



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

August 2002

Issue 36

A.G.M EDITION

**The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc. Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z
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Editor's Introduction

This is the first newsletter edited by Pat Marley, ably assisted by wife Terri.

Brief background: Born into a British Army family in 1941, and educated at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, England, before family migrated to Australia, arriving in January 1955. I joined the Army Apprentices' School, Balcombe in 1957, graduating (12th Intake) in December 1959.

I served at 3 Base Wksps, Broadmeadows, 1st Armd. Regt. LAD at Puckapunyal, and Puckapunyal Area Wksps, with frequent trips to the RAEME Trg. Centre.

I left the Army in 1966, directly entering TAFE teaching (before it was called TAFE). Having been Head of Electrical Technology at a TAFE College for some years, I left TAFE in 1993, now self-employed as a training consultant (electrical/electronics/computers)

Terri and I were married in December 1966 (when I left the Army and started teaching). We have been blessed with six children and thirteen grandchildren (with two more on the way).

We maintain military and RAEME connections – our second son is a RAAF Cpl Avionics Technician and our son-in-law – husband of our youngest daughter – is a RAEME Captain.

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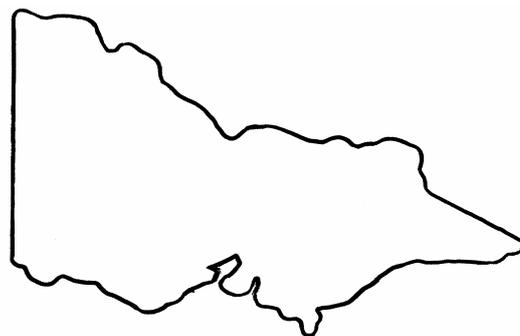
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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

This magazine is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication. Send contributions, news, etc, to the Editor email: patmar@melbpc.org.au

How do you find out what is happening in and around the RAEME ASSOCIATION, or in fact RAEME? through 'The LIGHTNING FLASH' of course.

DISCLAIMER *The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.*

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATION
Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

NOTICE OF 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
and ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

A G E N D A

1. ATTENDANCE
2. APOLOGIES
3. SILENT TRIBUTE - THE ODE
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 11th AGM 26 August 2001
5. BUSINESS ARISING
6. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
(In accordance with Association Rule 8. (4.B.))
8. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS
(In accordance with Association Rule 8. (4.B.))
9. RAEME CORPS 60th ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 29th NOVEMBER 2002
10. AWARD OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP
(In accordance with Association Ruler 25.)
11. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR YEAR 2002 - 2003
12. GENERAL BUSINESS:
 - a. RAEME CORPS SHOP ITEMS
 - b. RAEME ASSOCIATION (Vic) INC. PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
 - c. ANY OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS AS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY
13. DATE OF 13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Note: A meeting of the 'INCOMING ' Committee of Management for the purpose of Election of Office Bearers for Year August 2002 - August 2003 will be held immediately after the conclusion of the A.G.M.

PRESIDENT'S (Peter Cartledge)
and
SECRETARY'S (Ron Clifford)
REPORTS

The President's and Secretary's Annual Report will be presented at the AGM. Summaries will be included in the next Lightning Flash.



Alice Kermond will be having surgery to her scalp, otherwise Alice is fine.

WELFARE REPORT

Reg Cox



6 May: Laurie Burley has had a lot of trouble with the fitting of his artificial leg. The stump was very sore, but with the new fitting, he rapidly mastered the art of walking again. Good luck Laurie.

Phil Cook was admitted to Warragul Hospital, one leg was discoloured, suspected blocked artery and was taken to Cabrini for tests. Phil is home and having on-going tests.



Stan Konrad was admitted into the Monash Medical Centre with a collapsed kidney. He spent Anzac Day in Hospital; peritonitis set in, so straight back to Hospital where he is recovering.

Reg Cox visited the Welfare Officer (not difficult – it is himself!).

20 May: Ron Clifford has had many check up and tests and is now all clear to prepare for the final stages of surgery (the final stage !) to resume normal body functions.



Reg has had 3 trips to Cabrini for two x-rays and a CAT scan revealing his chest has signs of asbestosis from early work with fibro asbestos sheets and water mains. Result: only a light indication.

Ross Hope has had very good attention and medication for his back and is in excellent form.



Don Brown is having a very thorough check up to trace out any source of trouble.

1 Aug. Visited Ron Clifford, who has completed his reconnection and is now in hospital with lots of medication and treatment. Ron is having a good recovery. (photo at left)

Bill Hall has had treatment for leukaemia at Ballarat Hospital. He is having a lot of chemotherapy, and is now waiting for the specialist's report. Bill sends his regards to all RAEME Assoc. members.

Doug Brazier has had a hernia operation. He is recovering well, and hopes to be at the AGM.

