 B.L. Robinson	Oct 60-Oct 61	WO1 A. Garside	Aug 73-Feb 74
WO1 L.C. Boothby	Oct 61-Apr 62	WO1 L. Lilley	Feb 74-May 74
WO1 R.E. Barker	Apr 62-Oct 62	WO1 A. Curtain	May 74-Nov 74
WO1 W.D. Hodgart	Oct 62-Apr 63	WO1 R.E. Mills	Nov 74-Aug 75
WO1 E. Hurley	Apr 63-Oct 63	WO1 C. Godfrey	Aug 75-Feb 76
WO1 F.D. Crosdale	Oct 63-Mar 65	WO1 J.C. Kirkby	Feb 76-Aug 76
WO1 D.A. Watkinson	Mar 65-Apr 65	WO1 A.G. Cowles	Aug 76-Aug 77
WO1 J. Stewart	Apr 65-Oct 65	WO1 G. Crowther	Aug 77-Aug 78
WO1 B.L. Robinson	Oct 65-Feb 66	WO1 M.C. Pearson	Aug 78-Feb 79
WO1 P.N. Urrrell	Feb 66-Jul 66	WO1 L.D. Favas	Feb 79-Aug 79
		WO1 W.J. Holmes	Aug 79-Mar 80
		WO1 M.K. Kusternig	Mar 80-Oct 81
		WO1 R. Rickard	Oct 81-Nov 82
		WO1 A. Makedonez	Nov 82-Nov 83
		WO1 D.J. Wilde	Nov 83-Apr 84
		WO1 N. Murrell	Apr 84-Nov 84
		WO1 J. Colville	Nov 84-May 85
		WO1 G. O'Brien	May 85-May 86
		WO1 P. Bond OAM	May 86-May 87
		WO1 G. Reid	May 87-May 88
		WO1 G.R. Parker	May 88-Nov 88
		WO1 G.M. Lowe	Nov 88-Mar 93
		WO1 G.M. Penhall	Mar 93-May 95
		WO1 G.R. Gillam	May 95-Feb 96

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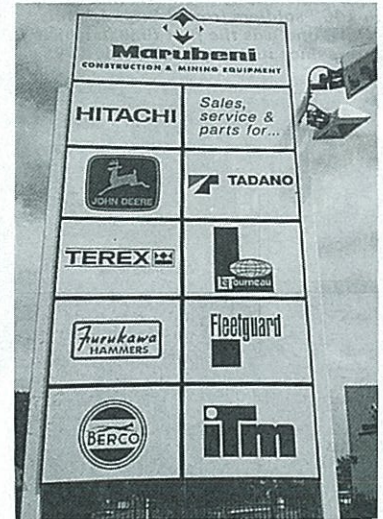
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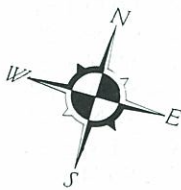
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The response and interest by Corps Members to the Memorial under construction at Bandiana has been overwhelming. The encouragement and financial contributions made to date is over \$19,000 which will assist with the construction of the Memorial and surrounding gardens. It is estimated that the final cost will be in the vicinity of \$38,000.

The photographs of the Memorial and surrounding gardens indicate that the memorial is nearing completion. The remaining work, consisting of the casting of the Corps badge (800mm high and mounted on the wall to the right of the statue) and a descriptive bronze plaque, should be completed by 30 June 1998. The landscaping, surrounding gardens, lighting and sprinkler system is also expected to be completed by this time.

## Dedication

The dedication of the memorial is planned for Saturday 24 October 1998 commencing at 1600hrs, followed by an all ranks function/buffet. Several RAEME Associations have already indicated that they are planning to make the pilgrimage back to Bandiana for the weekend so it should be a good opportunity to renew old acquaintances. Further details of the weekend will be advised separately.

Any enquires should be directed to SO2 CORPS, MAJ Doug Gammon Telephone (02) 60552193 or Fax (02) 60552436.

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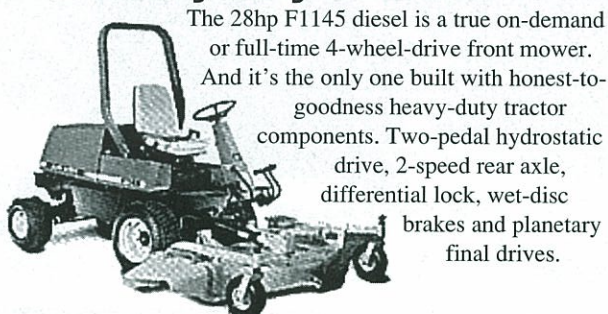
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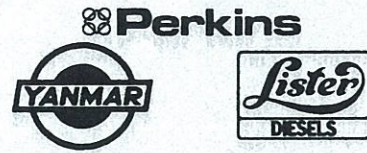
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# FROM THE PAST

**Filtering through the archives this letter was found from General Blamey to Colonel Strachan. Is it the first unauthorised local manufacture of an item or would you call it AMW 1?**

Editors note: AMW is an acronym for Article Manufactured in Workshops.



HEADQUARTERS,  
ALLIED LAND FORCES,  
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA  
5th September, 1944

Dear Colonel Strachan,

I am writing to thank you for your kindness in forwarding me the very handsome desk blotter, which arrived at my Advanced Headquarters some days ago.

Would you please convey my thanks to the members of your Unit who are responsible for fashioning the blotter, and congratulate them on the standard of work exhibited therein?

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

General  
Commander-in-Chief  
Australian Military Forces

Colonel C A Strachan,  
2/1 Aust Base Workshop AEME,  
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# THE HISTORY OF RAEME IN THE TOP END

*As the most recent addition of RAEME tradesmen in the North, Maintenance Company 1 CSSB has taken the opportunity to reflect upon the history of RAEME in the 'Top End'.*

*This reflection revealed that military tradesmen have a long and proud association with the Territory.*

The association of military tradesmen with the Northern Territory began on 21 October 1824, when troops landed at Melville Island, 80 kilometres north of the future site of Darwin (REF A). The landing party consisted of 30 Royal Marines, 50 soldiers and about 45 convicts, tasked to build Fort Dundas on the island. Although these soldiers can not be termed as true Australian Forces, this was the first time that military tradesmen worked in the 'Top End'.

The size and structure of military forces within Australia continually changed in the first half of the century. As a result of these changes, the small number of tradesmen in the Army of the time and the isolation of Darwin, the history of RAEME in the 'Top End' is difficult to trace. Available tradesmen were allotted to priority tasks and members were often absorbed into separate units as support staff and quite literally never heard of again. Tasks were undertaken by small groups of tradesmen using available unskilled labour resources to assist.

With the build up during World War 2 there was a greater need for skilled labour to maintain the Army's equipment in the North. As a result larger workshops were formed. However tradesmen were still integrated at unit level to support required unit tasks. With this in mind only units that required the majority of technical support, Artillery and Engineers, have been traced. There is no doubt that wherever military development was taking place in the Northern Territory, artificers, artisans and tradesmen were there to support and maintain.

## HISTORY OF MILITARY TRADESMEN

### Early Development

Prior to 1870 the defence of the colonies of the Australian continent was carried out by English Regiments (REF B). Around 1870 these Regiments were being withdrawn and the defence of the colonies was left to the respective Colonial Governments. Therefore, prior to Federation each colony had its own defence force. A crucial component of these forces were tradesmen who decided to stay in the colonies rather than return to England. Most colonies hired British officers and artificers as instructors and technical advisers. Since the country's main defences consisted of coastal guns, many of these men came from either the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers.

After 1870 and prior to Federation, various Ordnance units were raised to provide maintenance to a variety of equipment such as field artillery, small arms and horse drawn assemblies. At this stage there were six colonies being NSW, TAS, VIC, SA, QLD and WA.

Between Federation and 1927 many changes of title and control occurred. In 1927 the majority of permanent military

tradesmen, artificers and artisans became part of Australian Army Ordnance Corps (AAOC) – Mechanical Engineering Branch (REF C).

