RAEME

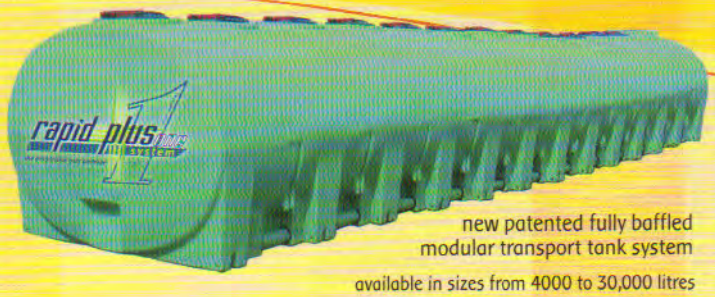
CRAFTSMAN

The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

ISSUE NO. 58 WINTER 2007

lightweight extra payload no rust durable

Tanks



new patented fully baffled modular transport tank system

available in sizes from 4000 to 30,000 litres

We can mould tanks in a variety of colours to suit your application

Fire Fighting Units & Trailers
400 to 3,000 litre

Diesel Tanks & Trailers
200 to 1000 litre

Inter Industrial Sprayers
Fire Fighting Knapsacks

rapid spray

FREECALL 1800 011 000 for a FREE colour catalogue detailing our large range of products

TradeTools Direct

THE TERRITORY'S NUMBER# 1 TOOL SPECIALIST

- BEST PRICES!! • FAST QUOTES!!
- IN-HOUSE WARRANTY and REPAIR SERVICE!!
- EXPERIENCED TRADE QUALIFIED SALES TEAM!!

N° 1 in Makita
N° 1 in BOSCH
N° 1 in HITACHI Inspire the Next
N° 1 in DEWALT
N° 1 in metabo work. don't play.
N° 1 in Panasonic Cordless Professional Power Tools
N° 1 in STANLEY
N° 1 in SIDCHROME
N° 1 in KÄRCHER

And many, many more!

IRRATIONAL DISCOUNTING DECISIONS MADE DAILY

ALL MAJOR BRANDS HEAVILY DISCOUNTED

WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL

DARWIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF:

- POWER TOOLS
- HAND TOOLS
- AIR TOOLS
- COMPRESSORS
- WELDERS
- GENERATORS
- WATER BLASTERS
- LADDERS
- BARROWS
- ABRASIVES
- FANS
- TOOL BOXES
- STORAGE CASES
- UTE and TRUCK BOXES
- CONCRETING MACHINERY
- CEMENT MIXERS
- WOODWORKING MACHINERY
- SAW BLADES
- METALWORKING MACHINERY and MORE!!

VISIT US @ www.tradetools.com.au

114 Winnellie Road, Winnellie, Darwin
Ph: (08) 8947 7133 Fax: (08) 8947 7155
Email: sales@nttradetools.com.au

TradeTools Direct
formerly GLENFORDS TOOL CENTRE

RAEME CRAFTSMAN
The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

ISSUE NO. 58, WINTER 2007

contents

REGULAR ITEMS

Head of Corps 3
Deputy Head of Corps 4
SO2 Corps Report 5
Introducing Colonel Commandant 5
Corps WO Report 6
Colonel Commandant Mid Year Report 8
Association Report 10
Vale 11
Graduates 12
Commendation 13
Letters 14
Unit Jottings 28

ARTICLES

Infantry Mobility Vehicle Protected Weapon System Rapid Acquisition and introduction into service in the MEAO 16
Army's Technical Regulatory Framework. 18
The Army Museum Bandiana 20
RAEME Ground Trades DFRT results . . .22
Farewell to the last independent RAEME workshop 26

EDITORIAL BOARD
EDITOR:
MAJ GRAHAM ANDERSON
EMAIL
graham.anderson@defence.gov.au

FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles should be sent to:
The Editor
The RAEME Craftsman
SO2 Corps Heritage
LCSC, ALTC
Milpo, Bandiana 3694