Made a call to Nancy Maggs, who is very busy sorting paper-work. A trip to Norfolk Island, and Nancy is looking forward to the AGM.

Called Alice Kermond, who is on a series of medication after her successful operation. Alice currently has a bad flu-like condition and is taking things easy. She hopes to come to the AGM.



3 July. Barry Ridgeway enjoyed a game of bowls, and is in there, soldiering on.

Reg Cox (Welfare Officer)



With deep regret were inform you that Kevin Crowe passed away recently.

Our sympathy to his family and friends.

A LAD OF THE OLD BRIGADE

The man heading the inquiry into media ownership, Mr. Justice Norris, 77, has a habit of referring to anyone under the age of 60 as 'laddie'.

A few years ago at a formal Officers' Mess Dinner at Victoria Barracks Melbourne, Mr. Justice Norris, who was the Honorary Colonel of the 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment, kept referring to the Permanent Army Colonel in charge of the 3rd Melbourne District in this way.

When the Colonel explained it was a big infra-dig as far as he was concerned to be called 'laddie' in front of his junior officers, Mr. Justice Norris asked: "When were you born?"

"In 1931, Sir!"

"Well I got my army commission in 1926, laddie," said the judge.

When a pressman asked Mr. Justice Norris about his background, he simply said: "Look in Who's Who, laddie."

But here's an item from his past that was never in Who's Who.

Mr. Justice Norris, then in the Court of General Sessions, was annoyed when the person giving evidence kept chewing gum.

He leaned across from the Bench and said: "Witness, will you please stop masticating."

The witness took his hands out of his pockets.

COMING EVENTS**COACH TRIP TO CANBERRA**

PLEASE REPLY TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

When: Melbourne Cup Weekend,
from Saturday to Tuesday
(1 Nov. to 4 Nov 2002)

Sight seeing of Canberra with a visit to the much revamped War memorial

Cost approximately \$275.00 per person – twin share. Included in the price is the Coach trip, Accommodation, (twin share) Cooked Breakfast

PLEASE RING PETER CARTLEDGE ON (03) 9802.6406 A.S.A.P.

We require at least 30 people for this trip to be viable. If more than 30 indicate an interest the cost of the trip could be reduced.

THE VICTORIAN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

The choir has just returned from Canada, and will hold their Annual Concert and Singer Of The Year Competition at Blackwood Hall, Monash University, on Saturday, September 14th.

Tickets are available from Peter Cartledge (03)9802.6406 @ \$30.00 per ticket

If you enjoy the music presented by this exciting Welsh Choir contact Peter and the RAEME Association will make a little money on the side also.

ANNUAL CORPS DINNER

Friday November 29 2002
East Malvern RSL

Further details Peter Cartledge (03)9802.6406

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS**BBQ LUNCH**

25 August 2002,
following our AGM at 11.00am.

Oakleigh Barracks,
1318 North Road, Oakleigh South

NOVEMBER COACH TRIP TO CANBERRA

\$275 per person twin share
see further details above

SMALL THOUGHT

Do you remember when you were in the Army, or if you are currently serving, that even when it was bucketing down with rain, you were soaked and up to your arm-pits in water, you just took it for granted, and soldiered on, because that is the way of the Army. You did not stop just because the weather was crap.

Now, the question is this, what excuse do golfers have? They go out in the rain and play golf; no one forces them. Are they sane, or just a little bit touched???

(EDITOR - whose single attempt at golf was akin to open-cut mining)

New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Association:

Peter McLaren 057
4 Scoble Court, Vermont 3153
(*Ex 105 Fld Wksp*)

Peter Bassett 082
Unit 2/906A Ligar Street, Ballarat 3350
(*Ex 1st Armd. Regt. LAD*)

Gordon McLean 083
9 Nelson Court, Melton South 3338
(*Ex Melb. Wksp Coy*)

Robert Hudson 084
19 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley 3149
(*Serving 4CSSB Wksp Coy*)

John Maher 090
P.O. Box 2142, Carrum Downs 3201
(*Ex ACT. Wksp Coy*)

John McKenna 093
25 Ruby Street, Essendon 3040
(*Serving 4CSSB Wksp Coy*)

Stuart Gregory 095
40 Stuart Street, Moonee Ponds 3039
(*Serving 4CSSB Wksp Coy*)

Kenneth Allan 098
P.O. Box 4140, Jindivik 3818
(*Serving 3 Rec Coy*)

New Associate Member

Allan Maggs 004/1
15 McIvor Street, Ferntree Gully 3156

**A welcome to these new members,
and we trust we will see you all at
our functions.**

THE ORIGIN OF THE 9 O'CLOCK CEREMONY

Compliments of William 'Ozzie' Pope

Whilst this impressive ceremony was only adopted by the R.S.L. since World War II, its origin dates back to World War I, indeed, the service is still held nightly at the Menin Gate, famous World War I landmark on the battlefield of Ypres, France.