After the end of the First World War there was a decline in financial support to the army and as a result there was a serious shortage of tradesmen at the outbreak of World War 2. The number of Ordnance personnel at the start of WW2 comprised:

Australian Army Ordnance Corps (Permanent) 36 officers and 375 other ranks;

Australian Army Ordnance Corps (Military) similar to present day Army Reserve; and

Australian Army Ordnance Department (AAOD), 538 civilians who controlled the issue, receipt and holding of stores.

The AAOC – Mechanical Engineering Branch existed until 1942 when it became the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME).

### Lead Up To WW2

During the period leading up to the Second World War the artificers, tradesmen and artisans of the military were placed in workshops with various names and capabilities. In 1937 there was talk of raising units such as Army Field Workshops with Recovery sections, Motor Division Workshops for the Cavalry Division and Light Aid Detachments (LADs). The LADs were mostly related to Artillery and Engineer units.

### Effect of WW2

The task of preparing the equipment for a rapidly expanding Army was enormous. The AAOC (P) had many problems, one of which was training skilled and non-skilled tradesmen volunteers in both technical and military matters. Tradesmen of the AAOC (M) were not allowed to serve overseas and as a result many who volunteered had to transfer to the AIF, as fighting soldiers, so their skills were lost to the Corps. During this time there was a great requirement for new tradesmen to maintain the ever expanding Army.

During the course of the war the Mechanical Engineering Branch of AAOC was absorbed into the Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME) (1942). By the end of the war the total number of personnel in the Corps numbered 25000 (civilian and military).

## DEFENCE OF DARWIN

### Development of Darwin

The development of Darwin as a defensive base goes back to the early 1920s when Naval installations were constructed. The first permanent Garrison arrived in 1932.

This was the Darwin Detachment and comprised of five

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officers and forty two other ranks from the Royal Australian Artillery and the Royal Australian Engineers. These men sailed on the *HMAS Albatross* on 23 August 1932 to Darwin via Thursday Island. Some men were disembarked on Thursday Island where they would dismantle existing defence buildings for later relocation to Darwin. The task of the Darwin Detachment was to build forts and living quarters for others who were to follow.

The detachment arrived in Darwin and marched to the abandoned Vestey's Meat Works located on the heights of Bullocky Point and overlooking Fanny Bay. As well as building forts and living accommodation from the timber and supplies from Thursday Island, the detachment was to install two 9.2 inch guns at East Point. This proposal was later changed to the installation of two six inch guns at East Point and two six inch guns at Emery Point.

In September 1933 the detachment was relieved by the Darwin "Garrison" which comprised of three officers and 29 other ranks. Three officers and 28 other ranks from the former Darwin Detachment joined the Garrison forming the 9th Heavy Battery (RAA). There were representatives of the AAOC (P) among the Garrison at this stage. There was also an Engineering Section attached to the Garrison, however at this time they had no specific nomenclature. By 1936 they were designated the 7th Fortress Company.

The Detachment had the task of completing the coastal defences located around Darwin. They also had the tasks of building magazines, fire control buildings, defensive electric light emplacements, generator engine rooms and their own barracks at Emery Point (Larrakeyah Barracks).

It was a hectic few years and by 1936 the Detachment had installed an Anti Aircraft Battery comprising of two guns at Elliot Point, installation of guns at East Point and Emery Point and constructed Larrakeyah Barracks.

During 1938 the Air Force began construction of its new base four and a half miles out of the town of Darwin. As was the way of the times, army tradesmen were detached to assist in the construction as well as various other projects (REF D) not associated with the Army. This was a result of the scarceness of qualified tradesmen at the time.

#### **The Darwin Mobile Force**

In 1938 Cabinet approved the raising of a Darwin Mobile Force, which was to be the major strike force of the Garrison. The Mobile Force was tasked to protect the Naval installations at the Port of Darwin where there was large oil storage facilities. The Mobile Force was configured to act with speed to overcome any raid or landing party that may attack Darwin. The Darwin Mobile Force consisted of 13 officers and 245 other ranks who arrived in Darwin on 21 March 1939.

#### **7 Military District**

Due to a slow build up of Army, Navy and Air Force in Darwin and the plan to further increase the number of defence force personnel in the Northern Territory, it was recommended that a new military district be created comprising the whole of the Northern Territory. Cabinet formally sanctioned the creation of the 7th Military District in October 1939.

At the end of 1939 the number of troops serving in and around Darwin was relatively small, however this increased dramatically by mid 1940. The units in Darwin by March 1939 included 7 Fortress Company RAE at Dudley Point, 9 Heavy Battery RAA at East and Emery Points and the Darwin Mobile Force at Vestey's Meat Works. Other units included the 7 Garrison Company and members of the Australian Army Service Corps, the Australian Army Medical Corps and the Australian Army Ordnance Corps. In 1940 the number of personnel located in Darwin was 603 of which 19 were reported to be in the AAOC.

#### **Build up of World War 2**

In February 1941 the number of AAOC personnel had grown to be 59, fundamentally the 7 Military District (7 MD) Workshop with 46 staff and 83 LAD with 13 staff.

During the war various units were reinforced, raised or replaced and at February 1942 the AEME maintenance force consisted of 83 LAD, 275 LAD, 106 Independent Ordnance Workshop (also referred to as L of C Wksp) and a District

Reserve of 23 Independent Brigade Group Ordnance Workshop, 103 LAD, 108 LAD, 11 Recovery Section and 236 LAD.

Static Workshops in the Northern Territory as of 1943 were Alice Springs Motor Transport Workshop, Northern Territory L of C area Workshop, Elliot Motor Transport Workshop, Mataranka Advanced Workshop, Morphett Creek Mechanical Equipment Workshop Section and Tennant Creek Motor Transport Workshop.

EME strength continued to build up to the end of the war when the total strength of AEME was 20,813 all ranks. By June 1946, just after demobilisation, the strength was only 3213. The number of personnel continued to decrease and by July 1948 it was down to 637 members in Australia.

#### **Post World War 2**

In 1948, after demobilisation, the proposed Field Force unit for the remaining AEME numbers in Darwin was the 7th MD workshop (previously known as NT Command Workshop).

Very little changed in the Army between 1948 and the 1970s, however in 1970 the Defence Department began a review of the Armed Services that continued through to the end of the 1980s. The overriding result of these studies, for RAEME members, was the formation of Logistic Groups. In Darwin this was evident when 7 MD Workshop (Darwin Workshop Platoon) was absorbed by 7 MD logistic Company.

#### **Today**

Restructuring within the Defence Force has continued under the Army's Presence in the North (APIN) project, resulting in a build up of Army combat and service support units in the North of Australia. The RAEME elements involved in this process include Joint Logistic Unit - North (formerly Darwin Logistic Battalion and before that 7th MD Log Coy), 1 CSSB (formerly 1 BASB and prior to that 101 Field Workshop), 1 CSU (formerly 104 Sig Sqn Workshop), 1 Armd Regt Workshop, Cav Regt Workshop, 161 Recce sqn Workshop and Unit Tradesman at Norforce.

## **CONCLUSION**

The early history of RAEME in the Top End is difficult to trace due to the small number of tradesmen and the dispersed nature in which they were employed. The presence of RAEME in the North has fluctuated constantly, from the development of the defence of Darwin (the Darwin Detachment) to the height of WW2 where around 13 different AEME units and detachments were located in and around Darwin. At the end of the war and after Demobilisation the number of military tradesmen decreased to workshop size and remained at that level until the early 90s.

The recent increase in RAEME support in the North has coincided with the relocation of combat units to the region and has resulted in one of the largest RAEME concentrations in Australia since the Corps' inception. The standards and condition of the new workshop facilities at Robertson Barracks can only be described as excellent. The efforts of Corps members to review and develop maintenance doctrine to support the TF Trial has been nothing short of exemplary. The individual effort of tradespeople working in Australia's most extreme climatic and environmental conditions can only be described as outstanding.

RAEME history in the Top End is rich and proud, as is the Territory itself. Our Corps personnel continue to maintain this tradition in supporting and maintaining the Army in the North.

#### **References:**

- A. THE ARMY AND THE DEFENCE OF DARWIN FORTRESS by ROBERT RAYNER.
- B. CRAFTSMEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY by THEO BARKER.
- C. CT-ORG-17 THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.
- D. CONVERSATION SGT POULSEN/NEIL BENTON of 30 OCT 97.