DEADLINE
31 October 2007

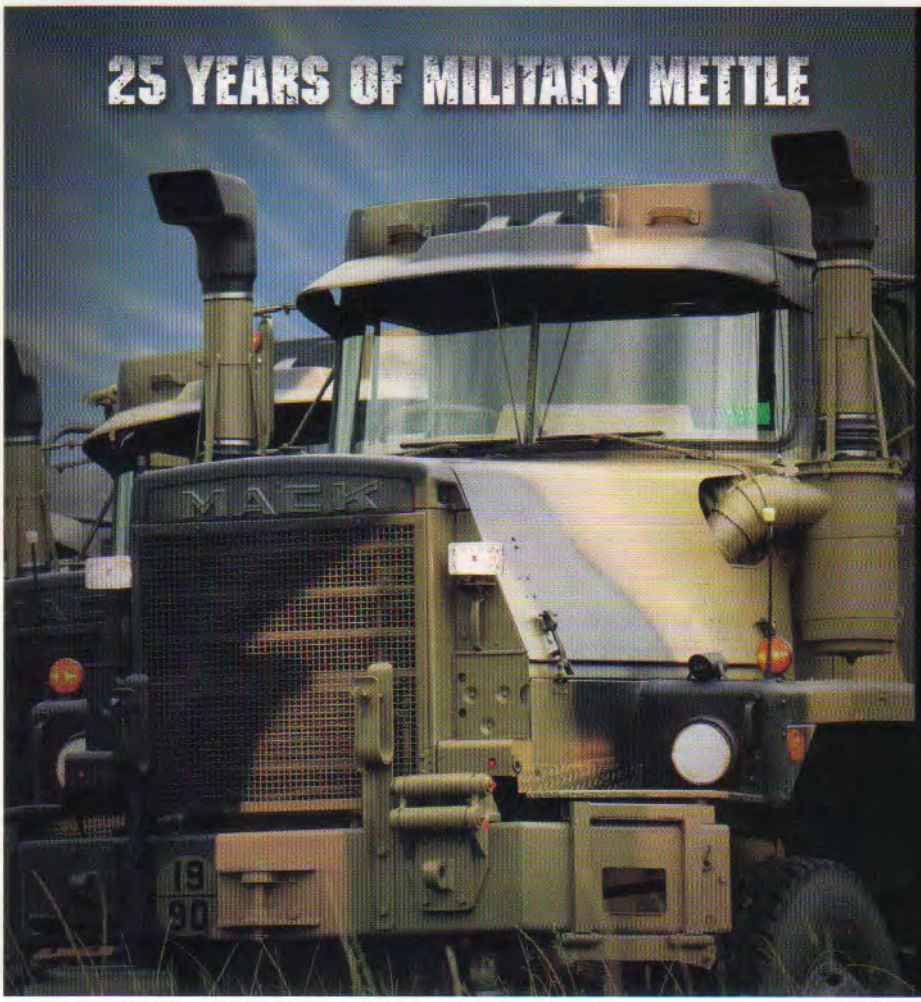
Please note: Photos should be in colour if possible, with caption included; if sent on disk they need to be scanned in at 300dpi and saved as JPEG or TIFF. Save your text in Microsoft Word. Send us your disk and photos and we'll take it from there.

DISCLAIMER
The views expressed in this journal are the personal views of the authors, and unless otherwise stated, do not in any way reflect RAEME policy.

Published by a...
900°
CEO: Marshall Scott
Production Manager: Peter Slingo
Production Editor: Joanna Penney
Creative Director: Darren Endicott
Designer: Matrika Tamang
Sales Director: Sarah Orfanos Vant
02 8956 8720

900 Degrees Limited
ABN 31 008 434 802
Building 7B, 87 Bay Street, Glebe NSW 2037
PO Box 947, Broadway NSW 2007
Telephone: 02 8596 8600
Fax: 02 8596 8622
Email: admin@900degrees.com.au
www.900degrees.com.au

The attention of advertisers is drawn to the Trade Practices Act 1974 and the provisions in the Act which apply to advertising. It is not possible for the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to ensure that the advertisements which are published in this magazine comply in all respects with the Act and the responsibility must therefore be on the person, company or advertising agency submitting the advertisement for publication. 900 Degrees Limited and RAEME reserve the right to refuse any advertisement without stating the reason. All original material produced in this magazine remains the property of the publishers and cannot be reproduced without authority. No responsibility is accepted for incorrect information contained in advertisements or editorials.



