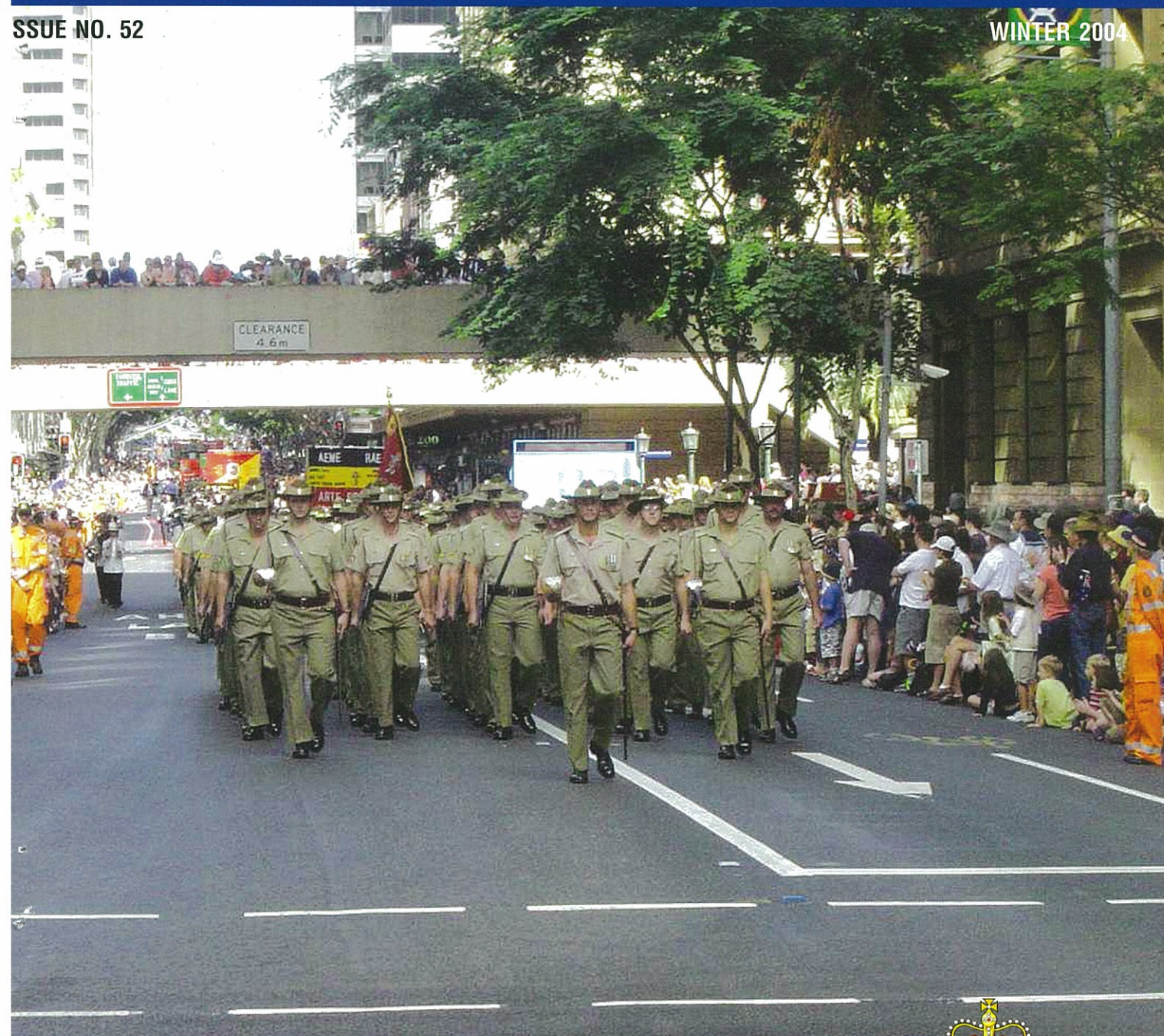


CRAFTSMAN

The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

ISSUE NO. 52

WINTER 2004



- *Gathering of RAEME, Brisbane – 23-25 April 2004*
- *9th Intake of Army Apprentices celebrate 50 years since their enlistment*
- *Home of RAEME Aviation*



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The Editor

The RAEME Craftsman

S02 Corps RAEME

LCSC, ALTC

Milpo, Bandiana 3694

DEADLINE

15 September 2004

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RAEME

CRAFTSMAN

The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

ISSUE NO. 52

WINTER 2004

crafty contents

Cover: Anzac Day Brisbane – RAEME on parade



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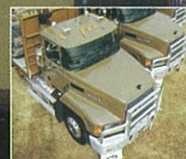
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message from head of corps



Head of Corps RAEME – Brigadier David McGahey, CSC

In the last few months I have been privileged to attend a broad number of Corps related activities. The success and enthusiasm I have observed at each of these activities indicates to me the groundswell of support for the Corps and its traditions and values has never been greater. Attendance by more than 500 current serving and ex members of the Corps at the Anzac Day March and Reunion in Brisbane this year, bears testimony to this fact. Much of this recent renaissance in Corps related activities have been the direct result of the personal drive and leadership of our Honorary Colonel Commandant Brig Ross Grant. Unfortunately, Ross and Leonie leave us in August 04 for business opportunities in the UK. On a

personal note I would like to thank Ross on his departure from the appointment of Honorary Colonel for his tremendous efforts for the Corps and on a personal note for his support and friendship over a busy and difficult period for the Corps. Ross is replaced in this appointment by Colonel Bruce Whiting who brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the appointment.

On the 22nd Mar this year, I was fortunate enough to attend, on behalf of the Corps, a 50th Anniversary dinner given by our Colonel in Chief, HRH, The Duke Of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace. It was a splendid evening with 40 other attendees including the current and former heads of REME. At the dinner, I presented the Duke of Edinburgh with a miniature of the Corps Banner he presented to the Corps at Bandiana in 1986 (see-attached photo). The Duke was very pleased with the miniature and

asked me via the enclosed letter to thank all members of the Corps for their splendid gift.

During my visit to the UK, I was also able to visit my counterparts at the REME School and HQ DEME in Aborfield. The visit was very successful and included a Brig Grant inspired presentation by the Corps of a Medal Board of current Australian Medals to the REME Museum. The REME Museum reciprocated with a photo for our Museum of the former Australian/UK and Indian DEME's during WW II. The visit highlighted the many common issues and challenges faced by our sister Corps. On that note the DEME UK has been invited to address our Corps Seminar "RAEME Doing Things Better" in Oct 04.

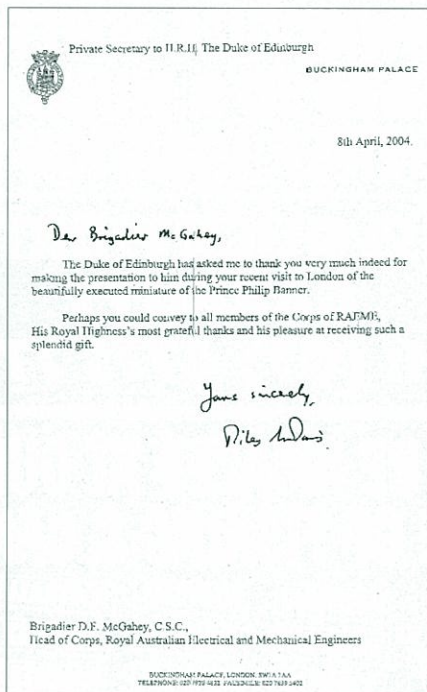
In conclusion, I am aware that a number of issues related to manning, workload and information systems are having a significant effect on the productivity and morale of RAEME personnel, particularly in the Land Army. Many of these issues are complex and long term issues related to recruiting; retention and change management, however, as Head of Corps I can assure you they occupy the attention of senior management within Army with a view to urgent resolution.

Arte et Marte

David McGahey, Head of Corps



Prince Philip Banner presentation miniature



Letter of thanks from HRH Prince Philip

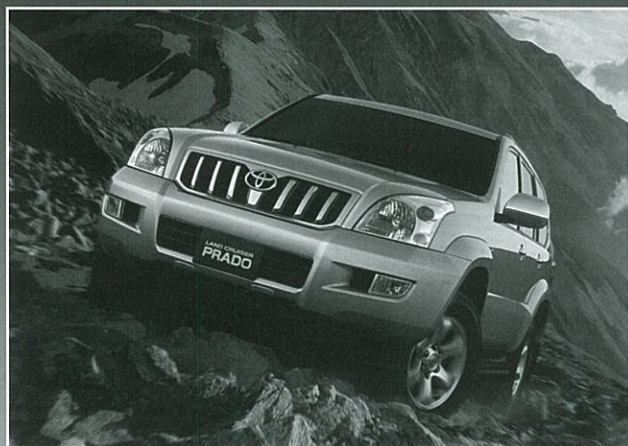


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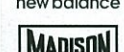
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message *from* deputy head of corps



Deputy Head of Corps
Lieutenant Colonel David A. Creagh

2004 has commenced at a cracking pace, a theme which appears to be pretty constant no matter where you are posted or what unit you belong to! Our 2004 DHOC visit program is now in full flight and already we have visited 9 and 13 Bde, 16 AD Regt, 1 Bde and in the past month, HQ 16 Bde (Avn) and Oakey. Needless to say the visits have all been extremely worthwhile and RAEME soldiers have raised many important issues. Having only just reported back to you in the most recent RAEME Newsletter I will not detail the issues you have raised with us again. I am well aware of the sense of frustration many of you are feeling in relation to 'progress' on issues such as the impact of the TRF, technical mastery, the 'Clerk Production', the roll out of SDSS and the impact of so many trade vacancies in your units. I can only assure you that the message has not fallen on deaf ears and that we are pursuing these issues to the maximum extent possible.

During my visit to Oakey I had the honour of attending the QLD RAEME Association monthly meeting in

Brisbane. It was wonderful to catch up with a number of familiar faces and quite humbling to attend an activity and mingle with previous generations of RAEME soldiers who continue to actively contribute to the Corps and who remain steadfastly committed to the cause! One of the main points discussed was the outstanding success of the 106 Field Workshop reunion and having the Corps Banner present for the ANZAC Day march in Brisbane. I encourage all of you to read the article in this edition of the *Craftsman* magazine.

Finally I would like to share with you a little of the progress we are making in terms of revitalising the home of the Corps. The RAEME flag once again flies proudly outside of HQ Materiel Support Division and it would not have been possible without contributions from RSM Dave Packer and RSM Tibor Fekete. It is no mean feat to 'acquire' a flagpole! AHQ and Mobility SPO in the DMO have been very generous in issuing MSD with three Mack Wreckers. One will be stand 'sentry' in front of Recovery Platoon, one has been

acquired for the Bandiana Museum and one will become a recovery training aid! We are also replacing a number of the trees, which have died (they were originally planted to represent each Apprentice intake). MSD is also in the process of producing new brass plaques and concrete mounts for each tree. A water reticulation system will also be installed together with the erection of a sign at the front of Latchford Barracks to explain the significance of the trees.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the very generous support provided by Stacey Fekete and her team at CSI-RMV and also Mr Mick Duras our Spotless Storeman in Armament Platoon. Mick's dedication to RAEME soldiers who have passed through Apprentices School, RTC and now MSD is no small thing and he has been a loyal supporter of the Corps for many years. Nearly all of these initiatives would not have been possible without their support.

Until our paths cross again.

Arte et Marte

David Creagh
Deputy Head of Corps



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THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

The RAEME Association has a primary role to foster and develop spirit and tradition throughout the RAEME Corps in Victoria and its Rural Areas. This is achieved by the Association through the involvement of members in social, military and Corps events in Victoria.

The Association is open to all ranks and membership is automatic for serving and exserving AEME/RAEME Corps and REME British Commonwealth Defence Force members are eligible for Association membership.

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reports

SO2 Corps Report

By Major Graham Anderson



We have made good headway on a number of activities over the past six months. Probably not as much as we would have hoped but with a reduction in resources and manpower we have had to wind back on some of initiatives. We plan to reverse this trend in the next financial year.

Prince Philip Banner Miniatures

The production and issuing of the long awaited Corps banner miniatures is finally completed with the last few being dispatched mid May. The complete run of 200 in the 'Foundation Issue' has been sold. From the feedback I have received it appears people are very happy with the final result. Now that they have hit the streets there has been a

strong level of renewed interest. I can not say if or when another production will be done. The minimum order is 200. If you are interested in purchasing a banner miniature I recommend you send an e-mail/fax to SO2 Corps – MAJ Graham Anderson and register an interest complete with contact details. When we have enough interest to do another run you will be contacted.

RAEME Craftsman Port

The Corps has had strong support for the last two productions of the Corps Port. The sale of Corps port provides a good income for Corps funds, which supports such things as Corps awards. The ongoing support is much appreciated. This year our blue beret fraternity is producing Corps Port up at Oakey. Keep an eye out for the fliers and order forms, please continue to provide the ongoing support and build your Corps Port Collection. There are limited numbers of the 2003 & the 2002 60th anniversary edition still available; POC is SO2 Corps, ALTC.

Corps Instruction 33 describes the process for units to nominate to produce the Corps Port. The Corps port provides an excellent opportunity for units to be profiled within the broader Corps and defence community and to raise unit funds. Any unit wishing to be selected to produce the annual RAEME Corps Port in 2005 is to have their nomination into the SO2 Corps by 1 October 04.

RAEME Corps Seminar 2004

This year's Corps seminar is to be held at Bandiana over the period 14 -15 Oct. Similar to previous years there will be an all ranks function on the afternoon/evening of Wed 13 Oct, the Officer dining-in night will be held on Thur 14 Oct

and the WOSNCO Dining-in night on Fri 15 Oct.

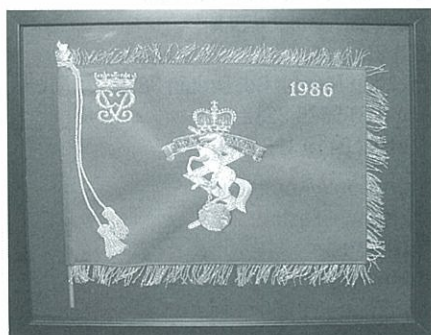
The theme for the 04 seminar is 'RAEME – *doing things better*'. We will be taking the opportunity to invite guest speakers from industry to present keynote addresses on the theme. Industry will be represented from the heavy automotive, IT and aviation sectors.