Hundreds of millions all over the world regularly listen by the B.B.C. to the ringing of Ben Ben, the giant bell in the Tower of the House of Parliament in London. Although they know the preliminary chimes, because they are broadcast at least once every 24 hours, at 9.00 each evening, only a small fraction of listeners realise the full significance of the nine lingering strokes of Big Ben. The chimes and the strokes have been heard since November 10th, 1940, but the origin of all this goes back to World War 1.

The scene is a mountain near Jerusalem, they say, early in December 1917, in a billet of the mouth of a cave, on the eve of battle two British officers are in conversation. They were close friends. One of the two, a man of unusual character and vision, feeling instinctively that his hours of life on earth were numbered, said: "I shall not come through this struggle. You will survive and see a greater and more vital conflict. When the time comes, remember us. We shall long to play our part, whatever we may be – we shall not fight with material weapons then, but we will help you if you will help us. We shall be an unseen but mighty army – you will have 'time' available as your servant. Lend us a moment of it each day, and by your Silence give us our opportunity. The power of Silence is greater than you know . . .".

The speaker was killed in action the next day, the friend he addressed was severely wounded, left with the enemy, escaped, recovered and went back to England with a mission. His name was Major Tudor Pole, he became Chairman of the Big Ben Council. The one who died knew that he would die soon. He also saw in his vision, the future and still greater, the Second World War. He enlisted his friend's co-operation, and won it. This is how the idea of a daily moment of unity in silence was born. Ultimately it became known as a Silent Minute and it is now signalled by the chiming and stroking of Big Ben at 9 o'clock each evening. It took years until the dying wish of this soldier was fulfilled from 1917 to 1940.

The signal for the Silent Minute on November 10th, 1940, also to indicate to the world that England had not been overthrown by the enemy, and has been repeated each evening since then.

Members in Small Business

In our earlier issues of the Lighting Flash we gave Members a one off opportunity to promote their Small Business.

This gave our members an opportunity to assist members in Small Business, plus receiving value for money and in some cases a special discount.

We have decided to reintroduce this, so if you are in Business and would like us to do an article for you, drop our Committee a line and we will be happy to help you out.

In this issue we are promoting Michael Newbond's new business "Cartridge World"



Cartridge World Beachside
242 Nepean Highway Edithvale

Cartridge World

Michael has recently sold The Cheesecake Shop, and has decided to venture out, with his partner Janice, into the rapidly expanding business of **Cartridge World**.

This unique service has sprung up in many suburbs all around Australia with 21 outlets in Victoria alone.

As any one who owns a Computer realizes one of the biggest costs is replacing cartridges in their Bubble-jet or Laser printer, (especially if your children or grand children are using computers).

Cartridge World is in the business of refilling (recycling) these cartridges with uniquely formulated Inks and Toners, with a cost saving of up to 50% compared to the price of a new cartridge. (Using the cheaper inks for refilling your cartridges could bung up your computer and cost you big money.)

If you are dissatisfied with the results of any of their refilled cartridges, then simply return the cartridge together with receipt of purchase and they will either repair the faulty cartridge, credit the full amount against a new cartridge or provide a full refund in exchange for the faulty cartridge.

They also offer a pick up and delivery service to most Businesses and Schools in the area.

Michael and Janice have been highly trained in the art of this service, especially in rebuilding and replacing the high quality components and toners that go into Laser cartridges.

They are willing to offer Free Advice on your printer needs.

Plus they carry a large range of:

New Inkjets, Laser Cartridges & Printer Ribbons,

Genuine and Compatible Inks and Copier Toners,

Special Photo printing paper,

All fully guaranteed.

They are proud to offer this service to the community and are willing to offer an extra discount to Association Members upon presentation of their Membership card.

They are open 6 days per week Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am till noon. Drop in or give Janice or Michael a call on 9772 7030 or fax 9772 7003. Visit their website at .

www.cartridgeworld.com.au

This Newsletter has been printed on a Laser Printer with a cartridge refill from Cartridge World Beachside Edithvale, their new store.

Our Association and members wish Michael and Janice all the best in their new business.

THE DARWIN RIOT (Contribution by "Curly")

Probably the biggest riot to ever occur in Australia, and involving only Australian service troops, took place in the latter part of October 1941. As a Gunner with 2/14 Australian Field Regiment, I marched into Winnellie Camp in July 1941, a camp vacated by 2/13 Army Field Regiment.

Quite a large area of bushland had been cleared from Camp sites. Adjacent to ours were the 2/21 and 2/40 Infantry Battalions, and I think on the East side, 2/4 Pioneers. Many magnetic ant hills were flattened while clearing the site. I had been transferred to 83/L A D, an Engineering Unit, although it was a technical Unit, the Unit still undertook full training as soldiers.