'Built like a Mack truck' also means built to satisfy the demands of Australia's Defence Forces. Ruff.

Mack

www.macktrucks.com.au

For all enquiries, contact
Keith Harding, Manager
Defence Business (07) 3015 8903
keith.harding@macktrucks.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICIANS

Mine Site Technologies is an Australian company that is the global leader in mining communications. We supply our technologies to mines around the world and are always interested in hearing from communication and electronic technicians interested in an exciting career in the resources industry.

We look forward to hearing from you,
Lloyd Zenari, CEO.

Please visit our web site for more information or contact us via email at **mst@minesite.com.au** or phone 02 9437 4399

MINE SITE TECHNOLOGIES

www.minesite.com.au

WÜRTH

THE ASSEMBLY PROFESSIONALS

Wurth Australia Pty. Ltd.
4 Redwood Drive
Dingley, Vic. 3172

Wurth Australia Pty. Ltd.
are proud to support & supply to the:

Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

HOTLINE: 1300 65 77 65 - www.wurth.com.au

ZEBRA - PREMIUM QUALITY *Xtreme* PRODUCTS

HAULMARK TRAILERS

"A symbol of quality"

- Manufacturers of Specialised Road Transport Equipment
- Certified Quality Assurance to ISO 9001

For more information contact your nearest Haulmark Office:

BRISBANE	SYDNEY	DARWIN
Ph: (07) 3277 3666	Ph: (02) 9755 3877	Ph: (08) 8932 2626

head of Corps message

HEAD OF CORPS RAEME
Brigadier David Welch

It was a great pleasure and honour to assume the appointment of Head of Corps at the conclusion of the Corps Conference in October last year. I have been a member of the Corps for 25 years and look forward to taking up the reins as representative and advocate for our great Corps and its people. In this, my first message as Head of Corps, I want to acknowledge the sterling job undertaken by the previous Head of Corps, BRIG Dave McGahey, Deputy Head of Corps, LTCOL Andy Adams, and Corps RSM, WO1 Dave Clark, during their tenures in the three key Corps appointments. Individually and together they have made key contributions to the long-term well being of the Corps.

In my first nine months as HOC I have been privileged to represent the Corps at a number of key events involving our people and units. Most notable of these was the parade to mark the closure of the Aviation Support Group Workshop at the conclusion of 35 years of supporting Army aviation at Oakey. It was a sad occasion to see the closure of the last RAEME unit on Army's Order of Battle. It was however great to see many former members of the unit come together to mark the end of an era. One of the great pleasures of my role has been to welcome new members of the Corps; either on completion of their trade training at ASEME or on graduation from Duntroon.

The past seven months has seen a number of victories in the remuneration and recognition of our people. The outcomes of the RAEME ground trades case were announced just before last Christmas – a great outcome thanks to the work of WO1 Dave Clarke and the staff in the ALTC Development Cell. In February we had the announcement of the interim decision on the ADF engineer case – another great outcome, this time thanks to the work of LTCOL Martin Griffiths and MAJ Mick Millar. In March the Government announced a comprehensive range of retention measures targeting specific trades and ranks; these measures, while not available to all members of the Corps, will benefit us all by contributing to increased retention of tradesmen and young officers in our units and thus allowing us to better do our job of maintaining Army's equipment. I regard this as a terrific period for personnel 'wins' for the Corps, and am delighted that our peoples' skills and contribution to Defence capability are being recognised.

As I speak to senior Defence officers about Corps issues, they unreservedly remark about the fantastic and critical job that members of our Corps are doing at this time. They understand the additional pressures placed upon us by operational tempo and undermanning, and appreciate the great that all are doing for Army.

I look forward to meeting more members of the Corps as I travel around throughout this year, and I particularly look forward to welcoming many members of the Corps to the Corps Conference to be held at Bandiana 18-19 Oct.

Arte et Marte

Brigadier David Welch
Head of Corps

Army Apprentice School

Inviting former and serving Army Apprentices from Balcombe and Bonegilla for membership of the new Australian Army Apprentices Association (Inc ACT).