People wishing to attend the seminar are to fill out a nomination form and send to the SO2 Corps. Nomination forms are available from the HOC cell or download from the Intranet Corps Website. Cost for the seminar is \$10 per head. Cost for the Dinner (Offr & WOSNCO) is \$50. Accommodation is available, under members own arrangements, via the Bandiana Accommodation cell (02) 6055 4398. Dress for the seminar is DPCU; dress for dinners is summer mess kit.

Last year numbers for the seminar and dinners exceeded capacity so people are encouraged to get nominations (and payment) in as early as possible.

Head of Corps Network

In addition to the HOC staff appointments the HOC organisation relies heavily on the support and assistance from other Corps networks. In particular the Colonels Commandant and the Regional RAEME Representatives. As we go to press there are a number of changes about to occur within the ranks of the Colonels Commandant. The HOC will provide advice on these changes in the near future. The Regional RAEME Representatives provide a conduit for the flow on information and perform a number of tasks on behalf of the HOC. Corps appointments are detailed on opposite page for your information.



Banner miniature

HEAD OF CORPS APPOINTMENTS		
Name	Corps Appointment	Primary Appointment
BRIG David McGahey, CSC	Head of Corps	DGMATSYS, DMO
LTCOL David Creagh	Deputy Head of Corps	CO/COI MSD, ALTC
MAJ Graham Anderson	SO2 Corps-RAEME	
MAJ Rodney Bolt	SO2 Corps-RAEME GRes	
WO1 Tibor Fekete	Corps RSM	RSM MSD, ALTC

RAEME CORPS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES							
	Formation	Appointment	Rank	Name		Region	Phone
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2	DOCM-A	CA	MAJ	Griffiths	Martin	ACT	02 62655777
3	1 CSSB	OC FD WKSP	MAJ	Turner	Craig	Northern Region	08 89859301
4	3 CSSB	OC FD WKSP	MAJ	Hill	Scott	North Queensland	07 47717678
5	7 CSSB	OC FD WKSP	MAJ	Willmann	Chris	South East Qld	07 33327645
6	16 AD REGT	BC SPT BTY	MAJ	Kelly	Andrew	Central Region (SA)	08 83890290
7	LSD	CHIEF ENGR-MOB	LTCOL	Murphy	Joe	Southern Region	03 92826425
8	AAVNTC	OC/CI RAMS	MAJ	Tsamis	Arthur	Darling Downs	07 46917400
9	SASR	OPS RESEARCH	CAPT	Hennessy	Ben	Western Region	09 92856681

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notices

Condolences as published in Melbourne Sun-Herald



BAILEY. — Leigh David, on Tuesday Dec. 23, 2003, at Launceston. Dearly loved husband of Gloria. Loved father of Leeann, Julie and Paul, father-in-law of Grant and Bill. Loved Grandpa of Chris, Tim (dec.), Ben, and Kirsten. Late W.O.1. R.A.E.M.E. Funeral will be held at the C.T. Finney Chapel, Kings Meadows, Tas on Tuesday Dec. 30, 2003 at 12.30 p.m.
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DOWLING. — Harold Charles. V197538 2/1 Base W/S Committee and Members of the Rosebud RSL regret the passing of their esteemed Member.
Lest We Forget



CUDMORE. — Reverend Brigadier (RL) Gerald (Gerry) Anthony AVM. Gerry Cudmore passed away on Wed. Apr. 21, 2004 after a short illness. He had a long and distinguished military career from 1972 until he retired as Senior Army Chaplain on Feb. 9, 1988. He remained as a Member of the Army Reserve for the next 5 years until he returned to Parish life.

He was an extraordinary person, much loved by all those in the Services who worked with or alongside him. He had so many friends from all walks of life and all ranks from Private Soldier, to the most Senior ranks within the Army.

His wise counsel and affinity with his troops and their families was legendary and he was particularly valuable in operational situations whilst serving with the Army in South Vietnam - he was without a doubt a "soldiers Padre".

His service, as Chaplain of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, has been of great comfort to those Members, irrespective of their religious denomination, who have sought his wise counsel and friendship.

All of us who had the privilege to know and serve with Gerry will sorely miss this magnificent Padre, Gentleman and friend.

The sincere condolences of the State President, Chief Executive Officer, State Executive and Members of the Victorian Branch are extended to Monsignor Brigadier Gerry's family on their sad loss.

LEST WE FORGET

— Maj Gen DJ McLachlan AO
State President
— Brig JPA Deighton AM MC
Chief Executive Officer



POTTER. — Charles, Feb. 10, 2004. The President and Members of the RAEME Assoc. of Vic. Inc. deeply mourn the passing of their esteemed colleague. Deepest sympathy to the family.
Lest we forget



POTTER. — Charles VX143894 135 Brig Wkshop. The President, Committee and Members of the Pascoe Vale R.S.L. Sub Ranch regret the passing of their esteemed Member.
LEST WE FORGET



SOLOMON. — Robert (Bob). 2/32 L.A.D. The President, Committee and Members of the Bentleigh RSL Sub Branch, regret the passing of a comrade.
LEST WE FORGET



WHITMORE. — Gordon. VX 149709 RAEME The President, Committee and Members of the Box Hill RSL, regret the passing of our respected member Gordon on Apr. 21, 2004.
Lest We Forget

Coming events

RAEME Corps Seminar 2004 14 – 15 October 2004 – ALTC, Bandiana

The Corps seminar is becoming an increasingly popular activity. It is an ideal opportunity for members of the Corps to update on activities occurring within and impacting on the Corps and contribute to the future shaping of the Corps. Equally important is the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, make new acquaintances and enjoy the camaraderie of the social activities that are conducted during the seminar.

All ranks
Barbecue
13 October 2004
ALTC, Bandiana

RAEME Corps
Officers Dinner
14 October 2004
ALTC, Bandiana

RAEME Corps
WOSNCO Dinner
15 October 2004
ALTC, Bandiana

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL

ANNUAL REUNION



DATE: Sunday, 13th June 2004
(Queen's Birthday Weekend)

VENUE: Bulimba Barracks
Quarry Club (on the river)
Apollo Road, Bulimba, Brisbane

TIME: 1100 – 1730

DRESS: Casual

CATERING: There will be a "Sausage Sizzle" at lunch and dinner but feel free to bring your own. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for use. Drinks will be available at mess prices.

The reunion is open to Ex-Apprentices, their families, ex-members of staff any other personnel who were associated with Apprentices and wish to renew old friendships.

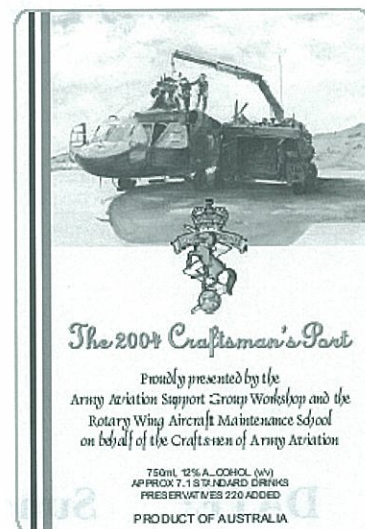
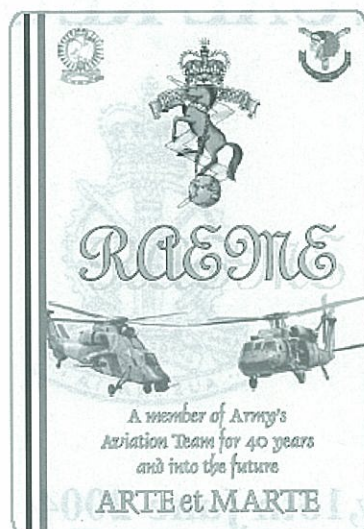
If you know of any Ex-Apprentices who may not be aware of the reunion taking place could you please make an effort to pass this information on, also if you have access to any means of advertising the reunion please feel free to do just that.

For planning purposes it would be appreciated if a representative from each intake could collect numbers and details and forward this information to:

Brian Daley
93 Bulimba Street, Bulimba QLD 4171
Tel: (07) 3399 1300 A/H Mobile 0412 721 761
Email: bjdaley@hotmail.net.au

Craftsman Port 2004

This year our blue beret fraternity at Oakey (Aviation Support Group Workshop and Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School) is proud to produce the Corps Port. There has been strong support for the last few productions of the Corps Port and we hope this will continue into the future. The sale of Corps port provides a good income for Corps funds, which supports such things as Corps awards. The ongoing support is much appreciated. Keep an eye out for the fliers and order forms to appear shortly, and please continue to provide the support and build your Corps Port Collection. POC for this years Corp Port is LT Rick Watling and WO2 John Duggan, ASGW. Phone (07) 4691 7660. There are limited numbers of the 2003 and the 2002 anniversary edition still available; POC is SO2 Corps, ALTC.



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A first for RAEME

During a recent visit to Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Chief of Army General Peter Leahy took the opportunity to present Lieutenant Colonel Joe Murphy, Chief Engineer of the Mobility System Program Office, with his Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) and National Professional Engineer Register certificates. Lieutenant Colonel Murphy is the first Army mechanical engineer and first RAEME Officer to achieve CPEng status under the Army Land Engineer Professional Development Program (LEPDP).

The LEPDP was developed in conjunction with Engineers Australia and ensures that Army's engineers are gaining the required competencies and experience to perform various design management activities within Army and the DMO.

As part of the program, engineers undergo structured professional development and have their competencies recognised by an independent authority – this continuing development is a fundamental step toward the sustainability of the land materiel capability.

On successful completion of the Graduate Development phase of the LEPDP, participants are awarded



Chartered Professional Engineer status and are also eligible for registration on the National Professional Engineers Register. This signals that Army is complying with appropriate national standards and actively managing the competence of its engineering professionals. Failure to ensure required competencies and experience

could compromise Army's duty of care responsibilities and expose Army and individuals to legal liability.

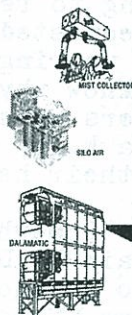
For further information on the Land Engineer Professional Development Program contact Andrew Barnett andrew.barnett@defence.gov.au or (03) 9282 7558.

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article

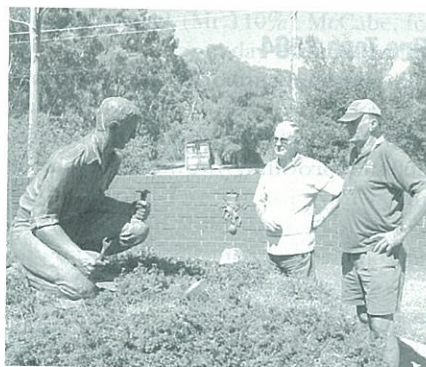
9th Intake of Army Apprentices celebrate 50 years since their enlistment

After the Second World War the Regular Army had to compete for skilled labour and trainable youths in an environment of expanding industry and full employment. In response the Army devised a comprehensive training scheme, which provided a trade qualification that not only met the needs of the Army but also was recognised by civilian industry. On the 2nd of August 1948 sixty-three Army Apprentices took up residence at the wartime camp at Balcombe and so began the tradition of the Army Apprentice. In 1994 after 49 Intakes an Adult Training Scheme superseded the Apprentice Training program.

When young men between the ages of 15 and 17 were required to live together for three years in accommodation that barely achieved acceptable standards of the day many lifelong friendships were formed. The nature of the training, the system of discipline, the development of team skills through sport, high profile

parades and a host of other activities developed young men who were extremely loyal to the service and could proudly demonstrate the true spirit of Mateship.

Then came the decision to organise a 50 year reunion, names had to be collected, addresses found and someone found to organise the event. Letters were sent to representatives in all states to establish the level of interest and



Peter Snowdon and Les Edis admire The Craftsman



The cake

hopefully to find some volunteer organisers. The only response for the organization of the event came from a small group of members in the Albury/Wodonga area, these being Charles Myhill, Graeme (Tank) Field and Jim Hislop with their wives providing excellent support.

It was therefore only fitting that on the 6th, 7th and 8th of February 2004 the 9th intake Apprentices gathered at the Hume Weir Resort to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their enlistment. They came from every state and territory, their appearance may have changed, some had not been enjoying good health, most had retired from the workforce but they came to relive old experiences. Some came by car, others by plane but Col Smith rode from Townsville on his motorcycle with his wife as a pillion passenger. When one of your number is prepared to spend six days in the saddle of a motor bike to be with his mates that really shows the

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The organising committee Sam and Tank Field, Bern and Jim Hislop, Chris and Charlie Myhill



Bill Thomas, Brian McQuillan, John Power, Les Edis, Peter Snowden

mateship that was developed at Balcombe. Some of the experiences that were discussed were the intense military training that occurred between the 3rd of January and the end of February 1954 when the Battalion of Apprentices lined the streets for the visit of her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II. The annual march through the streets of Melbourne to commemorate the battle of the Coral Sea. ANZAC day parades where each guard would cover at least three separate ceremonies. Military Tattoos and many other public functions. 1954 also saw the construction and dedication of the Balcombe gates and of course the 9th intake were on parade.

There were 115 graduates of the 9th intake and 60 of them attended the reunion, a number had passed away and a number could not attend but sent their apologies. The reunion commenced with a welcome B B Q and registration on Friday the 6th; obviously nametags were a necessity, as some graduates had not seen each other since the Graduation Parade in December 1956.

Saturday morning was an enjoyable visit to the Army Museum Bandiana, where the Army Apprentices Collection was viewed with a critical eye. Several attendees had been through the items they had collected and a number of items were donated to the museum that will further enhance the display. Many very favourable comments were made on

the quality and relevance of all displays in the museum.

Saturday evening saw 100 members of the 9th intake and their partners sit down to dinner in the resort dining room. Formalities were kept to a minimum, Clive Connor played the role of MC and Jim Hislop gave a short but interesting address that again caused many to search their memories and ask "did it really happen" What would such a celebration be without a cake and a beautiful cake adorned with the Army Apprentices badge was cut by Clive Connor (born January 1939) the youngest graduate in attendance and the oldest Colin McKinnon (born June 1936). During the evening it was decided that the 9th intake should have a website and due to the enthusiasm of Mrs Sam Field (wife of Tank) www.Geocities.com/app_9thintake was registered and up and running by first drinks Sunday morning.