The day of the riot I had finished a job, and decided to do a little spine bashing. I had hardly settled down when trumpets sounded an alarm for parade ground assembly. It being a hot day, I moved with reluctance. An Officer informed us that a riot was under way in Darwin, that many places were on fire, including one pub; therefore this riot was "real serious." We would be issued with side arms (bayonets) taken into town, and it would be our job to break up the mob and clear the town. We loaded on to the trucks and were rushed into Darwin. There we were debussed and formed into small squads and "quick marched" towards the various trouble spots.

My detail was ordered into the Darwin Hotel. The mêlée was indescribable, fists, boots, bottles, glasses and pots used indiscriminately. We waded in. Our oval colour patch, red over blue, was quite distinctive, so we hit out at any bodies in different uniforms, Navy, Air Force, or khaki clad with different insignia to ours.

Many men knocked down were trampled on, and blood flowed freely, I didn't see many of my mates use their side arms. We took punishment too, of course, some more rough treatment for my left eye, and lower teeth loosened.

We didn't have the power to arrest, we cleared the hotel and ordered the men back to their Camps. We than reformed and moved along the

Main Street, where large groups of servicemen were putting up active resistance to having their fun curtailed.

It was no time for sentiment. Three or four gambling houses were on fire, then I was the Don Hotel enveloped in smoke. Here the fighting had died down, and some troops helped some Fire Fighters who had materialised belatedly (you couldn't blame them), and the Hotel was saved, and went on to live up to its insalubrious name, "The Bloody Tub." Eventually the brawling finished, a small number of Policemen arrived, and the majesty of the law took over.

I suppose the riot was initiated by boredom, when many thousands of troops were dumped on and around a small town like Darwin, (as it was then). Although training went on for seven days a week, most men wanted to go Overseas for the real stuff.

Another problem, most unfortunately for the Australian Army, was Conscriptio. The AIF, always proud of being a volunteer Army, felt stigmatised, which engendered a bad attitude towards the Conscripts. Later, this dislike was to be swept away and pride take its' place. I'm not sure whether any Conscripts, derogatively named "Chockos" were in Darwin at the time. What I do know is that the fighting only involved Australian service personnel.

In honour of those self-same Conscripts, many of them were amongst the first Infantry to halt the Japanese thrust towards our country. They had had a very short training time to fight seasoned enemy troops, and in terrible conditions.

The many brawls and near riots between the Aussies and American Servicemen after the arrival of these overseas troops, was brought about mostly by the brashness of the Americans.

American service-men arrived in Australia due to the destruction of their great Pearl Harbour Naval Base. This of course brought them into the War on our side against both the German and Japanese military might, war and destruction threatening Australia for the first time in History.

The Americans fortunately, and with the acquiescence of our Labor Government, saw Australia as the pivotal base for operations against a cruel enemy.

The American troops wore smart uniforms, which showed them off to the best advantage, against our ill fitting attire, and with better pay, caused many a girl's downfall. However, sometime later we, the Aussies, were issued with khaki battle dress and gaiters, very impressive. Apart from some jealousy, most fights and brawls were brought about by the attempted superiority of the Americans and their offer to look after our women while we were away. These events took place much later than the Darwin riot.

The differences, and animosity dissolved when facing the enemy. Our involvement with the riot earned us the nickname, "Five-Bob a Day Policemen."

STANDING ON CEREMONY BEATING RETREAT AND TATTOO

There is often a good deal of confusion between Beating Retreat and Tattoo. Retreat is the older custom and dates to the 16th century, when it was known as watch setting. The Retreat consisted of prolonged drum-beating at sunset to warn the night guard to mount and to give notice to soldiers beyond the confines of the camp or the town walls that the gates were about to close and that they should return. This drill also signaled civilian working in the field it was time to come back to the safety of the garrison.

The custom has its origins in the days when fighting ceased at sunset; the drum beats signaled that the fighting was over. The soldiers in the main body of troops would fire three volleys of muskets (for troops who were far spread and may not hear the drums) and a hymn would be played between the volleys in honour of those who had fallen during the day.

It was said that the volleys put to flight the evil spirits of departed soldiers. It was during this time of the evening that the colour would be

trooped. This drill is replaced to day by the lowering of the national flag.

There is some confusion over the post calls. It seems that the First Post and the Last Post came into being in the early part of the 19th century. First Post was sounded as the Orderly Officer; the Orderly Sergeant and a drummer (with a bugler) started the Tattoo. They then marched from post to post with the drummer beating his drum. Upon reaching the final post, the drummer would sound the Last Post. This is why drummers also carry a bugle.

Another line of thought is the Tattoo began at 9pm, the same time as the warning piece (gun) sounded. Soldiers then had to be in their tents by 9.30pm - First Post, where the Orderly Sergeant checked for absentees and by 10pm, when the Last Post sounded, the troops had to be in bed. This was followed 15 minutes later by lights out

There is some conjecture over the origin of the word tattoo but in the main it is agreed that the word is derived from the old Dutch expression *doe den tap toe*, which freely translated into English is turn of the taps. The phrase tap was used in official books for a long time and gradually gave place to the familiar word tattoo.