The Application Form is available from www.austarmyapprentice.org, or by writing to AAAA (Inc), GPO Box 2072, Canberra ACT 2601.

deputy head of Corps message

DEPUTY HEAD OF CORPS
Nick Stanton

G'day folks. For those who don't know me, I am Nick Stanton and as well as being CO/CI of ASEME, I also have the privilege of being Deputy Head of Corps of the greatest Corps in the Australian Army. One of the best benefits of being Deputy Head of Corps is that I get to travel around Australia, meet as many fellow members of the Corps as possible and talk about Corps issues. I have been to Brisbane, Sydney and Townsville so far this year and I can tell you this as a fact, in all the units I visited, I have not met any COs who did not reckon that their RAEME Soldier – Tradesmen where the best they have ever seen.

As individuals, we all know that the operational tempo is very high, equipment liability is going through the roof and we are carrying a large number of vacancies across our trades. These are all significant challenges experienced to one degree or another in every unit across Army and the cause of much angst to us all. However when you view the achievements by individual units and see the reputation that we have collectively maintained as a Corps, it is very apparent that members of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are well up to the job of maintaining Army's equipment capabilities. To any who may doubt my words, you may recall one of the more well known photos of the Corps where Recce Mechs are recovering a Bren Gun Carrier under artillery fire in the desert during WW2 almost 65 years ago.

Just a few short months ago, Recce Mechs were again (successfully) recovering an armoured vehicle under fire in yet another desert. While technology may have changed over the past 65 years, it does not appear that the Corps mission and our respective role in achieving that mission have changed much. Similarly, our Corps motto ***'With Skill and Fighting'*** is equally relevant to our tasks of today.

Based on my visit experiences as well as feedback received from numerous COs and Corps members, it is readily apparent that the 'Crafty' Crafty is alive and well and doing the Corps proud. Well done everyone and I hope to have the opportunity to catch up with you during our respective travels.

Regards,
Nick Stanton
Arte et Marte

DS Techwrite

Technical Authors, Illustrators & Trainers

Providing Quality User Handbooks, EMEIs, RPSs & Commercial Documentation to Civil Industry

Proud to be recommended contractors for the ADF

Are you an Artificer or Senior Tradesperson?
Are you considering a change of career?
Contact us or visit our website for details.

PO Box 298 Strathpine Qld 4500 — 5/42 Deakin Street Brendale Qld 4500 — Ph: (07) 3881 3477 Fax: (07) 3881 3579
http://www.dstechwrite.com.au — email: info@dstechwrite.com.au

Certified Distributor of Mincom LinkOne

Proud to be associated with the Royal Australian Army.

CATERPILLAR®

1 Caterpillar Drive, Tullamarine, Vic 3043.
Phone: (03) 9953 9333 Fax: (03) 9935 3399

SO2 Corps report

Major Haley

The year 2007 began without time for a breath and is already half over and I am sure that like me, you are asking yourself 'where has it gone?' The units that we have visited this year have all been in varying states of deploying, redeploying and reconstituting, for not only overseas operations, but to our very important tasks and exercises within Australia. The professionalism and can do attitude of the members of the Corps are the often sung praises that unit's chain of command pass on to the HOC team.

Whilst we maintain our main focus on the Land Army, there are a number of Corps members serving in the DMO, JLG, SCMA, DOCM, AHQ and TCOMD that are delivering first rate capability and advice, often with far less resources than is required. It is important to remember that although we can be very disparate in employment, as a Corps we can achieve all that is thrown our way.

The RAEME Corps Seminar will be conducted at Bandiana 18-19 October. The seminar will focus on the development of the Corps Strategic Plan which will provide clear direction and guidance for the Corps for the next five to ten years. The seminar will also provide updates on a number of topical issues within the Corps. The pre appointment seminar will again be delivered in the three days preceding the Corps seminary. The panel for this will be released mid August.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome WO1 Mark McLean to the position of Corps Warrant Officer and thank WO1 Steve Luke for his contribution to Corps matters. I am sure that we will be very well served by Mark's knowledge and experience.

Arte et Marte

introducing colonel commandant

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
Greg Rosser

It is with great pleasure that we introduce LTCOL Greg Rosser as the newly appointed Colonel Commandant for Central Region. LTCOL Rosser resides in Adelaide, South Australia. In 1968 he commenced two years National Service and was commissioned as an officer in RAEME. On completion of his National Service Greg transferred to the Army Reserve.