Sunday was the day to eat drink and say farewell and the anticipated very short activity went on for several hours as old mates pledged to keep in contact.

The 9th intake made a considerable contribution to RAE, RASigs and RAEME and to the Army in general. They saw war service in Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, were posted or attended training in British Isles, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Germany, Thailand USA and other countries. Some gradu-

ates served out their initial 9-year engagement and others served in excess of 30 years. Many of those that served on achieved Warrant rank and others became senior officers. Jim Campbell was awarded the DFC in Vietnam for rescuing a number of soldiers wounded in a minefield where it was too dangerous for the larger RAAF helicopters to attempt the extraction. Robin Hamilton was awarded a MID in Vietnam, Peter Snowden was one of the first Ex Apprentices to achieve the rank of Colonel. Eight others were Lt Col's with one them being the only ex Apprentice to be posted back to AAS as the CO. Those that saw their future in the private sector and left the service after one or more re-engagements did very well in a wide range of occupations. Somehow the training at Balcombe allowed the ex-apprentice to take on such diverse jobs as prospecting, racehorse breeding, publican, air rescue, ladies hairdressing, detective, publican, banana growing, prison officer, financial advising and even a car salesman. In addition to these occupations many used their technical training to gain managerial appointments in the private sector.

The 9th Intake has probably had more reunions than any other intake and to keep up the tradition the next reunion will be to celebrate 50 years since graduation and that reunion will be centred on Balcombe in December 2006.

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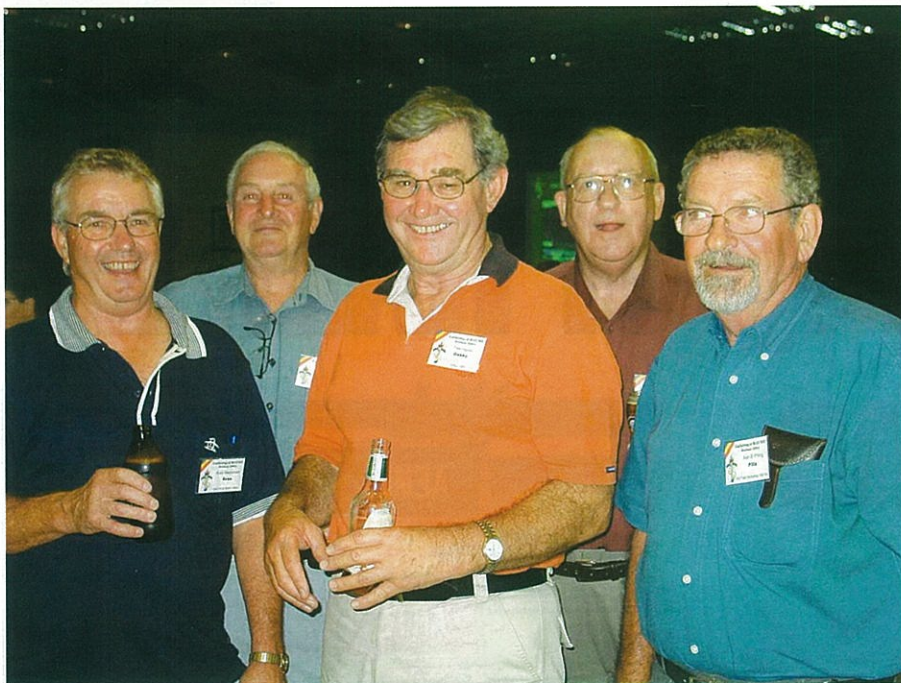
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Friday 23rd April 2004 at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Community Room 'Meet and Greet'

The 'Meet and Greet' on Friday afternoon/evening was to kick off from 1600hrs, but when the 'Gathering' workers arrived to set up at 14:30hrs, there were already a few RAEME members

waiting and eager to get going. Quickly things were set up and doors were open from 15:00hrs – an hour ahead of schedule. All attending logged into a register and proceeded to collect their merchandise. Some settled down and enjoyed meeting one another with laughter and rejoicing, and others talked quietly to their mates, of good times, those no longer with us, and how much they appreciated this reunion.

On display were posters, old maps, framed pictures, a collection of Rising Sun Badges from 1902 to 1991, photos that had been printed and laminated, including the Australian and RAEME flag. To top it off, Phil Bond and son Luis supplied a 1000 photo slide Power Point presentation. Denis Norman (ex 106 Fd Wksp) also supplied a disc with many old photos and Lyn Gallagher supplied a disc on recovery transport. Together this

became a professional and entertaining presentation. Snacks and refreshments flowed in abundance and the evening continued past the closing hour.

Saturday 24th April 2004 at 7CSSB (Borlace Club) Enoggera Army Base

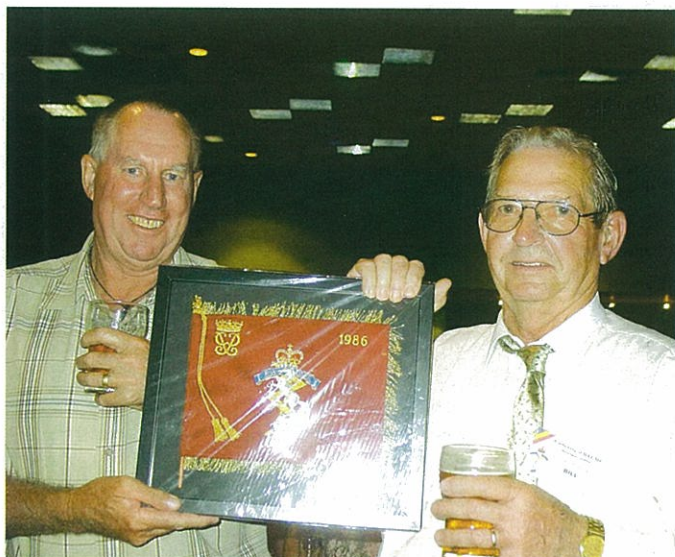
Another busy day for many, as participants in a 'Sausage Sizzle' started arriving early (09:45 hours), continuing their discussions from the previous evening and catching up with new arrivals. By the time the goodies were unloaded, people were starting to flow like a tide, and eventually swelled to over 300 – clearly another successful event. Once again attendees were entertained by a memorabilia and Power Point display provided by Phillip Bond and Des Kearton.

During the afternoon, the serving members, who were to form the Banner Guard for the march the next day, were put through their paces by Major Grant Coombe, the Guard Commander. This was to ensure the ANZAC Day parade went off without a hitch. Those serving members, who had free time, were invited to join the 'old and bolds' at the Borlace Club at the 'Sausage Sizzle' lunch. The regular soldiers were most hospitable to all attendees and reluctantly the bell was rung at 13.30 hrs ending a most enjoyable lunch.

Saturday Evening Reunion Dinner Dance at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club

370 ex-members of the Corps and their partners attended this function, which commenced at 17:30 hours. Milton Pearson gave the welcome address, and when Alan Jago delivered Grace the buffet style dinner commenced. The food was excellent and plentiful, as were the fruit and cheese platters. To top it off, there were large servings of cakes that





sweetened even the grumpiest of old diggers. Music and entertainment was provided by a group called 'Radio Saigon', with many couples dancing to the sounds of the 60's and 70's.

A raffle was held with the prizes of perfume for the women, Port and Chivas Regal Scotch for the men, being very popular. The major prize, a 'Miniature Corps Banner', was won by Bill Withers (ex 102 Fd Wksp), who went home to Victoria a very happy man.

Our guest of honour for the evening, Brigadier Douglas Formby (ex RAAC), accompanied by his wife Beverley, spoke passionately of his long association with RAEME and highlighted the high standards of professionalism that were always evident in his long experience. It was pleasing that he noted the large number of ex National servicemen in atten-

dance. He complimented them, both RAAC and RAEME, on their invaluable contribution during their time in South Vietnam and other places. Our well-known Colonel Commandant RAEME – Queensland Region, from a previous era, Lt Col Les Edis, introduced and thanked Brig Formby for his attendance and kind words.

Brigadier Ross Grant AM, the current Representative COL COMDT RAEME, also addressed the gathering, speaking about the modern RAEME Corps and its members, and how the Corps continues to do its job under the extremely difficult circumstances, but continues to maintain the standards and traditions of those who have gone before. He reported the accomplishments of the Corps in glowing terms and spoke in a manner that all in attendance could eas-

ily recognise without any ambiguity. Sadly he advised that he would be relinquishing his position as Representative Colonel Commandant RAEME in October 2004.

LTCOL Claude Palmer (RTD) then paid tribute to LTCOL John Sinclair (RTD) and Phillip Bond for their ongoing contributions to 106 Field Workshop and its veterans. He mentioned the huge work done by John Sinclair in developing the 106 Field Workshop website, and Phillip for his work in organizing the Gathering 2004.

The inimitable and entertaining John Bailey (ex-national serviceman and ex-106Fd Wksp) then proposed the toast to the Corps, ending a wonderful and entertaining dinner, which was clearly a success and enjoyed by all. The goodwill and fellowship evident in the room was almost overwhelming.

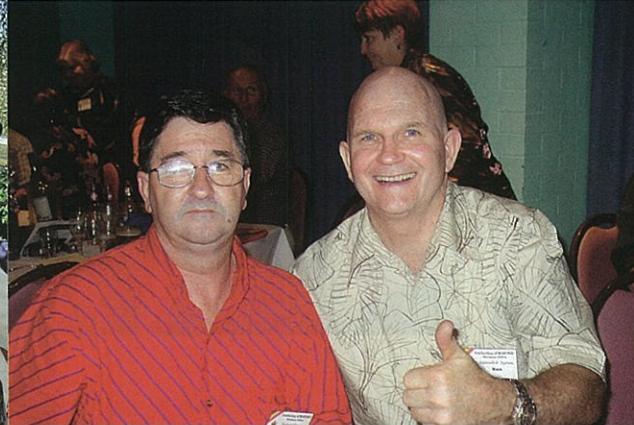
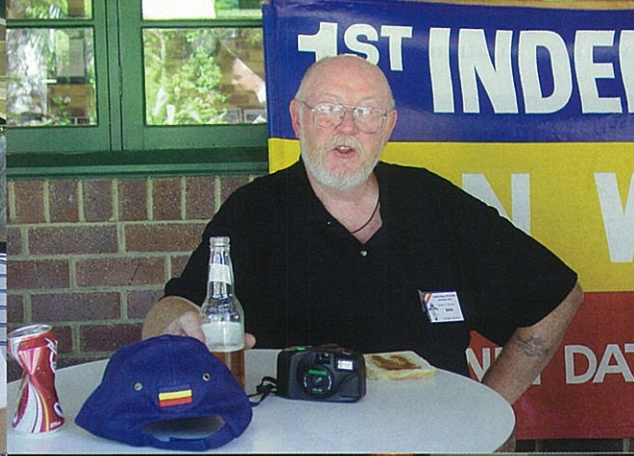
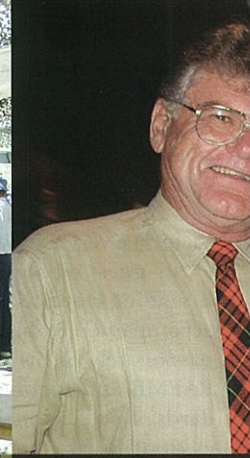
Dawn Service ANZAC Day 25th April 2004

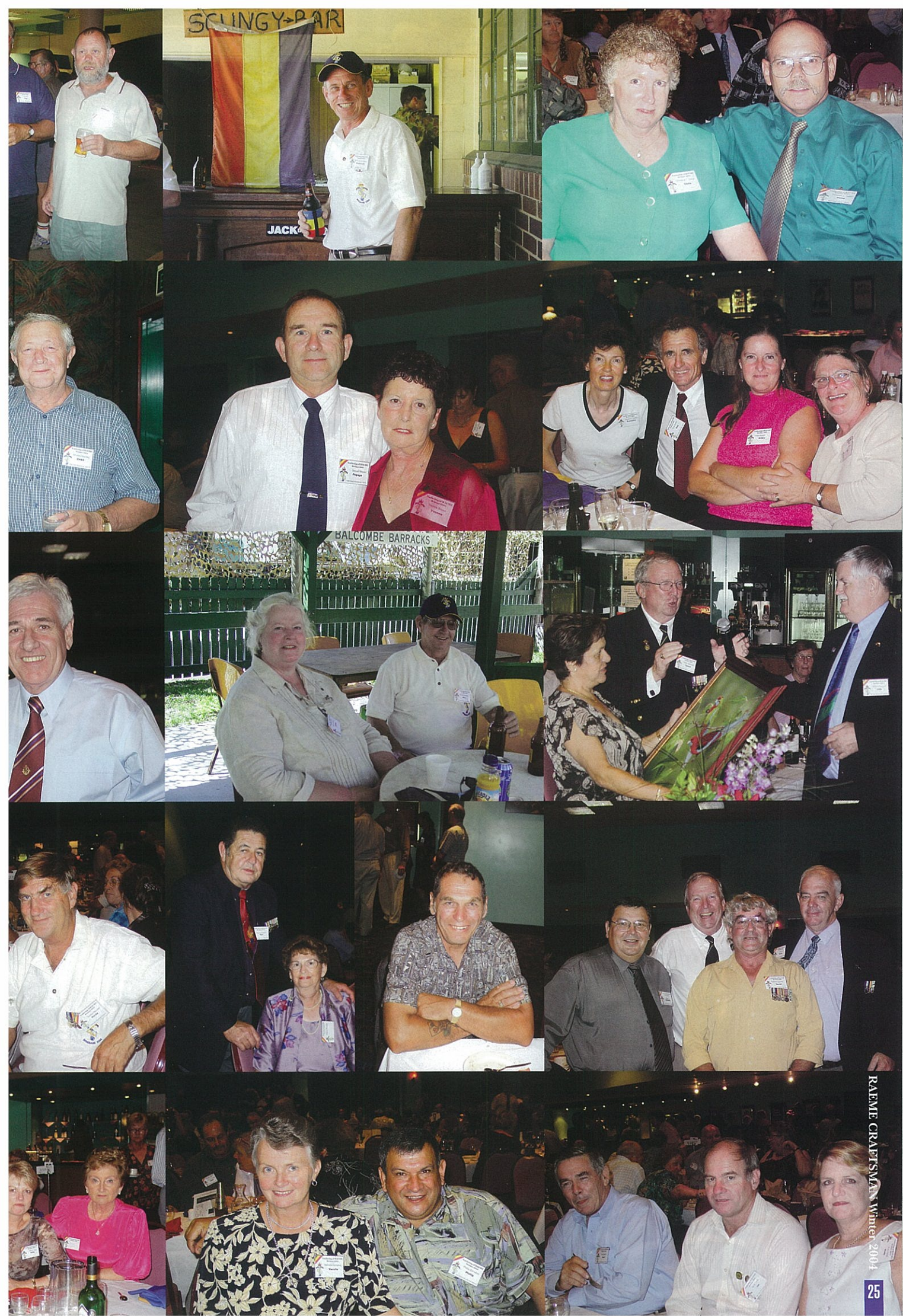
The main assembly area for the service was King George Square, but many attendees went to other Dawn Services around Brisbane. The dawn service parade marshal called assembly at 0410hrs and some 250+ lined up in three ranks for the short march to ANZAC Square. The crowd this year was estimated at more than 10,000 with their numbers swelled by the large number of RAEME attendees.