This drum call was to get the soldiers back to their billets by having the Innkeepers turn off their beer taps and cease selling liquor.

The Last Post was really the end of the day (a hard day's fighting and a hard night's drinking). This bugle call has been passed down through the centuries, in many countries of the world, as an accompaniment to the impressive rites of a soldier's farewell, where the closing bars wail out their sad farewell to the departing warrior.

WO 1 CJ. JOHNSON Retd.
RSM CEREMONIAL ADHQ.

(The following is reprinted with permission)



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7. *EME Cell at Development Group, ALTC*

DHOC Report

The Corps RSM and I are attempting to visit as many units as possible to discuss RAEME issues with unit CO's and to talk with workshop personnel. In the past few months we have been able to visit most units in 1 Bde; 4 RAR, 17 Constr Sqn, 145 Sig Sqn and DNSDC in the Moorebank/Holsworthy area; 4 CSSB at Broadmeadows and 5 CSSB at Banksmeadow. We also met with the Commanders of 1 and 5 Bdes. In July we will be visiting 3 and 11 Bde units as well as other units in the Townsville area and in August or September we will visit Adelaide and 7 Bde in Brisbane.

I would like to summarise a few of the common themes that have been addressed, and answer some of the recurring questions. Other parts of the newsletter and future newsletters will address issues not covered here.

First, I would like to reassure soldiers that BDE Comds and unit COs are aware of and are trying to address many of the problems facing their workshop personnel. Without exception, they are appreciative of the efforts and professionalism of their RAEME staff. So well done!

Trade issues.

Driver training for tradesmen. Without exception, this was the most common area of concern and was raised at every level from Bde HQ to the workshop floor. ALTC currently does not have the capacity to provide ITT with a licence. This will leave the burden with Land Command in the short term. Planning is currently underway to expand this capacity with the intention that from the start of 2003, tradesmen and soldiers from other logistic trades will receive their C2 licence before they leave ALTC. There is a bit of work to be done yet, but hopefully, this problem will start to disappear.

Many units have expressed concerns regarding the demise of the Production Clerk and the specialist RPS Storeman. Clearly there has been a loss of capability, and units and individuals are working very hard to fulfil these functions as a consequence. These trades disappeared, in part as a consequence of the RAAOC 97 restructure that amalgamated a number of trades. There are more proposed solutions than there were trades to begin with so there is no easy answer or quick fix. You need to be reassured that the OPSUP trade is currently number one priority for review within the RAAOC trade system. So all I can say is be patient and be prepared to provide constructive input when called for.

All units, and a number of civilian workplaces employing OJT tradesmen, expressed their satisfaction with the quality of tradesmen currently being produced at MSD. This is pleasing and reassures us that we are on the right track. There is constant pressure to reduce training time to get the soldiers to Land Command sooner, but this is balanced by a desire expressed within Land Command for soldiers who are broadly trained and can be employed immediately. Periodically we review the competencies taught to our ITT to ensure we are training to meet unit requirements. Where we are under, or over training, we need to adjust our training package. Unit feedback is essential to support this process.

Electronic trades. Recruiting for ECN 420 has been poor for the past few years and this will be felt in reduced output from MSD in ECNs 419, 420 and 422 for the next few years. This will hurt Land Command and I have been warning units and commanders to expect a major impact to capability. Increased recruiting effort is being applied and units should take every opportunity to support lateral recruitment from their parent units. A subject matter expert working group will be conducted shortly to address issues concerning electronics trades and unit feedback will be sought. This is a critical issue and all options will be considered.

I will continue to work to progress these and other issues and I look forward to visiting units as I travel around the country.

Keep up the good work.

LTCOL Mike Barry, Deputy Head of Corps

SO2 CORPS

RAEME Corps Website

The Corps Website is in final stages of development and will be on the Intranet from the end of June beginning of July 2002. Corps members are encouraged to visit the website regularly for update on Corps activities. Suggestions for inclusions to the website can be forwarded to SO2 Corps.

Subj 2 CPL RAEME

The staff support requirements for the conduct of Subj 2 CPL RAEME at ILD, ALTC have been included in the latest ALTC SED review. These appointments will be filled in the Jan 03 posting cycle with the first Subj 2 CPL RAEME course planned to be conducted at ILD early 03. The NTL for Subj 2 CPL RAEME is about 200 which will see courses of 20 being run throughout the year.

RAEME Craftsman Magazine

The deadline for articles for the summer 2002 edition of the 'Craftsman' is 20 September 02. Units are encouraged to make a special effort for our Corps 60th anniversary edition. Many thanks to those units, individuals, and organisations that provided submissions for the winter 02 edition. When submitting articles you are strongly encouraged to include photos. Photos go a long way to adding to the article (the more the better). For each edition we have a colour feature article. If your unit would like to be considered for the feature article please get in touch with the SO2 Corps (MAJ Graham Anderson).