Some of the highlights during his GRes service include:

- Command of the RAAC and RAA LAD's
- Command of 4 EME Services Workshops (4 years)
- SO1 Pers
- SI Military Management and CI Other Ranks Training Wing (4th Training Group)
- Before retiring he was the Deputy Commander of the 4th Training Group.

Greg has spent many years working the South Australian Water Corporation where he had a variety of general engineering rolls and served in a range of management and representative appointments.

LTCOL Rosser has maintained a close relationship with and is currently a member of the AEME/RAEME Association (SA) and the Naval, Military and Air Force Club.

Corps Warrant Officer report

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE
Mark Mclean

I would like to start off with saying that I am honoured to have been appointed as the RAEME Corps Warrant Officer. I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I have been a member of the Corps for the best part of 23 years. In that time, I have had experience in Land, Training and Support Command and have been posted to armoured, infantry, marine, artillery and logistic units. My last posting was to Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) as a RAEME Career Manager and I am currently posted to Armament and Construction Wing (ACW), as the ASM. I feel that the exposure that I have had within these different commands and types of units have put me in good stead to understand and represent the soldiers of the Corps on various issues across Army as they arise.

RAEME Corps Warrant Officer

Since the inception of the RAEME Corps Warrant Officer position, as detailed within Corps Instruction number six, it is an appointment that is relatively unknown within the Corps. To provide some clarification on this appointment I have included the following paragraph to provide a brief understanding of this position. Normally, the RSM of ASEME will be appointed as the Corps RSM. When the situation arises where the RSM of ASEME is not RAEME, a non-regimental RAEME WO1 will be appointed as Corps Warrant Officer. The Corps Warrant Officer fulfils the duties and responsibilities of the Corps RSM when one is not appointed.

Professionalism

Throughout the last two years as a RAEME Career Manager I have had the unique opportunity to talk to soldiers, their immediate supervisors, OCs and most COs while conducting tours within unit areas. More recently, since January this year, as ASM of ACW I have had the opportunity to speak to Corps members while they are on trade and promotion courses at ASEME.

One thing that I have learnt over time is that there are always two sides to a story. I may have to rethink part of the context of this methodology as I have been gladly proved wrong. During the above mentioned periods, the feedback that I have received directly from all levels of command have commented on the high standard of RAEME tradesman who are conducting themselves in a proficient, reliable and professional manner in performing their core business.

This was no great shock to me personally as I am well aware of the continued effort and commitment that RAEME delivers. What was a shock was that all command levels spoke so highly of their RAEME members and their efforts in maintaining unit capability and their adaptiveness. This is a change of mindset from commanders for the Corps as RAEME, although always doing the job, sometimes we have not had the acknowledgement of our efforts from command. This is a great outcome for the Corps overall as commanders are coming to the realisation of the real importance of the Corps in achieving their mission. Hopefully this changing realisation from command will aid us in achieving our core business with a higher level of support and commitment from outside the Corps.

You should all be proud of your efforts and in particular be proud of the 'brotherhood' for which you belong. This continued commitment from individuals within the Corps is what has given me continued pride to be a member of RAEME and has kept me within the Corps and Army over the years.

Professional Development

We are doing a great job which is impressive considering the current aspects of reduced manning, a higher operational tempo and increased corporate governance requirements. We all need to make sure that we maintain our professionalism and commitment and strive for continual professional development.

Two areas where we as a Corps can continue to improve is within our real understanding of the technical requirements of today's maintenance structure and our need to fully understand the changing requirements for our tradesman. Two documents that can assist in our increased development in these areas are the Technical Regulation of Army Materiel Manual (TRAMM) and the Manual of Army Employment (MAE). I am positive that you all know of the TRAMM, however, many are not aware of the MAE. The MAE details all the promotion and progression requirements for each ECN. It details what courses are required for promotion and or change in pay group, time in rank requirements prior to promotion and employment requirements. Even though many are aware of these documents, there is a lack on real understanding of their content and application. I challenge you all, at all rank levels, to find the time to look over and understand both of these documents as they encompass two of our key factors of our Corps, looking after our people and understanding the technical requirements within our individual trades.