The service commenced at 04:23 hours with the last post at 04:28 hours, followed by two minutes silence and Hymn 'O God our Help in Ages Past'. There was a short address by the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, followed by



Continued on page 27









Continued from page 23

the placing of floral tributes at the Shrine. As always, it was a very touching and dignified ceremony.

ANZAC DAY Parade 2004

The premier event of the weekend got underway with great expectations. It commenced with a fly by of F111's at 10:00hrs as the RAEME contingent of serving soldiers and ex-members of the Corps were lining up in Elizabeth Street. The fresh-faced serving RAEME soldiers arrived, looking splendid in uniform, and contrasting with the 'olds and bolds', who although remarkably fit after their other activities, seems a little weather worn by their years of service.

The 120 person Banner Guard, led by Major Grant Coombe, OC Maintenance Company, 7 CSSB, formed up in front of the Australian Army Band Queensland. They were followed by the RAEME

Association, this year a contingent of some 360 retired members marching proudly behind their Association Banner. When all were ready, the Corps Banner was marched into position into the Guard, and the biggest turnout of RAEME personnel on parade for many years, was ready to roll.

The march through Brisbane was impressive and took pride of place in the large ANZAC Day contingent, which drew large crowds. Following the march, many of the RAEME contingent retired to the Port Office Hotel for lunch with partners. Those at the hotel swelled the numbers enjoying what was the last main

event of the Gathering, swelled to just over 600. The organisers were delighted that so many of the soldiers joined the 'olds and bolds' for this activity. Those young men and women, who were all volunteers for the march, were a credit to their profession. Their bearing, turnout and willingness to be a part of the day was warmly appreciated by all.

In summary there are many people whose efforts directly or indirectly contributed to make the 'Gathering of RAEME 2004' the outstanding success it was. While Phillip and Phyllis Bond are at the top of that list, additional thanks should go to MAJ Frank Maloney (RTD) for his efforts to coordinate several events; the President of the RAEME Association Queensland, MAJ Ray Norman OAM (RTD) for the Association's contribution to the parade; the Australian Army Band Queensland, who did the contingent proud, providing the music for the March and keeping all in step; the Officers and Soldiers of the Enoggera and Oakey based units who comprised the volunteer guard. The Commanding Officers of the units from where the guard contingent was drawn, and who paid for the transportation of the Banner and the troops, should not be forgotten either. Finally, thanks should go to the Head of Corps organisation and the Corps RSM Tibor Thekete, who brought the banner from Bandiana and assisted the management of the Corps Banner on the day. All attendees owe these people a huge debt of gratitude for organising and participating at the appropriate time and place over a very long weekend. Well done to all!



article

Home of RAEME Aviation



OC/CI RAMS (MAJ Athanasios 'Arthur' Tsamis)

As OC/CI RAMS, it is my objective to provide the Aviation capability with RAEME engineers and tradesmen who have developed the correct attitudes and work procedures early in their careers through professional and relevant training. We place utmost importance on thorough and challenging training delivered in the most efficient and cost effective means available.

This year will mark the establishment of the first 'Home of RAEME Aviation' at the Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) located at the Army Aviation Training Centre (AAvTC) as well as the 15th year anniversary of the School in its current form. RAMS is closely linked with the Aviation Support Workshop Group (ASGW) in terms of history and both units will celebrate their unit birthdays on the same day this year.

In the past the school in its many forms has captured the RAEME spirit amongst its staff and students. This year under the 'Oakey Redevelopment Project' (ORP), RAMS has finally had a home built to house all the staff and training resources in one entire complex. It has also provided an opportunity to display any RAEME Aviation memorabilia and history for not only our unit but for all other Aviation units with RAEME tradesmen. It must be remembered that this concept does not

in any way replace Bandiana as the home of RAEME Corps and other logistic Corps but instead enhances our rich RAEME history.

One of the main reasons for taking this path is due to the decline of 'Esprit de Corps' amongst trainees and the lack of understanding of their own history (both aviation and RAEME). It is also an opportunity for Aviation Corps to appreciate the contribution RAEME Aviation has made to their Corps.

MAJ Ian Johnson (Army Liaison Officer) at the RAAF School of Technical Training (RAAFSTT) is also involved in highlighting and developing our RAEME culture and ethos amongst all our Army RAEME trainees completing their initial basic technical training.

History

RAMS began in 1964 with the detachment of CAPT 'Aussie' Hogan to RAAF Base Amberley. CAPT Hogan was tasked to set up and develop aircraft maintenance courses for RAEME tradesmen.

The Aircraft Technical Training Flight was created and the first aircraft maintenance course was conducted in February 1965, utilising RAAF instructors. With



the formation of the 1st Aviation Regiment and the 1st Aviation Regiment Workshop in 1967, the Aircraft Technical Training Flight was renamed the Aviation Training Wing (RAEME) and placed under the command of Training Command. At this stage, RAEME personnel were replacing RAAF technical instructors in the unit.

In 1969, responsibility for training had passed to Army and a new system allowed Army apprentices and adult trainees to be inducted directly into the aviation field for specific aircraft type training.

In 1972, the 1st Aviation Regiment Workshop was re-organised as the 5th Base Workshop Battalion. Along with this re-organisation, Aviation Training Wing (RAEME) was disbanded and became a



sub-unit of the 5th Base Workshop Battalion, known as Training Company, with MAJ Don Willet as the first OC. In 1973, the 5th Base Workshop Battalion moved to its current location at the Army Aviation Centre, Oakey.

In 20 July 1989, RAMS was raised as a Training Command unit. MAJ Rocky Hoare was the first OC/CI and the unit was under command the 5th Base Workshop Battalion for administration. RAMS subsequently became an independent Training Command unit, under command of the Aviation Support Group Workshop (ASGW) for administration and local support through the Defence Corporate Support Office –Darling Downs (DCSO –DD).

Today RAMS is under direct command of AAvtC conducting up to 80 courses a year for approximately 400 trainees. RAMS employs 56 staff from variety of areas including ARA, ARES, APS as well as contractors.

Technical Mastery Wing

Technical Mastery Wing is an integral part of RAMS as it provides RAEME aviation personnel from the rank of CPL to junior officers with career progression and technical development courses that focus on the skill sets required for operations within the Army Aviation specific environment.

Senior RAEME Aviation tradesman/instructors are always required and welcomed at Technical Mastery Wing due to the requirement to maintain an experienced centre for maintenance based technical excellence within Army Aviation. Whilst employed at Technical Mastery Wing instructors can expect to receive guidance on instructional techniques and associated qualifications relating to the development and delivery of workplace training.

Technical Mastery Wing also has a limited ability to deploy its staff resources to

external Aviation Units. This provides its customers with a flexible training resource that can be utilised to ensure technical personnel are kept updated on maintenance issues such as specific engine trouble shooting techniques and vibration analysis.

Technical Mastery Wing staff consists of a Senior Instructor, two Warrant Officers, two TO4 Public Servants and six SGT Instructors. Courses currently managed by Technical Mastery Wing are as follows:

- Army Engineering Officer Alignment Course;
- Army Engineering Officer Introductory Course;
- Black Hawk S-70A-9 System Managers Course;
- Sub 4 WO Course;
- Sub 4 SGT Course;
- Aircraft Advanced Technician (ACAT) Course (Sub 4 CPL Course); and
- Workplace Assessor Aviation Course.

Tasks undertaken by Technical Mastery

Wing include the integration of CAMM2 training into RAMS courses and the positioning of the Black Hawk Maintenance Trainer Aircraft (BHMTA) within the CAMM2 environment at Oakey. Technical Mastery Wing also assisted in the training of Oakey based personal during the CAMM2 rollout for the region.

Other tasks relate to the integration of Human Factors (HF) training throughout the aviation trade structure. This work is currently progressing well in conjunction with HQ 16 Bde (Avn) and the development of a mature HF maintenance program is nearing completion.

Technical Mastery Wing takes pride in its work and strives to achieve a balanced professional approach in the delivery of training on all its courses. With the advent of new technology, aircraft, and maintenance techniques the future direction for Technical Mastery Wing is assured to be challenging one as we prepare for the exciting times ahead.



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Aircraft Maintenance Wing

The prime purpose of the Aircraft Maintenance Wing is to deliver technical training on maintenance of Army aircraft to both Aircraft and Avionics Technicians as a training continuum to their Initial Employment Training at RAAF School of Technical Training (RAAFSTT) at Wagga Wagga. The Aircraft Maintenance Wing also delivers technical training to experienced Aircraft and Avionics Technicians, Life Support Fitters, Structural Fitters, pilots and loadmasters. Technicians receive Initial Employment Training at RAAFSTT where they undergo training for approximately 14-18 months. As trainees approach the completion of their basic trade training at RAAFSTT, they will be allocated to a specific Army aircraft type. Technical training for Black Hawk, Bell 206B-1 Kiowa and Iroquois aircraft is conducted at RAMS in Oakey, whereas technical training for 5 Avn Regt's CH-47 Chinook is conducted in the USA.

Conversely, the Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (LAME) used to maintain the King Air and Twin Otter

fixed wing aircraft at 173 Surveillance Squadron are trained at the Queensland Aerospace College and Aviation Training for Aerospace Engineers Institution located in Brisbane. Only Army technicians who have progressed through RAMS and have at least two years experience as a qualified technician may apply for a posting to 173 Surveillance Squadron to work on their civilian registered aircraft.

As well as providing training for 16 Bde (Avn) Units, the Aircraft Maintenance Wing also delivers specified training to RAN and RAAF technicians. Training includes Aircraft Safety and Familiarisation, Aircraft Transition and AFCS Courses for the Black Hawk aircraft as well as Aircraft Safety and Familiarisation and Aircraft Transition Courses for Iroquois.

The Aircraft Maintenance Wing is the largest wing of RAMS and is responsible for delivering approximately 50 courses per year with an annual throughput of over 300 trainees. This Wing has 19 instructors, including two Warrant Officers. WO2 Kevin Molloy heads up the Sikorsky section with 11 staff who

deliver all Black Hawk technical training.

WO2 Glenn Pinnuck runs the Bell Section with seven staff who deliver technical training for Bell 206B-1 Kiowa and UH-1H Iroquois aircraft. Both wings come under the control of the Wing Senior Instructor, CAPT Terry Johnson. The Aircraft Maintenance Wing consists of Military, APS and contractor personnel, providing a good balance of continuity of training knowledge and recent operational experience. Two Boeing Instructors are collocated within the Bell section and are responsible for the delivery of technical training to Kiowa aircrew. The Aircraft Maintenance Wing is currently being market tested for commercialisation under the Rotary Wing Training Flying Review.

Courses at the Aircraft Maintenance Wing include:

- Black Hawk, Iroquois and Kiowa Aircraft IET Courses,
- Black Hawk, Iroquois and Kiowa Aircraft Transition Courses,
- Black Hawk, Iroquois and Kiowa Avionics IET Courses,
- Black Hawk, Iroquois and Kiowa Avionics Transition Courses,



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- Army Aircraft Familiarisation Course,
- Black Hawk and Iroquois Pilot Technical Training,
- Black Hawk and Iroquois Loadmaster Technical Training,
- NVG Maintenance Course,
- NVG HUD Course, and
- Assessment and Workplace Training Course.

The Aircraft Maintenance Wing is also responsible for furthering the indoctrination of all trainees with an aviation maintenance culture as they progress through RAMS. The emphasis on this has been elevated recently with a HQ 16 Bde (Avn) initiative and the production of 'The Ground Up' video which defines the Commander's intent on maintenance culture and human factors. This video is presented to all trainees by the ASM, WO1 Gary Watson as a facilitated presentation.

The Aircraft Maintenance Wing continually strives for excellence and professionalism in the delivery of training utilising approved training packages that align with the requirements of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Standards. This ensures that all trainees meet both military and civilian accreditation requirements and receive an appropriate AQF Certificate Level IV for National Aerospace Trade Training as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer on successful completion of their National Aerospace Competencies (NAC) Journals.

Armament Systems Wing

Armament Systems Wing was raised in 2003, to capture all armaments training for Army personnel especially with the introduction of ARH Tiger.

Armament Systems Wing is now well and truly up and running. This year has seen a few changes in the manning of the wing with a Senior Instructor,

a WO2 and two SGT instructors.

Armament Systems Wing conducts enterprise specific training for aircraft maintainers, engineering officers and aircrew at RAMS. The wing is responsible for delivering training on the M21 Armament Sub-System (Miniguns and Rockets) fitted to the UH-1H Iroquois. The wing also delivers training in Night Vision Goggles (NVG) for all aircraft types and NVG/HUD for the Black Hawk aircraft.

This year as the wing expands Armament Systems Wing is developing explosive ordnance training and doctrine. In the future Armament Systems Wing will be involved in Aircraft Battle Damage Repair training, Electronic Warfare training and will be involved in the development of Armament Systems training for the ARH Tiger.