# U N I T J O T T I N G S



## 162 RECCE SQN - TS

The members of TST have had a busy time since the last edition of the *RAEME Craftsman*. September saw the unit hold a Dining in night for one of the oldest members to serve in the Squadron. Sgt 'Gilly' Gilmore, retired in 1997, having had a tremendous impact on Army Aviation. "Gillys" wealth of knowledge on Army Aircraft, in particular Kiowa, greatly influenced the more junior members of the Squadron. The TST wishes "Gilly" all the best in retirement.

The Squadron fishing competition late in the year brought enthusiasm from all ranks. Members fished from the Hinchinbrook Channel in the north to the Haughton River in the south. The only thing lacking at the weigh-in was the fish. Captain Blackman and his crew ate their catch whilst out, believing their "just legal" catch would not be in the running. Other crews also had bad luck in the competition, even the master fisherman "Johnsy". Prizes were raffled instead of earned!

A few TST members and others in the Squadron pitched in before Christmas to level the area used by the Kiowa Club (boozier). This involved erecting a link block wall, which, surprisingly, withstood Townsville's January floods. All members now enjoy the Club's new surroundings which has been evident by the attendance of family and members at functions in 1998.

The most sought after position in the Squadron TST has always been the "ALLTRADES", whether "Blackhander" or "Gay-Trader". The sole Alltrades may be sent away with any number of aircraft and is responsible (accountable?) as the on-site Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. This leads to some great trips, not just to SWBTA or HRTA, but all over Australia and PNG.

January saw CPL. "Cabbage" Reid and PTE "Yowie" Yeoman launch to Mackay for the recovery of a U/S "Kiowa". Having driven down that day from Townsville, the boys were obviously too tired to return that night, so the hard decision was made to stay at Club Croc - Airlie Beach. Local police were only too happy to secure the 6x6 whilst the boys ventured out on the town. Airlie Beach is still recovering from "Cabbage" karaoke.

February saw the "Eurocopter Tigre" visit to the Squadron. Most TST members managed to grab hands on experience on the helicopter, which is an Air '87 contender for the "Kiowa" replacement program. Unfortunately this visit came to an abrupt halt on a demo mission, where the aircraft proved its crash worthiness. Fortunately the French pilot and our QHI escaped serious injury. Greatly appreciated was the presentation by the Tigre team of a main rotor tip cap (salvaged from the burnt wreck) to the Kiowa Club and its members.

LCPL "Wally" Paterno (Where's Wally?) cut his teeth with his first alltrades trip to the Torres Strait with two Kiowas. Wally's experiences on that trip are well known throughout the squadron. This Exercise was unique in the fact that the Squadron's telecard (used by Wally) generated a phone bill bigger than the aircraft's fuel bill!

The benefits of being an "alltrades" was never more obvious when SGT "Jenko" Jenkins and CFN Mick Walsh enjoyed the BMW Corporate box at the Melbourne Grand Prix. Mick and Jenko were in support of Exercise "Marlin Explorer" carried out in the southern states.

CPL "Chips" Weyland, freshly promoted, was sent south on his first alltrades trip but only made it to AIMS, south of Townsville, before his Kiowa went U/S for a transmission chip. An FRT was launched with a replacement aircraft and transmission before "chips" continued on his way. The transmission change went well but the Hangar Art and his little mate, CPL Rod Turner, had their Unimog bogged to the belly pan on the mudflats for a couple of days. It was ironic for the ASM "Sully" Sullivan as the mog was the only truck (and nearly the only vehicle) still serviceable after an historic MAS visit.

Returning to "Chips" Weyland's trip, the pair only made it to Woodgate before being grounded with engine chips. Utilising resources/personnel from Townsville, Brisbane and Oakey the aircraft was refitted with a serviceable engine. LT Fryer, Chips, CFN "Wheels" Wheeler and SGT "Bilko" Hales had the locals reeling with a rendition of "The Gambler", along with the musical backing of "Neil Duddy Buckshot" at Woodgate's local pub. Even more amusing would have been LT Fryer and CAPT. McAlindon was sharing their line dancing skills.

Having three "civvies" in the TST helps greatly to maintain serviceability rates across the Squadron. This was evident when, with the TST resources strewn all over Queensland in February and March with FRT's, Mr Billy Hickcox was sent to HRTA on an FRT. It took great effort to restrain Bill from donning the old greens and webbing in an effort to help out in the field.

March saw us farewell CPL Dave Bowden after five years service to the Squadron. Dave (in the ASM's words) was a very competent Blackhander despite having his base trade being an Avionics technician.

Even though we are called "RAEMEation" we still hold a fairly strong RAEME ethos in our small but tight TST. This was evident in 162 hosting the first "RAEME" muster for 1998 with a Billy-Kart race. Units presented an interesting range of Karts, of special note was 10FSB's entry, which looked like an LCM8, and acted like one out of water with it rolling on the one and only corner of the track. 162 took out the main and novelty (ASM's) races.

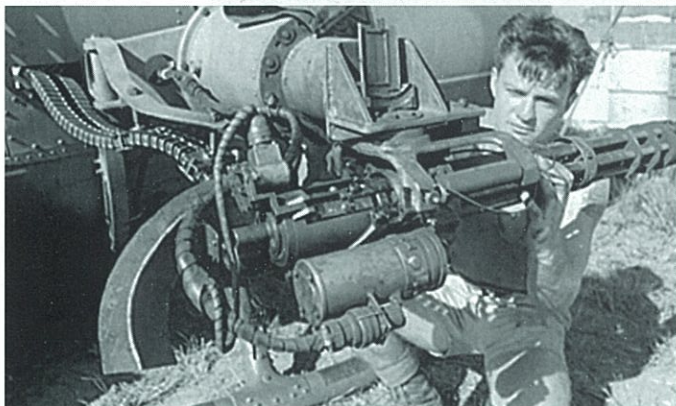
## HEADQUARTERS AVIATION SUPPORT GROUP

### *Technical Training Section*

The Training Adviser responsibilities for the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance trades were divested to Headquarters Aviation Support Group in December 1997. A Technical Training section has been established within the Headquarters to manage all RAEME aircraft maintenance training and trade structures. This includes the content of Initial Employment Training at RAAF STT Wagga and aircraft type courses at RAMS, appropriate trade structures to support the aircraft maintenance capability, overseas training and exchanges and maintenance exchanges with Navy. The section is also required to pro-actively manage the Net Training Liability for maintenance courses according to Chief of Army Directives.

The section consists of an SO2 Technical Training, Major Ian Johnson and WO Technical Training, Warrant Officer Class Two Alf Vanderhorst. It should be noted that considerable technical advice is provided from the RAEME, RAAOC and RAAF staff from within the Logistics Branch of the Headquarters. This resilient and dedicated group of officers and warrant officers are intimately involved in supporting the recovery of Army's Aviation Maintenance capability.

Whilst the move away from DEME-A was well planned, the influx of 'local' training development tasks since our establishment has seen a few skeletons materialise. Nonetheless,



CFN 'Macca' McClure performing some scheduled maintenance on a mini gun fitter to an Iroquois Gun Ship

all of those tasks have now been identified and allocated an appropriate priority. Some of those tasks include the allusive reviews of Subject 4 courses and Aeronautical Engineer training, the introduction of Work Place Assessor Training, a planned review of the training and employment CH-47D Aircrewman Technicians and future trade structures/manning requirements to support the introduction of an armed reconnaissance helicopter under Project Air 87. The possible introduction of an underchin canon and precision guided munitions for this aircraft will provide some interesting challenges for our current workforce.

Other activities have included reviewing the Iroquois Gun Ship Weapon Delivery Systems course for 5 Avn Regt to ensure that it meets airworthiness requirements. Both the Mini Guns and rocket delivery systems are maintained by Fitter Armament personnel posted to 5 Avn Regt. This requires the Fitters to complete an Iroquois Aircraft Familiarisation course, an introduction to aircraft maintenance philosophies and procedures, and aircraft structural hardware course before attending the Aerial Weapons Delivery Systems course. This is to ensure that the airworthiness integrity of the maintenance carried out by the Fitters is maintained.