Some Editorial Requirement tips:

Edit:

- Edit should be sent in a word processing program preferably Microsoft Word (.doc) or saved as a text file(.txt).
- Edit should not be sent in PowerPoint, Publisher, Corel Draw, or PageMaker.

Pictures:

- Must be sent as SEPARATE picture files, such as a .jpg or .tif. We can not use Photos or graphs that have been embedded in Word Documents.
- Pictures must be of high resolution, at least 300dpi.
- If you have hard copy, post this, the publishers prefer to scan it themselves. Your image will be returned.

RAEME CORPS RSM REPORT

Well the first six months in the job have been more than I expected and very rewarding. The discussions I have had with the soldiers of the corps have been productive and I hope there is enough time to tackle the “War Winning” issues that have been brought to my attention. Many of these issues have been raised and discussed at different levels. Some have been resolved; some have been forwarded to the next level to hopefully be resolved. Then, unfortunately, there are those things that will need to see us go back in time 15 to 20 years. Remember the good old days when we had Base Workshops to rotate soldiers through respite postings. When we had people called Clerk Production to input maintenance data instead imposing this task on our critical tradesmen whom could be better employed conducting maintenance. Who could forget when we had soldiers, not civvies, who rebuilt and repaired vehicle components in something called an MUA section. And of course the only time we saw contractors was when they delivered our stores and spare parts to the Storeman Technical General. Back then I can't recall Army ever having a retention problem. I hear you say “Oh for a perfect world”, yes, we did have something that was pretty close to perfect, but I don't want to sound like a dinosaur.

Head of Corps visit to Canberra in March/April raised the corps' concerns on trade shortages with Defence Establishments and Personnel and Defence Recruiting. This showed to be one area that was not well understood or had been passed over in some cases. However after these issues were raised and discussion into the consequences of some of these declining trades, measures were put in place to address these problems and prevent further decline. Deputy Head of Corps will have more on this issue in his report.

Hands up those of you in CSSBs, FSBs and other Logistics units that have a RAEME RSM. If you have your hand up take another look, we don't have any. The corps has not only lost many of its tradesmen but also many of its RSMs, CSMs and regimental soldiers. SCMA and myself have identified that the corps needs to re-establish a sound regimental stream and a base on which to draw potential CSMs, RSMs. The regimental stream offers much, soldiers can have a chance to take a break from trade to further develop their military and man management skills, skills that will be invaluable whether remaining in the regimental stream or going back to trade. SCMA encourage interested soldiers to move in and out of trade and regimental postings, and it will not be detrimental to the soldier's career. Many soldiers have gone to postings like Kapooka with huge apprehensions only to find what a totally fulfilling posting it can be. RAEME has several regimental positions around Australia, and unfortunately many are vacant or filled by other corps. For crafties there is the Federation Guard; for CPLs, SGTs, and WOs we have positions in Training and Land Commands and Recruiting. If supervisors can identify any potential soldiers for the regimental stream or individual soldiers are interested in a career in the regimental stream, then contact me on the phone number or e-mail address below. This will be the only way of getting the RAEME hat badges back into the Logistics RSMs positions.

RSM Dave Packer: Corps

On-The-Job Training

In Jan 01, the responsibility for On-The-Job Training (OJT) was shifted from Spt Comd to Trg Comd (TC-A). This meant that units like DNSDC and NLG (formerly SQLG) were no longer responsible for the management of OJT trainees within RAEME.

With this change in responsibility, came the introduction of my position, as the National Technical Training Manager (NTTM), an APS position created, among other things, to manage and coordinate OJT for technical training not only within RAEME, but RASigs, RAE and RAAF Ground Support Equipment Fitters (RAAF greasers).

Based on initiatives such as CSP and DIDS, it was decided to limit the number of locations for OJT to be conducted, concentrating on areas with sufficient military infrastructure, so as to expose the trainees to a taste of life as a future tradesman. Consequently, OJT for RAEME trades is now only conducted in the following regions:

- a. Darwin,
- b. Townsville,
- c. Brisbane, and
- d. Sydney.

To coordinate the management of OJT within each region, a Technical Trainee Management Officer (TTMO) position was created, which is a particularly fancy name for an "Apprentice Master". Even though these positions are located regionally, the positions are part of ALTC and are manned by a RAEME WO2. Each TTMO is currently managing between 40-50 trainees and this number is set to rise with the increase of trainees being pumped through ALTC in the coming years. Within each region, the TTMO maintains an office at the respective Regional Training Centre (RTC), who provides some local administrative support. Although located regionally, the trainees remain part of ALTC until the completion of their trade training.