On-The-Job Management Cell

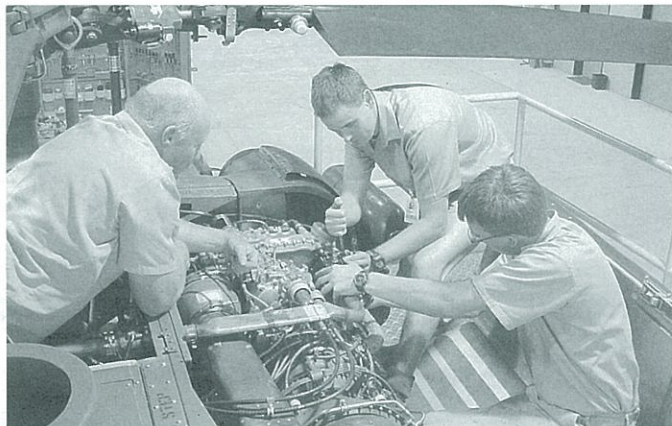
The OJT Management Cell (OJT Cell) has the responsibility of managing the training of aerospace trainees in the avionics, mechanical and structures trade streams after completion of their off-the-job training. The OJT management Section comprises an OJT administrator, and OJT supervisor, and 11 Unit Training Coordinators (UTC). The OJT administrator (WO2 Paul Von Blanckensee) and the OJT supervisor (Mr John Dack) are based within RAMS at Oakey and are responsible for overseeing trainee administration and developing procedures to ensure trainees progress through OJT efficiently and effectively. The UTC are detached to ASGW, 1st and 5th Aviation Regiments and are directly responsible for the coordination of work tasks to trainees to ensure a consistent throughput of trainees.

The primary role of the OJT Cell is to ensure that trainees receive the necessary training, in a timely manner, to complete their National Aerospace Curriculum (NAC) Journals to achieve Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Aircraft Maintenance Engineering – Avionics or Mechanical or Structures).

After graduating from RAAFSTT, Wagga, and attending the Black Hawk, Iroquois or Kiowa aircraft course (as appropriate) trainees commence their OJT training under the guidance of the OJT management team.

OJT is broken up into two phases, firstly trainees are sent to ASGW or the Boeing contractor (for Kiowa OJT) at Oakey where the UTCs ensure they receive Tier One training of the NAC (Remove, Install and inspect elements) on appropriate aircraft types, including





Before and After Flight inspections. Both military and civilian tradesmen at ASGW provide the necessary mentoring of trainees. The Tier One training program is approximately 12 weeks.

After completion of Tier One training, it is time for trainees to meet the real Army when they are sent to the 1st or 5th Aviation Regiments for their Tier Two training (Inspect, Test and Troubleshoot elements) of the NAC. The Tier One and Tier Two training should take no longer than two years and it is now time to be posted to the operational unit, receive their pay increase and become a soldier/ technician.

Simulated Aircraft Maintenance Trainer (SAMT) and Computer Based Training (CBL) Cell

RAMS continually strives to find innovative and cost effective ways of delivering the overall technical training needed by technicians attending the school. Black Hawk technicians are exposed to a number of training aids during their courses with the Black Hawk Simulated Maintenance Trainer (SAMT) filling a vital part of that training.

A new generation SAMT is currently being developed to replace the existing facility that has been in service since

1991 and is fast reaching the end of its supportable life. The new system that has been termed SAMTGENX (next generation) will incorporate new digital hardware technology and latest software products. The current SAMT consists of fixed electromechanical devices linked to host computers which manage the training effort while SAMTGENX will replace most of the electromechanical devices with touch screen technology achieving greater aircraft systems definition and inter-operability.

Since the introduction of the Black Hawk into service in 1989, Computer Based Training (CBL) has been used to provide an alternate instructional media that complements the standard training methods used at RAMS.

The Black Hawk CBL has gone through many changes since its introduction, each evolution embracing new technologies that improve its useability and effectiveness. The only drawback with the system was the inability to deliver the training outside RAMS.



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A project was approved by Training Command to produce one Black Hawk module in a Web based format, this would allow the CBL to be delivered over the Intranet to any member that had access to the Defence Restricted Network (DRN), removing the requirement to attend training at RAMS.

Towards the end of the project, Defence purchased a complete Learning Management System (LMS) running under ThinQ, this system is available on the Intranet under the Learning DOMAIN. The Black Hawk module was reprogrammed to run under the Learning DOMAIN and loaded to the LMS in Nov 03. A pilot course was conducted in Mar 04 with the evaluation results pending.

Last word from ASM — Training Centre

By WO1 Gary Watson

We are currently entering the most dynamic period ever witnessed in the history of Army Aviation and RAEME Aviation. The progress of Army Aviation rests with those willing to fulfil the full measure of their existence by journeying along the valleys and over the hills of persistence and wearisome effort – people who honour their own existence and add great value to the capability. At RAMS, it is full speed ahead!

The challenges of previous Army restructures including the loss of unit and Corps identities, contemporary youth ideals migrated from the civilian



population has seen a decay of Corps values and ethos. This has also included a continual struggle to retain our identity when positions or more to the point capability is being contracted out. The reality is our craftsmen remain as dedicated as ever and their intellect, motivation and dedication continue to produce improved ways of doing business. What we need to maintain is cultural awareness of who we are and what we represent.

All that said, the retention of our Corps values and ethos and how RAMS and other RAEME institutions continue to focus efforts on these matters which are of significant concern certainly warrants some discussion. It is revitalising to note that the RAEME Aviation

image and RAEME Corps ethos are being rejuvenated in many areas within Army Aviation, not the least of which is commencing at RAAF School of Technical Training (RAAFSTT). The “One Arm Bandit” (aka MAJ Ian Johnson) has been busy revitalising the spirit (or probably more to the point introducing one) to our RAEME trainees passing through RAAFSTT.

In maintaining this impetus a re-focus by Senior RAMS HQ staff on the desired outcomes and influences required of the WO1 position has invoked a name change of that position from WO Co-ordinator to ASM-TC. Whilst the co-ordination part of the job cannot be understated, a clearly identified requirement to be more involved with all RAEME personnel (from IET to engineering officers) as they undertake respective courses has seen an increased involvement of the WO1 position in instruction and interfacing with students. Areas such as RAEME Aviation Corps history, Aerial Recovery, Maintenance Requirements Determination (MRD), as well as delivery of the Commander 16 Bde (Van) maintenance safety culture presentation “From The Ground Up” will be delivered by the ASM-TC.

I fully endorse the Corps RSM’s words in that we need to keep the RAEME flag flying and that we are stronger than anything that gets thrown at the us. We pride ourselves on our flexibility and continue to lead the way with the changes occurring to the Army.

Arte-et-Martle (Avarium Collegium)

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BASIC RECOVERY 0004

By CFN Boxall and CFN Cook



Well the year started on 18 January 2004 and the 0004 basic recovery mechanic course came together at north Bandiana bracing themselves for some cold weather. Somehow crafties, Booth, Cook, Wild and McCartney were able to escape the clutches of the 1 CSSB pineapple death squad completely filled with the easiest and dodgiest ways of doing things. Also to come down from 1 Bde was Cfn Boxall who finally made his long awaited debut after officially being the longest OJTer of all. To round off this all star cast of reprobates were two super choccos by the names of TPR Dudley from the Hunter River Lancers in Tamworth and CFN 'yes I have a brother in the army' Barry Unsworth deciding he could better use his infantry skills (what little there were) in a full time recce mech position.

The men in charge of the rabble were SGT "it's not rocket science" Roberts, SGT "when I was at 1st armoured" McCrone, WO2 "It's good to be the king" Sumson and the grand pooh bah of recovery WO1 Spargo, with some random appearances of WO2 Gallagher on certain phases.

The first few weeks of the course were death by light pro with the common saying being "bit of a dry old subject men." The next few subjects and weeks went by without incident, however Boothie the human regurgitator kept the boys busy in the early hours of both Friday and Saturday mornings with him never making it inside before he would decide to have a wee nap on the steps outside of the lines. Unfortunately young Boothie left us a bit after halfway in the course but he will soon be back to finish it and we wish him much luck in the future.

After getting through the dogging and chainsaw phases and finding out that none of us would make a good furniture maker, we finally got on to using the MRV's and started the lift tow phase. On our first drive we had a small recovery job after a



local farmer decided he could plough a river bed and then failed dismally and flagged us down to help him. Later on the drive we discovered we had forgotten half our BBQ and ended up having salad sandwiches instead of steaks. We managed to

get through the rest of the drives and oxy welding and cutting phases. We finally got up to the dust bowl to do some real recovery work and have some fun. But about halfway in the course we started dropping like flies with CFN Cook (hand me a tissue I've hurt my back) and Booth (I've got a cold) making a trip to the hospital, while McCartney lived at the RAP with the flu and Boxall breaking some ribs playing rugby.

While we were finally in the dust bowl learning some basic principles and pulling things up cliffs, CFN (I live in a trailer park) Wild decided he would try to be the first person ever to pull an old 816 up a cliff backwards. On the "2nd" day of his job with a 6:1 put put together we found out that yes, you can snap a MRV winch rope, luckily for the three men on top of the cliff, (CFN Boxall, Cook and SGTMcCrone) it broke on the opposite side of the block to them, otherwise they would all have the nickname 'stumpy'.

Now that we are into the last weeks of the course and we know where we are heading most of us can't wait to get our postings and some warmer weather, with all the boys heading to Darwin and Brisbane. We were a very small course starting with only 7 people and losing one on the way to finish up with 6 people giving us only 2 crews to handle the workload. Crew 1 consisted of CFN Ashley "who ate all the pies" Boxall heading to 2 CAV, CFN Andrew "3 speed" Wild heading to 1 CSSB and CFN Daniel "6 fingered Banjo playing Country Mafia" Dudley who is heading to Tamworth and a new role in his regiment. Crew 2 consisted of CFN Clinton "Road Rage" Cook heading to 7 CSSB, CFN Barry "I've got an answer for everything" Unsworth also heading to 7 CSSB and CFN Robert "Has anyone seen my hearing aid" McCartney who can't wait to get back to Darwin but would rather be going to 1st Armoured instead of 1 CSSB but bad luck, if you've got issues get tissues.

Thanks to all our course staff for looking after us and making sure we didn't hurt ourselves too much.

Arte et Marte

FLLB-A

'Arte et Marte' Skill and Fighting in the Middle East

The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers presence in the Middle East is hitting well above its weight in good RAEME style, providing deployed elements with maintenance and repair support under difficult conditions.



Corporal Steve Narayan and Major Duncan Polich outside the RAEME Workshop at FLLB-A. CPL Narayan is the Armourer/Fitter deployed to MEAO and MAJ Polich is the LOG/PLANS officer at HQ JTF633



Left to right, SGT Alistair 'Cookie' Messer, 25/49 RQR, LTCOL Andy 'can do' Condon, CPL Stevie 'wonder' Narayan, 7 CSSB

Sergeant "Cookie" Messer and Corporals Sean Roberts and Steve Narayan are based at the Force Level Logistics Area – Baghdad – living under the flightline at Baghdad International Airport and subject to regular rocket and mortar attack.

The fourth RAEME member, Major Duncan Polich is based at Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 as the Logistics/Plans officer.

"The team is maintaining all equipment here in the Middle East," said MAJ Polich.

"RAEME craftsmen work on everything from Unimogs to weapons to providing electrical wiring for working and accommodation areas.

"The boys are living up to the RAEME 'can-do' reputation – not only are they performing their principal tasks but they are also taking on a variety of other duties such as assisting tradesmen working on building sites, conducting driving tasks and undertaking security roles."

B SQN 3RD/4TH CAV REGT



Troop photo Dec 03

Ramblings from THQ.

2003 and its never ending succession of field deployments, support to operational deployments in EM and the Solomons, a visit by the MAS and the showcasing of the 'new' M113 AS3 prototypes demonstrated that Tech Spt Tp was stretched to breaking point. Coupled with all this activity, we lost a number of seasoned hands such as LT Brendan Robinson, SGT Dion Taylor, SGT Dave Tobin, CPL Cameron Roach, CPL Bob Mitchell, CPL John Dintignana and LCPL Dean King and CFN Matthew Kemp and PTE Joe Anstiss leaving big gaps in our manning ... thankfully we were told by higher that 2004 would be a year of consolidation and a much promised reduction in op/trg tempo.

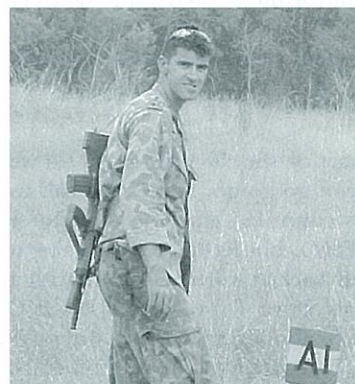
Well by luck, neither the Ace, WO2 Dave Fedorniak nor I put money on that promise because we were sadly mistaken once we all hit the deck in 2004. In true B Sqn style, the best way to induct new personnel to 3/4 Cav Regt is to deploy to High Range not once but twice in the space of a month (Ex Shakeout and Ex Overlord). The purpose of these exercises was to use a much-quoted saying in the 3rd Bde, 'get back to basics'. This meant using fading SOP's rather than doing things like we did in EM, identifying and actually erecting Cam Nets and even trying to make HF work (the last one is still a mystery to all of us).

As usual we accepted all that was thrown at us in good humour and the lads were quickly displaying to the Buckets why they are on higher pay groups. Ex Shakeout saw Tech Spt deploy with 100% manning and all our Fitters Tracks however we weren't prepared for the quantity of "Vehicle Cas" being radioed in. This was typified by the fact we conducted four pack-lifts from 2 Troop in the space of 24 hours and a multitude of other lid lifts for transmissions over another 24 hours period. Thankfully the 'big jobs' dried up just as we ran out of packs and other MSI. For all the new members of the Troop, it was a good introduction to how the Sqn and Ech operates in the field (including Buckets running into trees) and I would especially like to acknowledge my A Vehicle crews for their efforts long into the night.