On a closing note, the planned formation of the Aviation Training Centre in the later half of 1998 will also enhance both the section's, and Army Aviation's ability to provide a better service and product to the coal face.

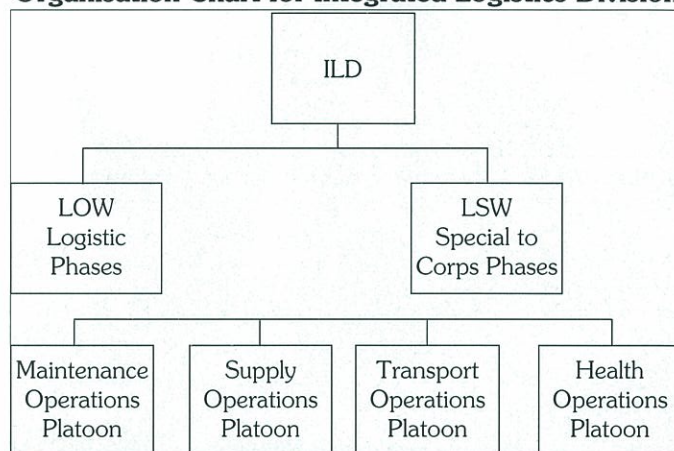
## Maintenance Operations Platoon, Logistics Specialisation Wing, Integrated Logistic Division, ALTC

by SGT Peter Chalker

For those of you who have never heard of Maintenance Operations Platoon (MOP) it's part of Logistic Specialisation Wing (LSW) at Integrated Logistics Division (ILD) of the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC). It's time this was explained as MOP plays an important part in your career as you progress through the ranks on promotion as both OR's and as Officers.

During the establishment of the ALTC the RAEME Corps Training Wing was disbanded. After going through a number of name changes, which also included being passed from Division to Division, MOP was established and found its home as part of Logistics Specialisation Wing, which is the element of the Integrated Logistics Division that conducts the Special to Corps (STC) Phase for the Logistic Corps Courses for Officers and OR's.

### Organisation Chart for Integrated Logistics Division



How does the MOP affect your careers? Well, the platoon covers the Subject 2 (SGT) RAEME course, as well as the Special to Corps of the WO, LOB and LOI courses. In essence, the Corps doctrine and teaching functions of the platoon have not really changed, though the number of instructors in the platoon has dropped down from 12 to 6 members.

Members that have left on posting are:

CAPT Dave Elliott - ADF Recruiting  
Brisbane

LT Marc Vroomans - 10 FSB

WO2 Wayne Allan - SCMA

WO I Henry Gibson - Downstairs to ILD  
OPS

New arrivals:

CAPT Rod Francisco - ALTC

CAPT Greg Pattison - ALTC

SGT Peter Chalker - 4 FD REGT

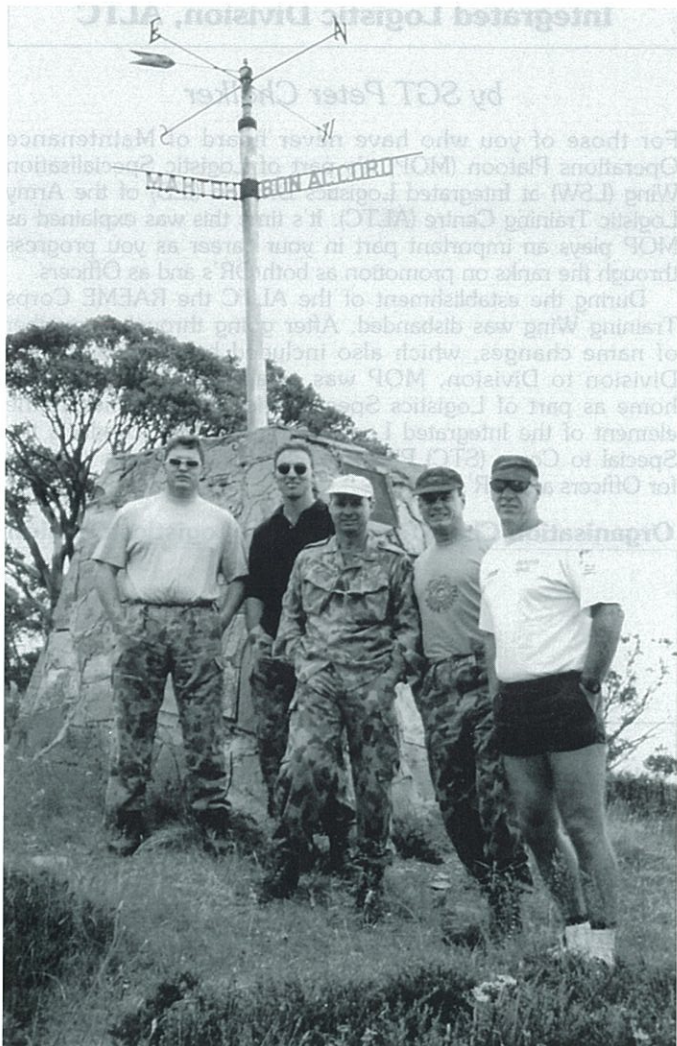


The MOP at the top!

## UNIT JOTTINGS

## OPERATION "BEL ISI"

by 234498 CPL J S Williams



Left to right: CAPT Rod Francisco, SGT Pete Chalker, WO2 Marty Cleasby-Jones, CAPT Greg Pattison, SGT Mick Kent. "The Start Point"

The stayers:

W02 Martin Cleasby-Jones

W02 Tony Rawson

SGT Mick Kent (soon to be W02 he reckons)

The platoon started the year with a bonding exercise that involved the rest of the platoons within LSW. EX 'Alpine Vista' involved the climbing of Mt Feathertop, (Second highest mountain in VIC). The whole of MOP participated except for Rawso as he was learning how to fight fires for a living, as a member of the DACC for the Albury Wodonga Area. The trek started from the Mt Hotham. side of the mountain and finished at the bottom. of the mountain, by way of the Diamantina Spur track. The initial walk up the 'hill' was quite good with absolutely marvellous views, but the downhill stroll was an extreme effort of trying to keep our toes from busting out the front of our boots and not curl them up into our ankles. Needless to say everybody was glad to finally reach the bottom of the mountain and get into some real bonding time activities, but all were so stuffed that they ended up in bed early. This was much to the disgust of CJ, who didn't do the walk because somebody had to set up the base camp, and was raring for some late night bonding. The exercise was a success with all participants enjoying the time to get to know the new members as well as shed some of the 'Christmas cheer' that some of us had put on.

The members of the MOP are looking forward to meeting all those who will be attending courses in the near future. To those who are after advice on the New Doctrine, give us a ring we might be able to give you some up to date information (phone numbers purposely withheld due to more changes!).

It was only a week before we were told that we were going to Bougainville and it was a mad scramble to get everything ready for deployment. In true RAEME form we packed all the necessary equipment to do our jobs and to make sure our tour of duty was an enjoyable one. We enjoyed a six-day cruise on the HMAS TOBRUK and sailed into Loloho Port, which is ten kilometres from Arawa, not knowing what to expect.

Well once we knew that there wasn't any threat of the locals trying to run us in with their big bush knives and that they were happy to see us, we soon got to work. The Kiwis ran the workshop and after the sledging over the cricket and the rugby was over we soon became one big happy family. The Australian boys that went to Bougainville on the First rotation were:

### Elec Fitters

CPL "LINDSAY" MARRINER 2 FLD WKSPS (T'VILLE)  
CFN "LIBIDO" BEADMAN 21 CONST WKSPS (BRIS)

### Vech Mechs

CPL "WALLY" EREMAS 2 FLD WKSPS (T'VILLE)  
CPL "WES" LYNCH SASR WKSPS (PERTH)  
CPL "MOE" WILLIAMS 21 CONST WKSPS (BRIS)  
CPL "MICK" DAVIS 85 TPT TP WKSPS (SYD)  
LCPL "MAX" de BAUGY 21 CONST WKSPS (BRIS)  
CFN "COLIN" BRIDE 26 TPT SQN WKSPS (PUCKA)

### Fitter & Turner

CFN "TIM" COSTIN 85 TPT TP WKSPS (SYD)



Some of the repairs that were carried out were a drowned L/R 110 when someone thought the fording depth was just under their armpit and had to learn the hard way. A runaway Merlo fork lift with a kiwi driver at the wheel, who tried to stop using the guard rail but when he jumped the rail had to use the





local vegetation instead. A Merlo forklift that wanted to see what it would be like with only three wheels on it, the other wheel doing twice the speed. There were numerous recovery jobs, as the monsoonal rains made the going tough not just for us but for the locals as well.