Manning

As you are all aware manning levels for the Corps are very low. There have been recent recruitment and Corps Transfer incentives implemented and the success of these will not be immediately seen. To give some 'visualisation' to the shortfall entering the Corps, since taking up my current position this year I have not had one Initial Trade Training Fitter Armament Course (ATTFA) commence with a full panel, in fact there are quite a few vacancies on each panel. To reduce current manning shortfalls we have to retain who we have and recruit more into the Corps. There are various methods to achieve increased recruitment and one we all can have input to, is that of selling the Corps and recruiting internally within our own unit areas. I know that you are thinking that this is not part of our job, however, if something is not working take the initiative and make it work. Take an active part in recruiting from within and give

those in your unit area that express an interest in a trade within the Corps as much assistance and support as you can. If we as individuals put an effort in this process and only achieve an additional five tradesman over a year, it is an additional five that we most likely would not have had otherwise.

Esprit de Corps

One of our Corps greatest strengths is our *'Esprit de Corps'*. It is the responsibility of all members of the Corps to foster and develop this strength through every available opportunity. 'Spanner Clubs' have been conducted throughout the decades, however, either due to ever increasing workloads or other related aspects, their frequency has dropped off. I urge all ASMs and OCs to be proactive in conducting these worthwhile activities at a regular frequency throughout the year. It is not the only way to show our appreciation for the hard work, commitment and loyalty of our tradesman; however, it is one in which all Corps members can get together in a relaxed environment.

Brief Reminders

- **RAEME Corps Seminar and Annual Corps Dinners.** The Corps seminar and dinners are fast approaching and limited seating is available. Nomination forms and details are within this edition and are on the RAEME website.
- **Craftsman Magazine.** The 'Craftsman' magazine is for all members of the Corps. It is an avenue to show what units and individuals have been up to and to provide a medium for fostering 'Esprit de Corps'. When conducting any activities that you may think other RAEME members would find interesting (or just get a laugh from) submit an article. ASMs and OCs, getting Junior NCOs and tradesman to write articles is another manner of gauging their written communication skills.
- **Corps Subscriptions.** Support your Corps and your Corps will support you, submit your subscription and get your St Eligius badge.

Conclusion

You are doing a great job at all levels and I am proud to be identified, by Corps, with you all. We all can improve ourselves through a greater (real) understanding of the TRAMM and MAEs. This will not only improve our own personal knowledge and professionalism it will also benefit our tradesman in the long term. Be proactive in recruiting from within as the more we recruit the more time we will have available to conduct activities of our choice (spanner clubs, sports days, etc).

In closing, you all should be very proud of your efforts as they are being noticed throughout all levels of command. Be proud to belong to RAEME and support your mates and the Corps. I am particularly proud to currently be appointed the Corps Warrant Officer and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in my travels. If you are down at ACW, ASEME, please drop in and say g'day and have a brew, you will be welcomed as you are a member of THE Corps.

Arte et Marte

AEME RAEME ASSOCIATIONS AND KINDRED ORGANISATIONS

Secretary
2/1st Aust Fd Wksps AEME Association
C/- 10 Archer Place, Mill Park Vic 3082

Secretary
2/2nd Aust Fd Wksps AEME Association
C/- Unit 6/35 Clowes Street, South Yarra Vic 3142
Attention: Mr William Tolhurst

Secretary
11th Aust Adv Wksp AEME Association
C/- 70 Clarendon Street, West Coburg Vic 3058
Attention: M Charles Kerwood

Secretary
The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.
C/- Oakleigh Barracks, 1318 North Road, Oakleigh South Vic 3167
Attention: Gus Allen
Email: raeme.sec@nex.net.au

Secretary
RAEME Association NSW Inc
PO Box 463, Moorebank NSW 1875
Attention: The Secretary
www.raemensw.com
secretary@raemensw.com

Secretary
AEME/RAEME Association (ACT)
C/- 5 Barnes Place, Charnwood ACT 2615
Attention: Mr Lyell Wedd
http://members.austarmetro.com.au/-Lwedd/raeme/

Secretary
RAEME Association (Qld)
PO Box 11, Cannon Hill Qld 4170
www.raemeqld.org

Secretary
AEME/RAEME Association SA Inc.
C/- 52 Pimpala Road,
Morphett Vale SA 5162
Attention: David Turner