A2 Ech on the move

Having re-deployed from Shakeout, we had just enough time to conduct a servicing period, lose several members to courses and injury and then it was back up to the range for Ex Overlord, a Sqn LFX. Ex Overlord proved to be a good exercise (despite the very familiar ground). The Sqn OC raised the bar tactically for everyone including the A2 Ech (i.e. Tech Spt + Log Tp) and as a result we were the target of an enemy probe (SHQ bored and looking for fun) which led to three tactical step-ups. The lads also had the opportunity to complete Battle Run as a RAEME Section (three Fitters and an ARV with more 50 cal than any of the crews have ever seen before).



The boss wondering ...

On a more disappointing note, the Tech Spt lost two of its old hands between March – May to the GRES. Thanks for your efforts and all the best to CPL Ivan Cope and CFN Paul Marshall in their endeavors on the outside.

By the time the Craftsman goes to print the Bde will again be deployed to the

field for CATA and B Sqn will be conducting its LFX with 2RAR. Tech Support will no doubt be kept busy as the Buckets find new and unusual ways of damaging their vehicles. At some point in the near future (we not deployed), we hope to get an A Vehicle Driver cse up and running so we can deploy all of Tech Spts six A Vehicle and maybe even squeeze in some more promotion cses and adventure training. Who knows what'll happen ...

CAPT Matt Scanlon – TP LEADER TST

From the ASM

And so it begins again, a new year dawns and the hard slog begins. It was all hands on deck to prepare for 2004, this time with the squadron complete and all hands home from Timor. As has been the case for many years the Brigade and the community places a heavy demand on the unit to supply armoured elements of various compositions whether it be single vehicle, section, troop or squadron size. On top of all this is the requirement for cavalry soldiers to become proficient in their base trade.

As a result the unit was deployed mid February and mid March for periods of two weeks each to carry out individual up to squadron level training. Business was booming for both these exercises, as 2 Troop vehicles had not been field since early 2003 and the run up to and around High Range Training Area produced a fair deal of work.

Manning wise the Tech Spt is suffering in EIR with the CPL boffin and the CFN TSEG positions not being filled this year but being the professionals that we are we have managed to adapt and overcome (EMEFIX to the next level of repair or better known as duck shove).

Recovery is also feeling the pinch with SGT Nathan Davis the only unbroken recce mech. It makes you wonder what they are doing to them on the basic course. The damage list is as follows:

CFN Shane Waterson – back problems, med discharge.

CFN Paul Marshall – knees, general wear and tear and old age, voluntary discharge.

CFN Pete 'the Jockey' Tarlinton – knees buggered but determined to soldier on.

GE section is currently carrying a crafty vacancy but to the joy of SGT John Spargo and CPL Mick Garnham the position will soon be filled by an OJT fitter CFN 'Janet' McLeod.

TRAMM and MMM are taking their toll on production but hopefully the wheel will turn full circle and we will be issued with prod control clerks to ease the burden and get the crafties back out on the floor where they belong.

A message to all and sundry. Although working with cavalry can be a challenge at times it has been and hopefully will remain one of the best posting opportunities a tradesman can experience. Esprit de corps is high and there will always be plenty of work to go around while we have the M113A1 in service.

W02 Dave Fedorniak – ASM TST

RPS Ramblings

The RPS, well where do we start or should I say when do we stop! So far this year it has been go go go. Some may call us band camp (due to Griggsy's countless amusing anecdotes about the 'time he was at 10 FSB'), but let me tell you how it has been so far. Started the year back at work on 02 Feb with a total changeover of staff. Saw Dave Tobin off to DNSDC replaced with the brilliance of Simon Griggs leading the push (let me emphasize push). CPL John Dintignana went off to 10 FSB and was replaced by Mick Lourie and PTE Joe Anstiss dis-

charged and was replaced by Mick Watson. Once the dust settled we all got together and came up with a plan of attack, however, that all changed with our first deployment at the end of February. Having returned from field after two weeks we then got ready to go again for another two weeks, during which time we had Griggsy on Sub 1 WO. Following that trip (Ex Overlord) we had another two weeks back in barracks and then it was time to head off again, this time on Mack and Unimog driver's courses. I thought band camp was supposed to be fun.

Anyway once the courses are finished, we have one week back at the unit and then guess what we are on exercise again. If your considering a posting don't let the high tempo of the unit change your mind. Seriously this would have to be the best unit I've been posted to over the last 15 years. The mateship, teamwork and the esprit de corps in B SQN 3/4 CAV REGT and especially within TST would have to make it the best in the Brigade no band camp shit.

SGT Simon Griggs – RPS SGT

Vehicle Section Pirates



Pack lift in A2

Working in Tech Spt Tp B SQN 3/4CAV summed up in two words "damage control".

Vehicle Repair Section is broken up into A and B vehicle. In the A vehicle area we have three Fitters Tracks supporting the line Troops. 81A crewed by CPL Dingo Downey and driven by CFN Gibbo Giblett are in support of 1 Troop. In support of 2 Troop is 81B crewed by CPL Frenchy du Cloux and driven by CFN Damien Gott. 81C support SHQ and 3 Troop crewed by CFN Dave Butler and CFN Aaron Welch.

CFN Bill Mitchell runs the B vehicle section and working for him is CFN Dean Cartwright. We also have two civies working for us Mark who is ex-pommy RAF and Rocky with about 15 years experience from Mt Isa mines. SGT Tom McIntyre, who is the crew commander of 81 (APC), supplies the sections top cover. He is so attached to 81 we reckon he'll be taking it to 2 CAV next year.

The beginning of the year was pretty full on with the SQN shake out exercise. We had about two weeks to prepare for the shake out. They don't call it shake out for nothing. With six lid lifts four pack changes and one transmission, it really shook the cobwebs out of the APC's. Add to that the 44-degree heat of high range we did not feel to guilty looking at our SVA's. On return to barracks we had two weeks too conduct servicing and repairs before heading back out for Exercise Overlord. We must have done something right, getting through the exercise with only one lid lift.

On both exercises we were included in most of the SQN activities including battle runs. These gave us a bit of a warm fuzzy

feeling knowing that our .50 Cal's are not just there for looks.

Working with the Buckets has been a bit of an eye opener for the new guys of TST. The Buckets can come up with some of the best excuses when they break something like "but its not my car" or "it was like that when I got here". That aside we have a good working relationship with the Buckets. We fix their cars and they throw BBQ chickens at us in the Scorpion Club. We are now in the process of preparing for the mid-year exercises back at High Range.



Happy times ...

CPL Richard du Cloux – VM CPL

Boffins

The year for EIR has been fairly average for us pink/lavender trades.

The loudest member – 'Kinky' was sent to the unit of his dreams, 3CSSB. Handling a section as a digger and looking after admin and MIM'S for a lance jack suits him perfectly. From all reports he loves life down the bottom and his re-posting interview process is going well.

'Brails' has been thrown into the deep end after a restful time in East Timor and now is the only surviving boffin after postings left us an unfilled hole in the sect. A BCSS course is what Dan has been after for a long time, followed with post-course leave. When his heart rate returns to sleeping rate, he will be fit for EIR duties again.

'Harry' the lazy ass electrician is finding it hard to get back to auto elec mode after a short stay in Albury – Wodonga for Sub2 earlier this year. At least his work group hasn't been growing too fast for him between courses and leave. Although his work ethic hasn't changed – "I'm a lazy, lazy man – so F*** - OFF".

So, we look forward to another relaxing year up at high range. Good luck working in a mixed unit Kinky.

CFN Andrew Harris – ELEC CFN

*Keeping the sting in the tail of the Cav
To all and sundry ARTE-ET-MARTE*



TST Billy Cart RAEME Bday 03

Maintenance Cell, Integrated Logistics Division, Army Logistic Training Centre

January was the start of another busy year for Maintenance Cell here at sunny Bandiana. The new year welcomed CAPT Col Lea, CAPT Peter Baxter, SGT Scott Burden, SGT Paul Kitching and SGT Jason Sofield to the EME cell. Another RAEME member new to ILD is CAPT Mark Aguis.

The training year commenced with the 0010 Subject 2 SGT course. The course was going well until the TEWT phase where CPL Fitzsimmons showed the rest of the course how reversing a trailer was done. Several attempts later he stopped. 10M is a long way! Not too long after that CPL Barling found he had a counting problem. Hopefully he has fixed that problem now, especially due to his trade! If an award was given to the most relaxed member on course it would be have been presented to CPL Amy because of his extraordinary calm composure during the CPX "mad hour". At the completion of the course the Student Of Merit (SOM) was awarded to CPL Stinson. Well done.

January also saw the start of the one and only LOBC for the year. The course consisted of an unusually high proportion of engineers, both ground and aviation. It was conducted from 19 Jan 04 to 02 Apr 04. The Student of Merit for the STC phase of the course was LT Wheatley.

The first of the 10 Subject 2 Corporal (S2C) courses run at ILD commenced on the 16 Feb 04. The 0006 course started well, until the course went into the field. Thankfully CFN "The Bush Tucker Man" Reeves was there to supply the course with yabbies and rabbit everyday. LCPL Dunn learnt the lesson of correct weapon handling whilst in the field and we are sure he will never forget! The most careful navigator in the field was CFN Byrnes ensuring that every intersection marked on the map was true and correct and thus producing the longest ever FRT to date! The Student of Merit for the 0006 Subject 2 Corporal course was CFN Myers.



Donation to Everymans

During the CPL course, the Special to Corps (STC) portion of the WOLOG course commenced. SGT Morrison, who is an instructor at ILD, attended the course as a student. It was not long before he realised why he prefers to be the Instructor! The award for "Student of Argumentativeness" presented to him by his fellow RAEME students on the course now has pride of place above his computer. SGT Laing kept the RAEME morale high by pro-actively confusing RAAOC and RACT students on the course. He did this by placing anonymous messages on the notice board indicating that the RACT students had a room inspection on the weekend. He also told RAAOC members that all the RAEME students had the weekend off to go to the Grand Prix in Melbourne! The RAAOC students then proceeded to complain to the course manager. Some people will believe anything. The Student of Merit for the STC WOLOG was SGT "RSM-A" Ballard.

March was a very busy month for the EME cell. SGT "I've got no courses left to do!" Burden was promoted to WO2 on the 12 Mar 04. The LOBC was continuing, as was the WOLOG course. On the 22 Mar 04 the 0007 S2C commenced. The students breezed through the first week on course, unfortunately for the students the second week consisted of the field phase. Back at



SUBJ 2 CPL

base camp there were the three amigos! They consisted of LCPL Murphy, CFN Mason and CFN John. Most of what they got up to cannot be put in this article but suffice to say "Bum slaps all round!" The course worked together really well and proved you can have fun on course and learn at the same time. The Student of Merit for the 0007 S2C course was CFN John.

During the first week of April the LOBC, WOLOG and the 0007 S2C courses were completed. The staff then had a well deserved break over Easter. After the Easter break WO2 Simon Danger was posted to the EME cell. WO2 Danger is a Vehicle Mechanic and his wealth of experience in RAEME will be used effectively here at ILD. The 0008 S2C course commenced on 19 Apr 04.

On 21 Apr 04 the EME cell organised the first Spanner Club to be held in the AWMA for some time. It provided a great opportunity for all RAEME instructors from the AWMA to get together and promote the RAEME esprit de corps. The Deputy Head of Corps, LTCOL Creagh and the Corps RSM, WO1 Fekete attended the function along with numerous other instructors and some Elec ARTS course students from the AWMA. The afternoon went quite well with \$60 being raised for the Everyman's Club. The next Spanner Club function will be held by VTW at Recovery section. With the assistance of the Deputy HOC and the support of the RAEME brethren, it is hoped that this activity will become a semi-regular event in the AWMA.

As winter draws nearer, we would like to wish all of you in Land Command good soldiering in the campaigning season and remind all of you from the north to bring plenty of cold weather gear with you when you next come to a course at ALTC. This is especially so for those of you on Sub 2 Cpl who

can look forward to spending a week in the Corryong pine forest where, as the road signs say "roads frequently prone to frost, ice and snow".

Arte Et Marte

A Fd Bty - TST

It's been a long time (probably 5 years plus) that an 'A' Field Battery Technical Support Troop report has appeared in the RAEME Craftsman so hopefully this will be a good one.

Our TST consists of 2 VM's, 2 GE's, 1 EIR, 1 RPS and 1 ASM who support the 6 Hamel guns and all the other stuff/gear of 'A' Field Battery which is part of the Parachute Battalion Group led by 3 RAR.

We also come under 4 Field Regiment as a detached Battery here in wet or sunny Sydney. We do Artillery exercises as well as Infantry support/parachute type exercises which makes for an interesting time for the 110 men that make up 'A' Field Battery.

The ASM, WO2 Greg McEvoy, came down from 4 Field Regiment at the start of 2003 and has worked tirelessly getting the TST SDSS/MIMS, TRF, MMP, DSCM (and about a thousand other great reads) competent and actually succeeded in getting much needed equipment and parts into the unit. (Skulls on hats are good too). He rides about 24km to work on his mountain bike before doing PT every day, and of course 24km back home.

We had the services of CPL Dave Hoy (Now Sgt at TSP, 3 RAR) for all of last year and he did a great job getting our 20 plus vehicles to a good working standard. He took all of his plaques and awards with him so that left some space on the workshop wall for CPL Gareth Hunter to fill up.

LCPL Marty Joyce was the VM CFN last year (ex 4 Fd Regt) and now is just finding out what SGT Dave Hoy actually had to do (other than fix vehicles and smoke durries). He's doing subject courses and kicking heads/balls at Rugby Union.

CPL Gareth Hunter came down from 131 STA Battery in August last year and had already completed his Basic Parachute Course before he marched in. His 15 plus years experience has really helped GE and the struggling Craftsman that he directs with great enthusiasm.

That's me, CFN Trent Direen, and I've been here since September 2002 after coming off a 6 month long service leave



The Skull

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"NE HUMANUS CREDE" From Left to Right: CPL Troy Bartlett, CFN Trent Direen, CFN Andrew Lynch, CFN Martin De Haan, LCPL Martin Joyce, CPL Gareth Hunter, WO2 Greg McEvoy



Its all about the heaves

at half pay which was fantastic! This is my first posting as a CFN Fitter and I hope to be here till 2005 and then hopefully Carpenter/Joiner in 2006.