Once all the work was over, there was plenty of time for rest and relaxation, so then the challenges were set and you name it we played it. The first challenge was RAEME v's RNZEME for the Boxing Day test match with the Aussie boys winning by 204 runs and with two days to spare. After that we decided to form the ANZAC WKSPS team and challenged the rest of the Logistic Support Team (LST) to see who were the sporting greats and we took out the CRICKET, TUG O WAR, LAND BOAT RACE and the YACHT RACE. On new year's eve we were tasked with the job of cooking an Australian BBQ for 350 people which took us three hours to cook which was followed by a skit night that took us through into the new year.

Even though we made the best of our time over there, we managed to achieve what we were sent over there for and that was to bring peace to Bougainville, making new friends along the way. The workshops morale was high as we all got on so well and were told that we had a "close knit" workshop and everyone was envious of us. Our time over there was exciting and a good experience to go on an overseas deployment and to learn valuable lessons.



## 1 REGIONAL TRAINING UNIT - WACOL

# FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK TO SGT IAN WHITE (WHITEY)

By WO1 Jim Buldo

July 98 sees the retirement of SGT Ian White after 29 years service in the Part Time Army. Ian joined the CMF in September 1969 as a VM with 104 FD WKSP and has seen service in most ARES units in and around Brisbane, including: 41 SUP COY WKSP, 2 TPT COY WKSP, 1 EME SVC UNIT, 5/11 FD REGT, and 2/14 QMI.



SGT White (the senior member) providing technical guidance to CFN Nicol (the junior member)

SGT White was posted to 1 TRG GP in September 1986 and given the task of establishing a technical support element. He recruited tradesmen and acquired tools and equipment and by the end of 1987, an EME element of five was up and running. Ian has been a key member of this organisation ever since.

Needless to say, Ian is well known around the traps as one of a dedicated few that has been able to cope with the many re-organisations, rationalisations, integrations, amalgamations and many aggravations thrown at the Army over the years. He has never been one to ponder for too long the reasons or logic behind the changes, but like a true professional, has always got on with the job. Ian White has rightfully earned recognition as a 'quiet achiever'.

I am privileged to have served with Ian for the past 10 years and his dedication, professionalism and expertise will be missed.

On behalf of this unit, EME members in SE QLD and the Corps of RAEME, I wish to take this opportunity to thank SGT Ian White for his contribution and wish him, and his wife Christine all the best for the future.

## 11 BASB WKSP COY

Greetings and salutations from Townsville based 11 BASB Wksp Coy. 1998 should prove to be an exciting year of training, production and frivolity. The Wksp is currently suffering a manpower shortage as a lot of other Army Reserve units are. This however has not dampened the spirits of those who are regular attendees to what can only be described as the elite Coy within the Battalion.

We have certainly hit the ground running this year. Here it is not even four training weekends under our belts and we have already completed a bush trip, BFA's, CFA's, qualifying shoots, and heaps of individual skills training.

Last year, saw the promotion of two prominent members within the unit, they being Capt Rex Diplock and WO1 Greg (Legs) Leggit. Capt Diplock is our resident OPSO/AO whose vast experience both within the ARA and GRes is unquestionable. WO1 Leggit has moved onto greener pastures and has joined the BASB HQ EME Ops, and mind you is doing a damn good job. The amount of time he spends with the Wksp indicates that secretly he still considers Wksp, home.

Capt Wombat Gun Watson has taken over the reins from Maj Prideaux as the Coy OC and all indications are that with his guidance 11 BASB Wksp Coy will gather momentum and become a force to be reckoned with. Although the year started out with four Lt's on the books, through civilian employment pressures, two have gone onto long term leave. To Lt Muller and Lt Bull we say thank you for your efforts and look forward to the time when you can return to the fold. Lt Watson - Brown or Whisky Bravo as she is affectionately known is currently undertaking work and studies at Charters Towers and hopefully will be back parading with us in the not too distant future. Poor old, er young, Lt Barnett, the remaining Lt has suddenly been hit with all the extraneous tasks

## UNIT JOTTINGS

that would normally be shared among the other Lt's. Apart from the odd stress out and nervous breakdown, he is handling the pressure extremely well with a common Tuesday night comment of "Gee, I wonder which hat I have to wear tonight". Hang in there LT there is light at the end of the tunnel, it's just that the tunnel has a bend in it and you can't quite see it yet!

The Coy has a new Trg WO, WO2 Brian Tuohy (2E), who is looking forward to a posting that will give him a rest from the previous four years with MAS-Sydney. At least he will get to see more of his family. Sources indicate that he actually enjoyed putting Cam cream on during the Feb Trg W/E.

For those of you who have been to the workshop recently, you may have noticed something unusual - vehicles being fixed. Thanks to 10 FSB we have a civilian repair team (an FRT) working out of Jezzine Barracks. We and the FRT are trying to get the Brigade vehicle assets up to standard and they are with us up until the end of May. A big task, but with a little bit of help from our friends, we hope to get there.

### Bluebell Trained Killers - Feb Trg Weekend

Overheard during Section Attack:

Lindsay: 'Hey Ringy, check that enemy soldier and report back ASAP'

Ringy: 'OK, hang on! (Bang - Bang)' - don't worry about him, he's dead now!'

And who said that the RAEME soldier isn't caring and sharing.

Question for Cookie - "What is it really like being mortared by fluorescent tennis balls?"

An excellent weekend was had by all, heaps of new/old things learnt or just reinforced.

### Recruiting Note

If there is anyone out there who knows a tradesman who is thinking of joining the GRES, please direct him/her to us as we are in desperate need of qualified members. WO2 2E will be more than happy to talk to prospective recruits. Don't forget to remind your friends that are contemplating joining, to do so before Oct 98 so that they can do the two week recruit course because after that it's the big six weeks at Kapooka - Yuck!

### Postings In

SGT Bob Lauro from HQ 11 Bde

Cpl Mark Aili from 31 RQR

Cpl Ross Casey from 31 RQR

Cpl John Kemp from Darwin

Cfn Bronson Alley from 10 FSB

Pte Lorraine Grigg back from Canberra

Cfn Chris (C.J.) Marks from Civvy street

### Postings Out/Discharge

Maj Murray Prideaux to 11 Trg Gp

Cpl Ross Casey to 31 RQR

SSGT Ian Cole to Retirement

WO1 Greg (Legs) Leggit to BASB OPS (Now everyone knows your real name Legs)

### Well Dones

Pte Leanne Dobbin for completion of her Storeman Basic course (At last, an ECN)

Pte 'Thumpa' For completing his Sub 1 for Cpl.

### Conclusion

Just to let you know what a kind, gentle, sensitive new age guy, caring and sharing OC we have, the following statement was overheard by just about everyone who went on the Bn Trg W/E, but just in case you missed it, here it is.

Scenario - Pte Bird is laying in what can only be described as the Emergency Room at the MTR on Mount Stewart Training area after the 15 km CFA when along comes the OC, looks down at Birdie who has garden hoses hanging out of his veins and says, Birdie - Hey Birdie wake up, don't you dare die, it's taken me four years to get a Coy clerk and you're not getting out of it that easy!

Again, Bluebell Sunray has shown the world how caring he is!!

Until the next issue of the Crafty Mag,

**ARTE - ET - MARTE**

## WORKSHOP COMPANY 7TH COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT BATTALION

### HERE WE GO INTO ANOTHER BUSY YEAR!

By LT Adam Hogan

Greetings and salutations to all from Wksp Coy 7 CSSB! It is certainly going to be another busy year for the Wksp. Apart from our normal role in terms of supporting 7 TF we have also the additional tasks of providing the manning and equipment for Logistic Support Group Wksp (LSG Wksp) and to 7th Forward Support Group (7 FSG).