Due to this increase in trainee numbers, in Mar 02 the SED was increased to provide each location with an Assistant TTMO position, to be manned by a RAEME SGT. These positions will be filled from Jan 03 and will allow more time for trainees to be visited at their detachment locations.

Trainees march out of ALTC with a Competency Log Book (CLB), which stipulates certain competencies and requirements they are to complete, before being deemed ECN-2. While on OJT, trainees are exposed to a wide variety of training, through detachments to military and civilian organisations within each region. This is a win-win situation for military units, who provide valuable trade training and supervision for the trainees, while at the same time utilising the additional workforce to assist with production tasks.

Units are able to gain the assistance of the trainees by contacting the TTMO within their respective region. This can be particularly useful when units are deploying to the field on exercise. If the TTMO has the capacity to spare a trainee or two, who has some outstanding competencies that the unit can assist with, then a deal can usually be struck. The TTMO contact details in each region, are as follows:

- e. TTMO Darwin – WO2 Mike Baldwin (08) 8935 3104;
- f. TTMO Townsville – WO2 Rob Greenfield (07) 4771 1305;
- g. TTMO Brisbane – WO2 Dave Spencer (07) 3332 4292; and
- h. TTMO Sydney – WO2 Phil Mumberson (02) 9600 4301.

To give an indication of the number of trainees we are producing, the following table shows the current RAEME trainees, by trade, that are undergoing Initial Trade Training (ITT) at ALTC.

| Trade Group | Current Trainees | Remarks |
|--|------------------|--|
| ECN 146 – Fitter Armament | 50 | |
| ECN 229 – Vehicle Mechanic | 119 | |
| ECN 418 – Technician Electrical | 24 | |
| ECN 420 – Technician Electronic Telecommunications | 4 | This trade feeds ECN 419 – Technician Electronic Radar and ECN 422 – Technician Electronic Systems |

On graduation from ALTC, all RAEME trainees will spend a minimum of 12 months undertaking OJT, to prepare them for Land Comd both from a technical and military perspective. The table below shows the number of RAEME trainees who are currently on OJT, as well as the number who have successfully completed their training in the past 12 months and have subsequently been posted to a Land Comd unit.

| Trade Group | On OJT | OJT Graduations |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| ECN 146 – Fitter Armament | 36 | 37 |
| ECN 229 – Vehicle Mechanic | 101 | 67 |
| ECN 418 – Technician Electrical | 14 | 9 |
| ECN 420 – Technician Electronic Telecommunications | 10 | 5 |
| ECN 422 – Technician Electronic Systems | 13 | 12 |
| Total | 174 | 130 |

From reports we have received from many CO's, the product we are producing is meeting the needs and expectations of Land Comd. The trainees themselves feel comfortable and competent that, once they have completed their OJT, they are able to take on the challenges of Land Comd. This should see that RAEME remains in good shape well into the future.

Mr Wayne Allan National Technical Training Manager

Implementation of the Technical Regulatory Framework in Land Command

From July to November last year the Directorate of Technical Regulation – Army (DTR-A) implemented the revitalised Army Technical Regulatory Framework (TRF) in 1 Bde. This pilot refined the Technical Regulation of Army Materiel Manual (TRAMM) and the strategy for 2002. The TRAMM was released on 27 Nov 01 and copies should now have reached all units.

TRF staff officers have been posted to LHQ, HQ LSF, DJFHQ, HQ 1 Bde, HQ 3 Bde, HQ 7 Bde and HQ 2 Div. These officers perform design acceptance for local modifications and maintenance approval for units seeking accreditation against the TRF. DTR-A ran a seminar for these officers earlier this year.

Implementation outside 1 Bde started in May this year. LHQ direct command units, Special Forces units, LSF units and DJFQ units in the Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville regions are adopting the TRF by Dec 2002. TRF officers in each location are managing implementation with DTR-A staff help.

The standard implementation program has five stages: initial training, unit planning, pre-initiation training, initiation and accreditation.

Initial training. Commanders and key unit staff are briefed to undertake implementation activities in the next phase.

Unit planning. Units develop their Maintenance Management Plan (MMP), revise processes, and plan for initiation. DTR-A staff is visiting to help with this planning.

Initiation training. All remaining staff are trained on the TRF – in particular the new classification system. Units train all members on the new MMPs.

Initiation. Units start operating under their MMP and the TRF. The main difference soldiers will see is the new classification labels and tags.

Accreditation. TRF staff officers and DTR-A conduct accreditation audits to confirm unit compliance with the TRF. Audit teams check MMPs, and then visit units to ensure they follow the MMPs. Entire units are accredited as AMOs, not just workshops – operator maintenance is just as important under the TRF as technical maintenance.

Before accreditation, units conduct audits of all local modifications and Articles Manufactured in Workshop (AMW). One of the requirements of TRF is that engineers accept designs for local modifications and AMWs to ensure they are safe and fit for service.