CFN Marty 'Crazy Boffin' De Haan is the EIR Technician and this is his first posting as a CFN since the start of 2003. He does a great job doing Boffin type things and keeping important items of Artillery equipment (Well, they think so) functioning. He swims and runs like there's free beer at the finish line.

CFN Andrew Lynch came here late last year as his first posting and has been up to his neck in vehicle parts, grease, oil and all that good stuff that VM's get involved with. He doesn't have a wife so he's bought an expensive down hill state of the art mountain bike that he rides to the shop now and again to get the paper.

An important part of our TST is CPL Troy Bartlett our RAAOC Ranger RPS Guru whose work since the start of last year has been outstanding. He supports us RAEME blokes with parts and reasons why MIMS has crashed again. He really wants to be an Air Force Fire Engine Man though. He was awarded Most Outstanding JNCO for 'A' Field Battery in 2003.

ASM's Footnote:

The lads here at 'A' Fd Bty have worked hard, smart and tirelessly throughout 2003 to get this place up and running to a good standard, some of those dividends are just starting to pay off now. The entire TST is para qualified and we were the only complete sub element of 'A' Fd Bty to jump in on Ex CROC 03, along with five guns. Put simply TST 'A' Fd Bty is one of the strongest, fittest and most enjoyable organisations I have had the pleasure to work with throughout my entire career.

RAEME Birthday – NT STYLE

The RAEME birthday celebrations for the Northern Region took place on 14 Nov 03 at HMAS Coonawarra. The day was a huge success with the usual Corps spirit and sports taking place. The On-The-Job Trainees from RTC-NT decided to join together this year and give their supervisors from across various Darwin units a taste of what it's like to be on the bottom. Results for the day are as follows:

Individual event winners:

Tug of War	1 CSSB
Spanner Throw	1 CSR (longest throw)
Volley Ball	RTC-NT (Biggest point margin)
Big Ball Soccer	RTC-NT (Earliest Scored Goal)
Iron Man Comp	RTC-NT
Swim Relay	8/12 MDM

Overall points

1st	RTC-NT	285
2nd	1 CSSB	280
3rd	8/12 MDM	275
4th	5/7 RAR	260
5th	1 CSR	255
6th	1 CER	240
7th	ARMD	230
8th	COMBINED	185 (HQ 1 Bde, NORFORCE, etc)



RAEME Birthday Tug o War Winners – Shows 1 CSSB Team in action



RAEME Birthday Winners Trophy – Mr Anictomatis presenting the RAEME Birthday Overall Winner Trophy to WO2 Mark Bruton RTC-NT

The key event was the Tug of War competition, which provided a highlight of the day. 5/7 RAR showed their strength early and were the team to beat. However, reigning champions 1 CSSB (2000, 2001 and 2002) still demonstrated that they were a foe to be wary of. After eliminating all competition both teams came to the final undefeated. The first end was won in a nail biter by 1 CSSB. The second end had 5/7 RAR level the score. For the final end the heavens opened and rain poured down in a torrent. Both teams



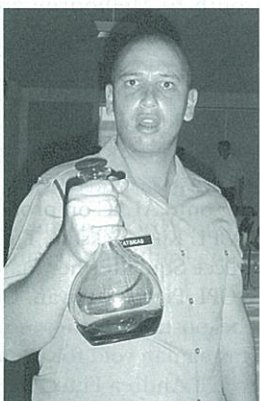
General table photo: from L-R (CPL Haynes, SGT Crijjins, CFN Joynes, CPL Hawkes (Mr Vice), LCPL Hamilton)



LT Col Lingo

don't hit it so hard boss. The formal part of night seemed to be over quickly but then we were told we could move to the 1 CSSB Pineapple Club for some extra activities.

Once we got there we set up a bit of a competition with some rugby training pads and a gym horse. You had to sit on the horse and see if you could knock each other off. The big man CPL Harry Skinner (who weighs close to a L/R 4x4) got up and took one swing at CPL Mildern who went down like he wasn't even there. The CSM, who had to be the most wanted person up there, was extremely upset when he kept losing. A few more games ensured the night was festive. Overall there were a few sore heads the next day but it was a great experience and we look forward to next year's.



CFN Catsicus

BARRA CLASSIC

By WO2 'Doc' Murdoch

On the 6-7 Nov 03 Maintenance Company made its annual pilgrimage to satisfy the hunter within. The quest to find, and somehow land a water born creature that resembles a fish. Some members had to blindfold their crew so as not to give away their secret fishing spot, while some were happy to have a sleep on the Larrakeyah rock wall.

There was a team that circled a lake in their somewhat over powered fishing boat to try and make the fish dizzy and float to the surface. There was a mention that they hung behind the boat by a rope to see if any fish were to rise to the surface, but to their dismay no fish fell to their ploy. A couple of teams are still trying to interpret the local tide chart, as a couple of creeks and boat ramps still remain a challenge at low tide.

The Barra Classic competition was again a great success with CPL Smith taking out the main prize with a good size Barra. We still don't know how he caught it with a blindfold on. All in all the competition is a highlight on the Maintenance company calendar and we are all looking forward to next year's competition.

VEHICLE PLATOON

This has been a very busy year for Vehicle Platoon with more formation repair work finally coming from 1 Bde units. The downside included a visit from the toe cutters (MAS) which resulted in a month's worth of overtime to play catch-up. With only 50% manning this proved to be somewhat of a challenge. However, the mighty greasers adapted and overcame, and were able to get the Battalion and 1 Bde out on Ex Croc 03, albeit a little unorthodox.

The platoon lost a couple of members to discharge or trans-

fers this year with Scotty Slorach discharging and taking up work in South Australia. Sarah Logue transferring to the Reserves in Darwin and Mark Baldwin taking discharge and settling in Victoria. Their efforts were much appreciated whilst in the platoon and we wish them all the best in their new ventures.

The end of this year will see another big turnover of members within the platoon with some 10 members being posted out, including the Platoon Commander LT Lingo. Next year is looking to be another busy year, but as long as we keep getting the work from 1 Bde that we are supposed to it'll be a good one.

GE PLATOON

By 'Mick the Welder' Connolly

2003 has been another busy year for GE. This year we have seen a lot more formation repairs coming through the workshop. Not only have the welders been busy repairing M113s, Lavs and MBTs, they have also constructed a Buffalo pen for the unit mascots and improved the boozer (Club Pineapple) by constructing bar benches out of 50mm mahogany timber slabs (not a lot of welding required). The fitters have also been busy, having done turret lifts on MBT and M113s out bush and LAVs in barracks and worked on 1 BDEs other minor equipment including TTFs. It has been a good year for all in the non-AJ activities side of things as GE has had a lawn bowls day, BBQ and swim day. The catchcry for the members of GE is bad day fishing is better than a good day at work. GE in 2004 will almost totally change with the number of people being posted.

The Metalsmiths going are SGT Keith Brown (Brownie), CPL Royce Wuiske (Old fellow) CPL Glenn Garretty (Gazza), CPL Mick Connolly (Mick the Welder) and CFN Stephen Gale (Red). Fitters posted are SGT Allen Clarke (Clarkey), CPL Nick Shaw (Shawry), CFN Leon Chymko (Princess), CFN Michael Lavelle (Mick), CFN Colin Watson (Bugie) and CFN Darrel Holden (FJ). CFN Dave Hiscocks (Crazy Dave) has left the defence force. The new march ins have a big challenge ahead of them. The metalsmith are SGT T. Sperling and CFN W. Harrison. Fitters are SGT A. Kuilboer, CFN D. Cleary, CFN C. Robertson, CFN W. Melling and CFN M. Austin. The new platoon commander is LT Andrew O'Connor (Occa).

The weld section is down to just four personnel so they will be very busy trying to keep up with all of the BDE's repairs. LCPL T. Baker (Turtle) will be running the weld section and we wish him good luck. LCPL S. Thomas (Chicken Strangler) will be leading the fitters and will have his work cut out. But this should not be a problem if he can be removed from the computer. 1CSSB is not as bad as people make it out to be because you only get out of it what you put in it and I've had a great time. But always remember whenever you are surrounded by RAEME that you will always have a good time. *Work hard play hard.*

MAINT COY ASM'S GOLF DAY

It's hard at the top end. Life is just one big performance summary. Ticks in the box for AIRN, firepower requirements and alike. Working long stints away on exercise but there still comes a time when all of these are put aside and another task list comes out. Things that must be completed before the end of the year: barbecues, sports, piss ups and of course the perennial ASM's golf day.

Nine hole ambrose, shotgun start, replace your divots and we were away. Hackers and whackers alike vying for the prestige of the title and trophy. And you can spot the pros of course; own clubs, bloused pants and spikes on their shoes, the rest of us in our shorts and thongs (this is the Territory mate). Lyndsay Marriner started off well with a birdie, that he brought along with him though he nearly lost her to a wayward shot from Billy

Fitch on the next fairway. In fact there were balls going lots of places that defied physics: Squiz Taylor managed to 'caught and bowl' one of his shots, Dave Bolton's tee shot on the ninth landed 30 metres behind him and the boys from GE managed to find the roofs of a few residences on the edge of the course. Joynesy found the lake several times but made up for it by landing a nice 80cm barra whilst looking for his ball. I suppose it beats work but it is all too frustrating for me and too much walking, thank goodness for the recovery crew of Dave Hurrey and Clay Haynes who kept the fluids up to us during the day!

By lunch time most of us had enough and were content to ice our wounds at the bar and enjoy a feed from the barbie but there were those anxious for the results (those with their own golfclubs). Closest to the pin went to CPL Gary Puttock. The best novice came down to putt-off on the practice green between Lt "Ocker" O'Connor, Jon Briggs, Gayle Walkom, and Justin Kerslake who ultimately prevailed after some limp wristed putts from the rest. After some protests over the accuracy of scoring and the validity of some players handicaps the overall winning team came down to the roll of the dice (could have saved myself all that walking). The overall winning team was SGT Billy Fitch, CPL Matty Paas, CFN Phil Polsen and WO1 Bruce Millward who reminded us that it is the ASM's golf day trophy after all.

EIR PLATOON

What a year it has been for EIR. With Banksy, Jim, Sammo, Sav, Hans, Thommo and Squiz returning from their "holiday" overseas with the 5/7 CSST in April and back on deck in May/June. The boffins attempted to reduce their backlog by doing their usual "shiftwork" (... anything to get out of IMT's!) The electrics continued to pump out the work and worry about the paperwork later. The window lickers what can we say watched amusingly as an 8 tonne trailer (minus a vehicle and driver) self-propelled past their window at high speeds. Their only concern was that the flowers might get squashed.

Young Fitzy, improved his artistic talents by graffitiing "No Standing" on an 8 tonne trailer – anything to impress the OC! Briggsy and Simon are off on their little adventure to the Solomons. Jas Mcfie did us all proud and received a soldiers medallion ... not to mention student of merit on his Sub 1 Course. CPL Chris Hawkes was in his element at Predator's Gallop/Croc 03 being the APC driver for the CSST's. (finally found a job that he can do!!). The old Fart – Banksy was posted mid year to Pucka and saw the light and has now discharged. Fatsicass lived up to his reputation and consumed a rather large quantity of breakfast plates at the EIR end of year function. If it wasn't for EIR platoon dragging him away he'd still be there! No matter how hard CPL Lyndsay Marriner tries and how many antics he pulls ... the fools always invite him back to the Snakes Pit for CPL's to the SGT's mess.

Pers Posting Out:

WO2 Taylor (Smurfsville), SGT Gutiez (Bubblegum land), SGT Bolton (ALTC – Bandiana), SGT Hoy (anywhere but Darwin), CPL Hawkes (2 CAV), CPL Thompson (10 FSB), CPL Salmon (2/14), LCPL Beardsley (Pucka), LCPL Mcfie (2/14), LCPL Savron (Recruiting Adelaide), CFN Catsicas (2 CAV), CFN Kimber (1 ARMD), CFN Kerslake (2/14)

OPENING OF THE MAINTENANCE COMPANY MEMORIAL

By CAPT Robertson

Since the move to Darwin various personnel have talked about establishing a Maint Coy Memorial using an old F1 Wrecker. A previous ASM, WO1 'Guns' McDowell even put one on the 1 Bde parade ground (in place of a tank) but it only lasted two



Memorial Coy & F1 Truck

days before the Bde RSM said it had to be removed. Well in 2003 it was decided it would happen! With MAJ Ashurst and SGT Dave Bolton driving the project and many Maint Coy personnel actually building it (including the OC) it was finally built. This memorial was constructed to celebrate past achievements and history but also a reminder to look to the future and help build an identity as Maint Coy, 1 CSSB.

On the 5 Dec 03 the company (those who had not already left on leave or posting) paraded outside the CHQ building before the repainted F1 'Twin-Boom'



Maint Coy memorial

Wrecker sitting on a base of rock. After the RAEME prayer from the Padre, the CO, LTCOL Mulhall and OC unveiled a brass plaque opening the memorial. The CO then promoted CFN Ninness, CFN Chick, CFN Medwin and PTE Metcalfe to LCPL.

RECOVERY PL MAINT COY 1CSSB

With 2003 drawing to an end the year has been quite eventful. What with people coming, people going, bush trips and the normal work associated with Maint Coy. With CFN Fraser and CFN Christmann completing Basic Recovery course as well as ARVL operator's course the number of qualified blokes finally outweighed the amount of OJT's in recovery.

With the new OJT's CFN Booth, CFN Cook, CFN Wild, and CFN McCartney it was all hands on deck for the preparation for EX Pred Gallop and Croc 03. The drive over to Shoalwater Bay proved to be a change in job for the lead recovery crews. MRV's became mobile tyre changing vehicles due to the masses of blowouts. The new Edition of CFN Shaw became qualified in changing fan belts for Transport Coy. Once out in the field we split up into our three teams as part of the CSSTs. The WORM leading Bn Main recov, SGT Hurrey leading CSST 1 recov, and CPL 'Rusty' Crawford leading CSST 2 recov. The main focus was to get the ARVM up and running by the end of exercise. Courtesy of the hard work of SGT Hurrey, CFN Wood, CFN Shaw and the rest of the gang it was up and running and in use. The other primary focus was the Brigade advance with the WORM and his crew leading the way with the Tadano followed closely by the rest of 1 Bde.