The LSG Wksp role is not a new one for the Wksp as it previously had the same task from 1993 up until its last deployment on K95. This new focus has seen the Wksp busily preparing itself to meet the reduced NTM requirements and for the first LSG deployment to Meeandah in mid Apr 98. This should be an interesting deployment as it is into an urban environment so no doubt many new lessons will be learnt.

7 FSG is being raised from within 7 CSSB to provide formation level Combat Service Support (CSS) to 6 RAR (Mot) for the period that it is involved in the RTA trial with 1 Bde. At this stage it looks like being a 60 person organisation commanded by a Major with a Maint Pl consisting of approximately 31 Full time and 4 Part time soldiers with a strong emphasis on Mech Veh. The FSG will spend a number of weeks away in the field with 6 RAR (Mot) during 1998 with the main deployment being to Katherine/Pine Creek in the Northern Territory for 1 Bde's Exercise PHOENIX during September-October 98.

The Wksp started 1998 with the 1/98 CMT period which turned out to be very eventful and hot. We headed out to Lockyer State Forest for Ex 'THRUSTING SPANNER' where individual Pl and Coy technical deployments were conducted as well as the much favoured IMT's! There were many 'classic' moments during the technical deployments particularly, during the night deployment where a certain member from GE Pl was left behind with his GMV during a short halt. The weather certainly made sure that this phase of the exercise was interesting as it was very hot and humid with the odd torrential downpour conveniently included to keep us happy.

Some of the fighting patrols that were conducted during the IMT phase of the exercise were humorous to say the least, some sections lost their enemy and/or themselves. I believe one of the sections got so lost that they almost made it back to Brisbane by accident. Other activities conducted during the IMT phase were TCP training, PW handling, an orders/map marking stand, a SRAAW/Claymore stand and the most favourite stand of all, wiring!. Maybe we should have done some training on Prickly Heat as it seemed to be as common as a cold in winter with a good percentage of people getting nasty little doses of it.

Wksp Coy, has once again been the backbone of the recent success of 7 CSSB's Sporting achievements, with the Battalion getting into the Waterpolo, Cricket, Rugby League, Touch, Aussie Rules lightning Premiership, Volleyball, Aussie Rules and Netball finals and winning all but the latter two. With the successes that 97/98 has provided, 7 CSSB and Wksp Coy will no doubt have a very good and prosperous year, again as the backbone for the Bn Sports teams.

Cheers and Good luck from all the Members at Wksp Coy 7 CSSB.

## 2/14 LHR (QMI)

by CFN Brad Nothrop

### CURRENT TST MANNING

#### ARA MBR's

LT. P. Byrne - TP LDR

WO1 N. Lewis - ASM

WO2 W. Hunt - RPSWO

#### GRES MBR's

WO1 Jenkinson

WO2 Titheridge

CPL Mitcham

CPL Pritchard



2/14 LHR (QMI) TST at Wide Bay

SGT B. Calnan – GE SGT  
 SGT D. Morrissey – VEH SGT  
 SGT A. McIntyre – Q SGT  
 SGT J. Wallace – ADMIN NCO  
 CPL M. Mitchell – METALSMITH CPL  
 CPL C. Murley – ELEC CPL  
 CPL I. Reddan – Q CPL  
 CPL M. Ryan – VEH CPL  
 CPL C. Stanley – RPS CPL  
 CFN B. Nothrop – TESH CPL  
 CFN W. Cassidy – ELEC FITTER  
 CFN M. Hutchinson – RAD MECH  
 CFN P. McLean – VEH MECH  
 CFN A. Ross – TESH  
 CFN A. Trudgian – TESH

CPL Blake  
 CFN Moller  
 LCPL Petersen  
 CFN Frost  
 CFN Nowasaid  
 CFN Johnson  
 PTE Fyfe  
 CFN Powesland  
 CFN Carmichel  
 CFN Ackworth

**A SQN**

WO2 R. Wade  
 SGT B. Sielaff  
 CPL Pederick  
 CPL Doehnert  
 CFN G. Cameron  
 CFN Thomson

**B SQN**

WO2 M. Keft  
 SGT I. Baker

G'day from everyone here at 2/14 LHR (QMI) . Well it's certainly been a turbulent start to the year thus far. Absolute certainty has more than once faded into utter confusion. What the hell, we'll just have another 'O' group, that'll sort it out – hey Wall! I don't know what happened last year, but we mustn't have used up the allocation of 'O' groups, so we're doubling up on them this year.

So who are we and what do we do? Basically, the Regiment's RAEME support is divided primarily into three structures. Firstly the TST – where most of the real tradesmen maintain the Unit's equipment, and this year saw the raising of the two line Squadrons, A and B. The RAEME personnel within these two Squadrons provide the technical assistance for the first line repairs of unit equipment.

February saw the first driver's and crew commander's courses for the year being held at sunny Wide Bay training area, where the mozzies are as big as buggies and the humidity's 150%.

The crew commander's cse were privileged enough to bare witness to some of the finest driving skills ever displayed by our SQN 2IC, CAPT. Justin Andersen (who has a good sense of humour – I hope). In fact the boys were thinking about mounting an extra set of laterals in his crew commander's hatch, so he could command and drive at the same time. But on a more sincere note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Armoured Corps personnel who conducted the courses, whose professionalism and conduct of the courses made it both interesting and enjoyable. Early March saw a team from 2/14 LHR (QMI) go down to the Kapooka 10's. Although they copped a flogging on the paddock, CFN Cassidy assures us that they won the drinking competition.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year so far was our first deployment of the year as a whole squadron. This saw us travel back to our favourite place in the whole world, Wide Bay Training Area, where we practised deployment, replenishment and other S.O.P drills. It was the first chance to work side by side with our part time brethren, and a fun time was had by all. The whole weekend went by without a hitch, just like clockwork (YEAH RIGHT!). I think the most important lesson learned was that maps can be really hard to read when driving too fast, and all those bloody tracks look the same.

I'd just like to finish off by thanking our Drake personnel, who do a great job keeping the home fires burning while we're out earning our service allowance.

Until next time, it's so long from 2/14 LHR (QMI) TST.



2/14 LHR (QMI) Workshop – The backbone of the regiment

# UNIT JOTTINGS

## 1st FD REGT



So what's my discharge date going to be this week sir? Steve Schultz

by CPL Dave Chiverton

And a g'day g'day to fellow tradees from TST tiffyville Enoggera. As far as we know this is the first entry from 1 Fd Regt in the Craftsman magazine at least for a few years anyhow. So far this year many changes and much progress has occurred in the workshop.

We started the year with an almost complete turnaround of members with only half the 1997 team remaining. After the new blokes settled in and vehicles and equipment were prepared in the first month or so the workshop deployed on Ex Ready Soldier 98. Entirely different from Ex Ready Soldier 97 this year was an IMT based exercise with members from TST being spread amongst sections within HQ Battery at Shoalwater Bay. The exercise proved to be a reasonably hard slog with temperatures in the mid to high 30's and humidity around 300%. This proved a little too much for some gunnies but the TST Rangers stood tall with no heat illness problems. Well done boys. The culmination of this exercise was a 24 hour inter battery contest named Ex Wyerns Revenge which saw a mostly RAEME section win. Congrats to CPL Skipper and his crew for that.