For more information about the TRF or implementation look at the DTR-A web page at <http://sorweb.sor.defence.gov.au/DTRA/> or e-mail DTR-A on tech.reg@defence.gov.au.

Update on Army Reserve Trade Training Scheme (ARTTS) – 8 CSSB

The ARTTS provides a specialised avenue of recruitment into the ARes for soldiers who will fill technical and trade appointments. The ARTTS provides an opportunity for civilian apprentices to enlist into the ARes to undertake military training and to be exposed to on-the-job experiences (OJE) that will complement their civilian apprenticeship training. The policy guidance on the ARTTS is outlined in a new instruction DI(A) Pers 116-13 *Army Reserve Technical and Trade Scheme*.

8 CSSB is currently running a Pilot ARTTS for vehicle mechanics. The pilot so far has shown that the scheme has great potential. The Reserve Apprentices (RA's) have now been with 8 CSSB for over four months and it has been a good testing ground for the scheme. Although there have been problems and there will be more to come the overall concept is proving to be sound. The key lesson being learned however is that this scheme is not for everyone. The selection of trades and regional locations need to be carefully identified to ensure the commitment from host employers. Also, the unit that employs RA's must be committed to the scheme. Such commitment will require a shift in focus from a training unit to a live load working unit that is still training focussed.

Other Lessons Learned.

- 8 CSSB have taken on 13 VM apprentices which they are finding are too many for their unit. The administrative support and the requirement to keep the work up to the RA's is too much for a unit the size and geographic location of 8 CSSB. A number of alternatives are being explored to reduce the burden on units that employ RA's. Some examples are technical assistance being provided by ALTC Regional OJT Supervising Officers, and administrative support being provided by RTC's.
- It is important that the Group Training Companies (GTC) are carefully selected and are made fully

aware of the rules and guidelines. For the scheme to be successful the GTC and the supervisors with in the unit must establish a very close and trusting working relationship. There is potential for GTC's to see this scheme from a purely profit motive. This must be discouraged.

A copy of the full Update Report on the ARTTS will be available on the RAEME website. The website is in the final stages of development and will go live at the end of June or the beginning of July 02.

EME Cell at Development Group, ALTC

The EME Cell at Dev Gp has been busy this year with preparation, planning, analysis and updating documents. The most significant item on the agenda has been the Recovery Mechanic Pay Case, which is to go to the DFRT in late 2002. At present, the preparations have passed discrimination by the EREC, and 'we are go' for the inspection later in the year.

Validation of the specialist courses for Recovery Mechanics is under way, with a report anticipated by mid-June. A job analysis for the Vehicle Mechanic trade has occurred and the report is in the process of being finalised. In addition, a wide-ranging job analysis is planned in Jul-Aug to focus on investigating the Subj 4 Mech continuum. It will investigate the potential to combine elements of the Art Mech/Elecs course and also look at the skills required of the Art Ground again with potential to develop an ART Gnd course that will equip our WO1 with significant industrial credibility.

Apart from minor adjustments to TMPs, the electrical/electronic trades appear to be in a steady state, and it is planned that they will be analysed in more detail next year.

The EME Cell is involved with some 40 plus projects that DMO are playing around with. These projects include the ARVM upgrade through to the introduction into service of a new 12.7mm sniper rifle. Couple this to the incorporation of TRF requirements is making for a busy start to the year.

RAEME Critical Trades Update. ECN 420 is now on the books as critical due to significant separation rates. A review of all boffin trades will be conducted shortly to identify if there are any advantages in amalgamating or modifying the trades.

ARTTS is well underway with the first of the Apprentices completing their recruit course at ARTC and marching into 8 CSSB. These 10 vehicle mechanics Reserve Apprentices will be joined by 12 carpenters hosted by 22 Const Regt in the near future.

EME Cell is currently reviewing DI(A) Pers 116-1 *Trade Assessment and Testing Policy, Organisation and Procedures*, and DI(A) 116-2 *Army Technical and Trade Scheme* with the intent of distributing both documents for comment in the near future.

| Contact List | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--|
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Editor: MAJ Graham Anderson

SO2 Corps-RAEME

Members who would like to be added to the e-mail address group of the Newsletter please provide e-mail address.

Coming Activities:

North Queensland RAEME Mid Year Function

Friday 12 July 02

Venue: 5th Aviation Regiment

Pegasus Club 1630 – 2300

All Ranks Function for RAEME members Past and Present

Cost: \$5.00 on entry for bar snacks and pizza

POC is Sam Brooker – (07) 4752 2752

RAEME Corps Seminar

16 – 18 October 02

Venue: ALTC

Including all ranks function,

WO/SNO Corps Dinner, Officers Corps dinner

Keynote speaker, central presentations, and separate discussion groups

POC Major Graham Anderson (02) 6055 4308