There were many war winning incidents along the way, these were:

Dave "I know armoured vehicles" Hurrey fracturing his foot upon dismounting the ARVL.

The WORM setting a new Recovery record for the most amount of diet coke consumed as well as the most DVD's watched in a single day.

Trotts showing the correct way to fell a tree with a \$600 bill for a broken chainsaw.

Woodys winning the hairdresser of the year with his stylish bush cuts.

Cas' baiting of the WORMs bed so his nocturnal friend would visit in the early hours of the morning.

Scotty coming up with a pathetic excuse to go home early, (getting married).

The trip home was eventful with the blokes having to contend with 2 vehicles which tried a new way of driving, (on their roofs) and a few breakdowns along the way. With the end of the year comes time to farewell, so goodbye and cheerio to;

WO2 Mick Jack – 3 CSSB as the WORM.

CPL Pete Marron following the WORM but as the Recovery SGT.

CPL Clay Haynes to Brisvegas to 2/14.

CPL Rusty Crawford to ARTC as an RI (poor recruits).

CFN Ryan Clay off to civvy land.



WO2 Jack



CFN Wood

BLUEBELL ON OP ANODE – REGIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

By Captain Dennis Langham

From the far reaching sodden mountainous archipelago of the Solomon Islands comes another chapter of commitment, success and mateship that is RAEME, and performed with such regular monotony that anything less is incomprehensible.

Despite the monsoonal weather, immense heat and humidity, mushrooming backlog, overrunning vermin and the restrictive "do's and don't do's", that incidentally grow by the week, the



Back row: Capt D Langham, Sgt M Payne, Cfn D Halliday, Pte D Matanis, Cpl S Beard, Cfn S Kimber, Cfn M Cohen-Camp, Cpl N Tasker, Cpl P Hardaker, Sgt D Bolt, Cfn D O'Neil, Cpl A Dryden, Lt B Jones, Sgt G Bellis, Cfn M O'Brien, WO2 P Airey, Cfn J Briggs Capt D Israel
Front row: Capt A Kirk, Sallyman R Lawson, Cpl A Lebsanft, Cpl P Currie, Sgt L Harte, Cfn R Nannes, Cfn T Kong. Absent: WO2 G Weston

intrepid Bluebell Brethren (Solly Chapter) got about doing what they do best, and have been doing for the previous 61 years – working hard, playing hard (albeit sober) and developing an Esprit de Corps that is the envy of the other Task Force constituents.

Although the majority of the RAEME presence is from 10 FSB, there are members in country from 9 FSB (26 Tpt Sqn), 1 JPAU, 145 Sig Sqn, 1 CSSB and a couple of our Trans Tasman cousins from the NZ Logistic Corps.

Articles from the FSS Workshop follow on, however for those of us that operate in other areas of the CTF, here is a brief synopsis of their RAMSI CV.

WO2 Pete Airey adds a distinct EME flavour to the otherwise Roach heavy FSS Ops Room. Pete is officially employed as a Watchkeeper in which his contribution to daily operations is invaluable, however his unofficial duties, for which he is highly regarded include painter and interior designer, facilities modification engineer and all round handyman. In his official role, Pete has precious little to do with workshop management and production, a capacity that he revels in back in Oz and would gleefully accept if the offer came his way. Despite all this and true to form, Pete is regularly seen down at the workshop inhaling the sweet ambience of productive residue and wallowing in the RAEME environment.

Captain Anthony Kirk is the CTF Public Affairs Officer on deployment from 1JPAU and is responsible for all the RAMSI correspondence to the ADF and OZ Public. Some may question why an EME officer would be interested in journalism. Anthony is quick to answer those curious among us. Besides a keen sense for a scoop and an insatiable zeal to disclose the truth, even though some might not be able to handle the truth ... sorry ... Anthony reminds us that the perks include travel, celebrity social climbing, the best reason to take a girl's photo (no ulterior motive here), no more parades and having free access to the best photographic equipment that taxpayer's money can buy ... by the way did I mention the chicks?

Anthony does a great job and despite the frustration, red tape and thanklessness of his work, manages to stay motivated and focused in bringing our stories to you.

Captain Dan Israel is performing in the capacity of 2IC CTF CIS Sqn (145 Sig Sqn). Dan has deployed without his workshop and so stands alone as the RAEME identity within the Sqn. As well as his daily 2IC duties which include Sqn Admin and mentor to his many subbies, he oversees the Sqn's compliancy to the CTF MMP which involves one of the larger SCAs of the Task Force.

I came into theatre as the Maintenance Supervisor but after a week into the deployment there was clear and bold writing on the wall that the position was considered redundant and I was to be attached to CTF HQ as the loggie in Plans (J5). What does a Plans Loggie do ... well let me tell you, not much. Had a great hootch spot though, just off the beach. There was some work with the CTF Disaster Plan to do which involved a lot of tripping around accumulating "situation awareness" (tech term for swanning) preliminary draw down work, Equipment SED and of course being the CTF SMM the MMP required tailoring before conducting a compliancy audit. This generated some work for me which kept me busy and off the streets for a month or so. In January I moved into the CTF HQ as the J45, primarily to oversee Provincial Outpost Log Spt. This is a good job and has provided the opportunity to work closely with the Aust Federal Police, confirming what most of us have suspected for some time ... strength in numbers.

Hope to catch up around the traps

Arte et Marte

ANODE RAEME MEMBERS HAVE BEACH PARTY TO CELEBRATE 61ST BIRTHDAY

They may be deployed on Operations, but it takes more than that to stop a Craftsman from enjoying a celebration, especially when it's their own Birthday. So with the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Corps about to turn 61, the RAEME brethren deployed on Operation ANODE traded their tools for a snorkel and flippers to celebrate the special occasion Solomon Island style on a nearby beach.

After getting the OK from the boss to conduct the activity and making sure the area was secure, PI Comd WKSPs, LT Ben Jones, sent out the invitations to all RAEME personnel who had permeated the CTF 635 military contingent. Members appeared from everywhere and it wasn't long before the BBQ became a combined joint activity in its own right. Although the bulk of RAEME personnel came from 10 FSB there were also members from 9 FSB, 1 CSSB, 1 JPAU, 145 Sig Sqn as well as ANZAC input from their New Zealand counterparts. Being the professionals that they are, they all met at the RV point and conducted a control stores check, making sure that above all else the BBQ, sausages and "sally man" had not been left behind. With the admin out of the way the convoy of craftsmen made their way to the secluded beach near Honiara.

Once at the beach it wasn't long before the group began to relax, discarding their cams for swimmers and bathing in the warmth of the Pacific Ocean. However, not being content with doing one thing at a time it wasn't long before swimming was combined with exploration as some of the members snorkelled their way through a nearby shipwreck. Although they didn't find any treasure all reports indicated that the exploration was a worthwhile venture.

Of course no trip to the beach would be complete without kicking a football around. Apart from letting the soldiers forget about work for a while this also allowed some nearby Solomon Islanders to take a firsthand look at the great Aussie tradition of playing sport. With SGT Payne and CPL Bellis working on the BBQ it wasn't long before there was a plentiful bounty of steak and sausages waiting to be devoured by the hungry soldiers. The soldiers however were careful to ensure they left room for a piece of birthday cake which they ate peacefully as they watched the waves gently lap the shoreline.

As the afternoon closed in, they slowly packed up, put their cams on and headed back to barracks ready to get back to work feeling refreshed. As they departed the sandy beach some were left wondering where they might be celebrating their next Corps Birthday in 2004.



61st RAEME Birthday: OP ANODE Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

COMBINED TASK FORCE 635 FSS WKSP Rotation 2 OP ANODE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Hello again, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the members at the Force Support Squadron Workshop. We are nearing the completion of the rotation and during this time we have experienced a lot of change and a significant increase in the workload. We are proud to say that since the WKSP has been running, it has completed over 1100 jobs, on average around 38 jobs per week. The average weekly backlog has been a steady 650h keeping the WKSP busy and providing a balanced maintenance support to the Force. Our main role is to support the Combined Task Force that in turn is supporting the Participating Police Forces.

The festive season saw the Prime Minister and the Chief of Army visit. To our surprise the PM brought enough beer with him to allow each member of the Force to have two beers on Christmas Day and then again on New Year's Eve. The Chief of the Army had the opportunity to visit the WKSP and after this he promoted CPL Nathan Tasker, SGT Gav Bellis and SGT Lawry Harte. Their photos are attached.

Australia Day was celebrated in true style with a few beverages to regale the spirit of Australia. A few beers were shared and it was a good opportunity to meet some of the AFP and APS members. WKSP won the crab race and had no casualties at the end of the day.

Early in Feb the COMAST visited the AO and had a look around at the facilities that have changed within the APOD. At the end of his trip he spoke to the Australian Contingent and presented four COMAST Commendations. SGT Lawry Harte was presented one of these for all the hard work he has done to ensure the power supply to the areas was maintained.

During the period we have spent on the Island, we have had the opportunity to visit local communities and experience some of the Solomon Islander culture and hospitality. Whether it has been a weekend trip to Gizo for R&R, completing a job in town or assisting the community through CIMIC tasks, it has been a unique operation that we won't forget. It is also hard to forget that the film, the Thin Red Line, was based on the battle that occurred in the hills behind the APOD.

WKSP HQ. The WKSP PI HQ for this rotation was LT Ben Jones and the WKSP ASM was WO2 Greg Weston. To complete the trio was SGT Mark Payne with his double hat working as the Prod SGT. The photos below actually depict who does all the work in the HQ! The Boss let us know what the temperature is going to be every day, 31 degrees celcius with the possibility of rain and the ASM has trouble getting in and out of boats, even when it is 31 degrees without rain.

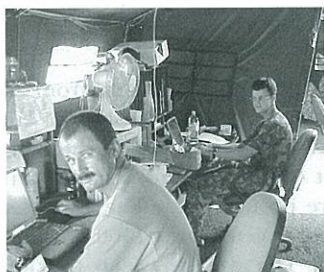


ACE overseeing Wash Wash Boss



The long and the short of the HQ

Vehicle Section, commanded by SGT Mark Payne has been busy trying to maintain the fleet of green vehicles in country. They have been working tirelessly to ensure the equipment is ready for tasking. SGT Gav Bellis and CFN Darren O'Neill have both been working very hard and supporting the Engineers and Termites. A lot of their equipment has been coming in through the night and needs to be ready by the next day. CPL Simon



RPS: CPL Hardaker and PTE Matanis

Beard and CFN Matty Cohen-Cramp have been looking after the fort back here at the WKSP and CPL Andrew Lebsanft and CFN Robert Ninnes have been busy looking after Transport Troop as well as any other taskings that require FRT support. CFN Dan Halliday has been busy looking after the equipment within Vehicle Section and is the resident spa cleaner. Between the group, they have worked very hard and have gelled well as a team to produce the support they have provided.

Repair Parts Supply Section has been the quiet achiever. Commanded by CPL Phill Hardaker and his humble assistant PTE Damian Matanis, the pair have produced what we consider some excellent support to the WKSP. They have ensured, where possible, that the parts are delivered on time and provided assistance with the ordering process. Working behind the scenes, it is easy to forget the amount of work they really do. CPL Phill Hardaker is our resident Equity Adviser and the touch captain; therefore, he makes his presence known at all times! PTE Damian Matanis has kept the morale of the WKSP going with his selection of DVD's.



EIR: CFN Briggs, SGT Harte, CFN Kimber and CFN Kong

EIR Section has been providing all the electrical and electronic support to the Force. It has been a busy job providing power to the camps and SGT Lawry Harte with his team of CPL Nathan Tasker, CFN Terence Kong, CFN Simon Kimber and CFN Jonathan Briggs have done an excellent job achieving the results they have produced. It is one of the busiest Sections and kept busy maintaining the power around the area to ensure members of the Force wake up to a hot brew urn. The NZ Elec, SGT Derek Bolt, returned back to NZ and left us with no-one to remind us about the Rugby World Cup.

Recovery Section, comprising of the lone ranger, CPL Paul Currie, has been busy maintaining the Medium Recovery Vehicle (MRV), maintaining the MRV, maintaining the MRV and recovered a vehicle every now and then. CPL Paul Currie looks after the brew club and non-techs for the WKSP in his spare time due to the small number of vehicles that break down on the 40km worth of road around this Island. Hopefully the wet season will see more work for him.

General Engineering Section, commanded by CPL Adam Dryden and assisted by CFN Mick O'Brien have been busy designing and building metal constructions, welding, repairing small engines, and any small tasks around the area that require the 'black trades' to assist. They have had the opportunity to work on a wide and varying range of equipment usually



Vehicle Section: CFN Halliday, CPL Lebsanft, SGT Payne, CFN Cohen-Cramp, CFN O'Neill, CPL Beard, CFN Ninnes and SGT Bellis

at short notice and operated by the Locally Employed Civilians. The Section has worked really hard and most of their work has been done in the heat of the day.

Overall, our time is coming to an end and the new rotation is due to takeover mid March. It has been a great experience working in this type of environment and the WKSP team has provided the support and knowledge to the Force through out the AO. We look forward to returning to Australia soon and catching up with our friends and families before too long.

Arte et Marte.



GE: CPL Dryden and CFN O'Brien

FSS WKSP Photo Gallery



PM, SGT Lawry Harte and CFN Dan Halliday



RAEME Christmas Tree



SGT Bellis being promoted by Chief of Army



CPL Tasker being promoted by Chief of Army



SGT Harte being promoted by Chief of Army



SGT Harte, CFN Kong, SGT Bolt (NZ), ASM and LT Jones farewelling SGT Bolt



THE WORKSHOP TEAM: Back row: PTE Matanis, CPL Hardaker, CPL Currie, CFN O'Brien, CFN Briggs, CPL Beard, CFN Halliday, CFN O'Neill, CPL Dryden, CFN Cohen-Cramp, CFN Kimber, CPL Tasker and CFN Kong.

Front row: CPL Lebsanft, SGT Bellis, SGT Payne, LT Jones, WO2 Weston, SGT Harte and CFN Ninnes



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