Whilst the boys were having fun in the scrub our ASM returned to Enoggera to spend time with (not the Gestapo) MAS. Good news on the Hamel gun side of things but not so good for most other equipments in the regiment. Last year's



CPL Stuey Stinga Rae – a modern soldier in a modern workshop



**THE WORKSHOP CREW** – Back Row: Mr Mark Marinelli, Mr Mark Churchill, PTE Kym Taylor, CPL Steve Schultz, CPL Dave Chiverton  
Centre Row: Mr Ken Zache, Mr Ian Hudson, CPL Stuey Rae, CPL Steve Wilson, CPL Andy Warner, SGT Mick Casuman, CFN Werner Smit, CFTN Mark Allanson  
Front Row: SGT Steve 'Eyes' Langworthy, SGT Craig Charters, WO2 Leo Lorenzo, CAPT Duncan Polich, CFN Stuart Wallace, CFT Rod Potter, CPL Alby Anderson  
Missing: CFN Bart Bartholemai, CFN Harlan Marks

shortfall of personnel had taken its toll with 95% of vehicles and 60% of weapons temporarily grounded. This has created a slightly increased workload for the workshop and given us time to spend days emu bobbing and weeding around the regiment area. Spending a day a fortnight training, compulsory Thursday afternoon sport and Friday afternoon battle PT.

Our time is presently being spent preparing for Ex Southern, Sortie in Puckapunyal at the end of April. The first two weeks of the exercise will be spent acclimatising to the cold climate then we should be able to get down to the business of supporting the regiment. Guns from 104 Bty will combine with 13 Fd Bty and 105 Bty will combine with 41 Bty. This will mean only two vehicles and four tradesmen from TST will be out with the battery's camming up and camming down leaving the rest fresh in the shed.

March 24th and 25th was spent with all JNCOs stomping through the bush on Ex Lemon Romp. This proved to be an exercise in distance walking with a pack and constructing rafts whilst starving on limited rations earned by answering 50 quiz questions. Once again no members from TST dropped out and the first four members to reach the finish in an escape and evasion exercise were from TST. First pair back Schultz and Warns who hitched a ride in a Toyota with a local whilst the rest slogged through snake and spider infested lantaland. Good initiative boys.

The year is shaping up to be an enjoyable and busy one with a very competent and friendly crew. In between the usual concentration periods the boys will be scattered over the countryside on promotion courses (all craftys nominated Sub2), survival courses (that's you CFN Jenny Craig Wallace) and adventure training in August.

### THE LINE UP THIS YEAR

OC	CAPT Duncan Polich
ASM	WO2 Leo Lorenzo
OPS SGT	SGT Nick Cashman
GE	SGT Craig Charters
GE	SGT Steve Langworthy
VEH	CPL Alby Anderson
GE	CPL Dave Chiverton
VEH	CPL Stuey Rae
EIR	CPL Steve Schultz
RPS	CPL Andy Warner
VEH	CPL Steve Wilson
GE	CFN Mark Allanson
VEH	CFN Bart Bartholemai
VEH	CFN John Garrard
GE	CFN Harlan Marks
EIR	CFN Rod Potter
VEH	CFN Werner Smit
RPS	PTE Kym Taylor
EIR	CFNI Stuart Wallace

### FAREWELLS

CAPT Darren Latham
WO2 Mick Gordan
WO2 Norm O'Keefe
SGT Mark Bruton
CPL Mark Ryan
CPL Mark MacMasters
CPL Ralph Diblasio
CFN Mick Conlon (discharge)

## **B SQN 3/4 CAV REGT (APC) TECH SPT TROOP**

Along with the remainder of the 3 Bde, B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt has hit the ground running after Christmas stand-down. Bde induction activities and courses resulted in Tech Spt Troop having its influence spread far and wide. TST's manning had only several new march-ins so for the most it was straight into a heavy work schedule to get the Sqn's vehicles ready for 1998. An almost complete changeover of APCs for the unit took up the best part of January and February to get them inspected and ready to meet the Squadron's operational and training requirements.

Exercise Sabre Heat was the Squadron's shakeout and time to test the recently arrived vehicles. Luckily everything went reasonably well on the maintenance side as TST could only put a limited A1 echelon into the field due to personnel on courses.

In March the unit will be heading down to Shoalwater Bay for the first combined arms training for 1998. Exercise Scorpion Sting will see the A1 and A2 echelons deploying and providing support to the entire Squadron in different scenarios.

## **25/49 RQR TSP**

*by CFN Russ Haycock*

The year 1998 has started steadily for 25/49 RQR Tech Support. We spent the first few weeks breaking in our new Platoon Commander and ASM, quite a task it was too. Our previous ASM, WO2 Mark Chaston, moved to the RAEME nerve centre in Wodonga, and was replaced by the team effort of CAPT Rob Archer and WO2 Kym Riddle. This spells double trouble for those bludging greasers who've never had to work so hard before in their lives.

Our new grass volleyball court is already showing considerable wear and tear. Our volleyball skills, however, are exemplified by CFN Shaun 'Kenno' Kennedy, who is just 'too powerful' to keep the ball in court.

We all extend our congratulations to PTE Rohan Wood and his wife Sam on the birth of their baby girl Alisha.

### **Vehicle Section**

Well March is over and both CFN 'Rusty' Henderson and LCPL Frank Kenny are still running the floor with little to no hiccups (tee hee), these fellas must be good. The new Vehicle SGT, SGT 'Richo' Gladdish, has just marched in and already has the grey hair and shakes which drove his predecessor, SGT Daryl Reeves, to the sanctuary of Perth Log. We won't see CPL 'Paddy' O'Neill for a few more weeks due to his recent return from his three month holiday in Malaysia with D Company. The year so far has consisted of the section hitting the workshop floor running, getting ready for Ex Paschendael which we sent Frank to Wide Bay and its surrounding areas for FRT support. While he was roughing it, most of the workshop's ex Appys made their way down to Ye Olde Appy School for the fifty year reunion. Now we are all back from our expeditions, we hope to have an exciting year ahead with up and coming Bushranger Phase II trials.

### **GE Section**

For GE Section the year has started at a frantic pace once again. Fortunately this year the powers that be have seen fit to provide us with an increase in manpower to go with the heavier work

load. Our newbies are CPL Brett 'Rocky' Bryant our section commander and his offsider CFN Sean 'Kenno' Kennedy, both are breaking in nicely.

Already this year GE has been to all points of the compass CFN 'Tiny' Munro and LCPL Russ Juilleret supported Ex Paschendael at Wide Bay training areas, St Mary's, Bauple and Wondai logging over 120 hours of jobs and travel in 14 days. All this squeezed in between PT sessions and soldiers lectures (thank you OC Support Coy). Also on Paschendael was CFN Kelvin 'Weeds' Weeding who had a great time playing enemy at sunny Wondai. While these blokes sweated it out SGT 'Chunk' Clarke and Kenno clocked up their first swan trip for the year to Wodonga for the Appy School reunion/pissup.

The work and the year continue at a rapid rate, Dave Olsen, our GE drakey, is flat out, our inspection program is rolling along and Clarkey leaves us soon for Subject 2 for WO, (frightening prospect). With any sort of luck it should turn into a good year (touch wood).

### **Tels/Elec**

SCMA obviously thought our three man office wasn't full enough with five blokes working out of it, so they blessed us with yet another radio mechanic, CPL Matt 'Mary' McKeown. We've been fairly busy since the return from the kit breaking trip to Wide Bay, Ex Paschendael. Nobody has been kept as busy as CFN 'Dougie' Douglas (CIS guru), running around fixing everybody's computers after they've broken them. CFN Les Carter and CFN Russ Haycock have been run off their feet organising some mil skills training for the green animal that runs wild in the heart of all at Tech Support. CPL Tony Dahl has been flat out after hours with his business. He spends his days trying to keep us all out of trouble, a full time job here. CFN Ruben Hannolka too has been kept busy at home juggling his young fella in one hand while trying not to spill the beer in his other. Mary has only been at work six weeks and has already managed to score a two month holiday. Although, getting a knee reconstruction is a bit extreme just for some time off.

### **Recovery**

1998 started off fairly slowly in Recovery with CPL 'Summo' Sumsion off travelling with D Company, running around in the 'J' in Malaysia. CFN Jason Hill was left the mind blowing job of running Recovery. So with the help of his drakey officer, Mr Trevor Griffiths, he had all non-techs and ST2's completed, reorganised the office, organised the non-techs and ST2's for February and built our volleyball court. He even got to talk to the Mack wrecker for a test drive. Hilly arrived at work the following day to find people gossiping about how the wrecker actually moves (it didn't move much last year). That took care of his first day. Hilly is hoping the workload will increase with the upcoming Bushranger trials. If not he says he'll start sabotaging vehicles for some work, or disappearing on any course possible, maybe a bowling ball tester or a beach sand inspector course if one comes up.

### **B1 and RPS Stores**

On the tool store front, personnel changes have taken place SGT Ian 'Don't waste me on the wing' Le Cornu has been posted to 7CSU. Taking his highly regarded position is PTE Rohan Wood. Also in the house of ill repute is PTE 'Spud' Murphy, whose navigational skills on the federal highway systems leaves a lot to be desired. Toowoomba's not that big a place anyway Spud.

The RPS is managed by SGT Geoff Frew, who also keeps us all in line with that war dog attitude which hasn't diminished since the old instructor days at LWC. With Frewy is the ever dependable PTE 'El Barto' Barton, and drakey Noel Smith.

The roaches are looking forward to another great year in the workshop.

We are hoping to have as successful a year as our last. The sweet taste of winning the Defence Quality Award is still dripping from our lips, and improvements in the way we operate are imminent. We can only wait and see.

## UNIT JOTTINGS

### Farewell To A Valued Member Of The Corps Brian Langridge

*Written By Scoby Bannerman*

Brian joined the Army in Adelaide in 1964 and after a three month stay at 1 RTB Kapooka Brian was allotted to the Armoured Corps where he spent the next 18 months trying to get out of and transferred to RAEME. Brian's logic for a transfer was simple, "play up" and they will let me go. After a full charge sheet, four charges being for seven days, each to run consecutively Brian was granted his wish and in late 1965 he found himself at the front gates of RTC. Brian became a student on the 5/65 F&T Adult Basic Course. After the completion of the course Brian's first posting was to of all places 1 Armd Sqn Wksp Pucka in 1967, much to Brian's disgust.

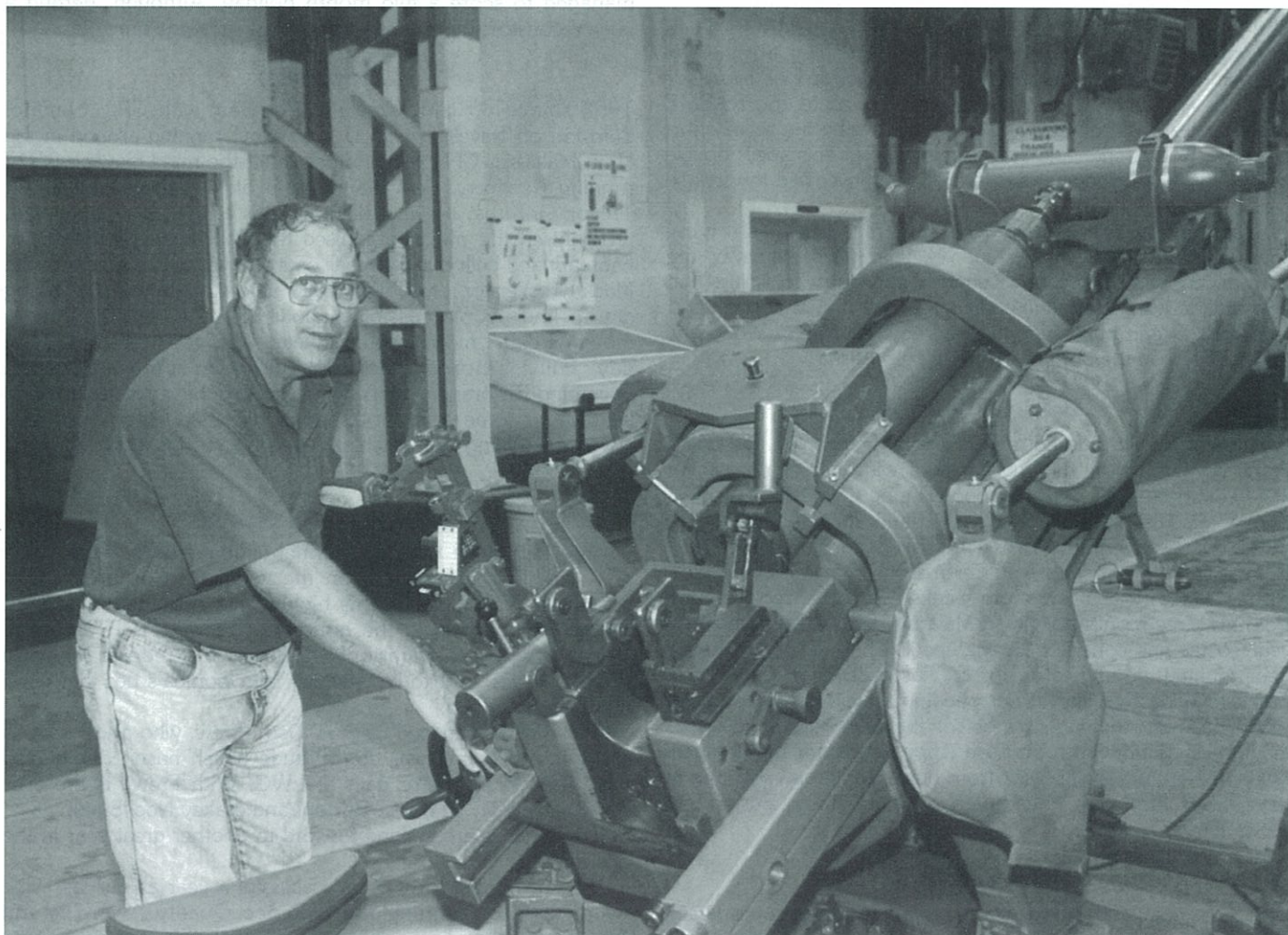
From Pucka Brian joined the advanced party from I Ind Armd Sqn Wksp heading for Vietnam and ended up at Nui Dat, 29,000 sand bags and several dunnies later the unit's name changed to I Armd Sqn Wksp and then in Nov 68 the unit became known as 106 Fd Wksp. Brian was a member of a forward repair team with the likes of Maj (then Cpl) John Lord, Tudge Szelest and Dick Williams. Brian was sent to Vung Tau on a supply run and missed the vehicle going back, so Brian decided a couple of drops of the good stuff would be nice (for medicinal purposes), several doses of medicine later Brian was collected and was charged with being drunk and absent from his place of parade in a theatre of war and was consequently

reduced from Cpl to Cfn.

Brian's return to Australia saw him posted to 16 LAA Bty (now 16 AD Regt) in 1968, 3 RAR in 71, ACT Wksp Pl Duntroon in 75, Adel Wksp Coy in 77 and then a posting to RTC as a Warrant Officer Class One in 1981. The CO at the time was LtCol Bob Law, Brian told the CO that there was no way he would ever teach in any of the trade wings, if only he knew. Brian was the doctrine WO at RTC until he took his discharge in Jan 84. Jul 84 saw Brian as a public servant, he had several clerical positions within the Albury area and then in 1990 secured a position as, you guessed it "an instructor" in Armament Wing RTC, now the ALTC.

Brian has taught countless students over the years including, unbeknown to Brian, his future son-in-law Anthony Latham an Elec Fit. Some of Brian's highlights not already mentioned were being one of the founding members of the Corps Museum which was then located on the top floor of the old RTC HQ building. Being entertainments member of the Corps Mess created its own amusement and havoc to many a poor unsuspecting sole due to Brian's methods of cohesion to get other members to assist in setting up and then cleaning up after mess functions. Again when Brian was in the Pilbara as a GRES WOI instructor he found himself and the course he was teaching out on the small arms range. Brian informed the Major in charge that the ammunition contained tracer, she'll be right said the Major, the subsequent fire had a front of some 120 miles and made the headlines in all national newspapers

Brian unfortunately has had to retire due to ill health, his final day being the 14th November 1997 so after some 33 years of loyal service with "the system" Brian has gone. It is with great regret that I say gone but not forgotten by the many, many friends that Brian and his wife "The Lovely Rosslyn" have made over the years. I personally have had immense pleasure in working with Brian, and speak for all members of the Corps when I say to Brian, good luck, good fortune and farewell to a great team member.



*Brian Langridge – retired 14 November 1997 after 33 years of loyal service*

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