Secretary
RAEME Association WA Inc.
PO Box 186, Bayswater 6053
Attention: John Curtis

RAEME Association of Tasmania Inc.
Steven. M. Wilson
Training Warrant Officer
6 Logistics Support Squadron,
2 nd Force Support Battalion
Tel: (03) 6237 7518 Mobile: 0417 506 870 Fax: (03) 6237 7453
steven.wilson5@defence.gov.au

106 Field Workshop RAEME Association Inc.
11 Marri Street
ASPLEY, QLD, 4034
Secretary Phillip Bond

Vice President/Secretary
RCEME Association
C/- RRI Stella Amherst Island,
Ontario Canada KOH2SO
Attention: Mr Rick Morgan

Secretary
REME Association, Regimental Headquarters REME
Issac Newton Road, Aborfield Reading,
RG29NJ UK
Attention: Capt G.M. Anderson RL

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S MID YEAR REPORT 2007

By Terry Beaton (Vic & Tas Region)

Firstly, my apologies for the lack of contact for at least the last six months, but a long period of illness did not help matters. Since my last report there have been outstanding developments within the region. The Bandiana, Seymour/Puckapunyal and RAEME Vietnam Veterans - Southern groups have all been presented with their "Charters" as separate Chapters of the RAEME Association of Victoria (RAV).

The RAEME Association of Tasmania (RAT) continues to grow, holding their inaugural "Mixed Dinner" in Jun 06. The RAT Committee has followed up with successful Corps Birthday celebrations and ANZAC Day activities this year. Fortunately, both LTCOL Mick Buldo (RRR) and I were able to attend this year's RAT formal "Mixed" Dinner held at the Claremont RSL on 7 Jul 07 attended by 46 members. This made up for our inability to attend their Corps Birthday activities last year. A great night was had by all! The RAV held its last Colonel Commandant's Corps Birthday Dinner on 1 Dec 06. The night was a great success with 81 attending, with BRIG David McGahey and his lovely wife Sue, as Guests of Honour - in recognition of David's tremendous contribution to the Corps over the last four years as Head of Corps (HOC). Sue was present with a Colonel Commandant's Award in recognition of her dedicated service to the Corps due to her understanding and selfless support to her husband as HOC. In 2007 the dinner will revert back to its original title as the "RAEME Corps Birthday Dinner" out of respect for the incredible dedication of the late Max Moore, who initiated the concept of the "Colonel Commandant's Dinner".

The ongoing activities throughout the Region held have demonstrated a constructive development for the Corps' Regional future. Despite hot conditions, there were good turn-outs for the Annual RAEME Day of Remembrance at all venues. Bandiana successfully trialled a twilight service to overcome the problems of high temperatures. Exercises commitments unfortunately prevented ARES personnel attending the service at the Shrine. LTCOL Craig Atkins and former MAJ Colin Galvin are to be highly commended for bring along their entire families to participate in this unique commemoration for the Corps. Their commitment and the dedication of 84 year old Doug Brazier (AEME), who drove himself at short notice to the Shrine on this hot day, demonstrated the true spirit of the Corps. It was disappointing that few friends of CAPT Paul Lawton attended to support his finance, Catriona Campbell whilst she laid his cross in the grounds of the Shrine under the "Royal Corps" Tree of Remembrance.

Recently Jeff Bruhn had 81 "RAEME Brothers" (*this unique term of unity also includes female personnel*) attend the MAFIA Dinner held at VIC BKS SGTs' Mess on Friday 4 May 07. Feedback indicated that the Dinner was highly successful with a greater attendance than last year, with personnel attending from Graytown and the DHOC LTCOL Stanton coming from as far as Bandiana. The Prince Philip Banner was paraded by LT Dean Kachab, WO2 Marty Fisher and SGT Darren Werry. Regrettably, my now annual ANZAC duties in Burma again prevented my attendance at both the RAV's ANZAC Reunion and the MAFIA Dinner. Anyway, well done Jeff and all concerned with the 2007 Mafia Dinner and my appreciation to you and LTCOL Mick Buldo for all your support throughout the year. Hopefully the warring fractions of RAEME Vietnam Veterans will shortly solve their ongoing dispute over the distribution of funds for the previously "defunct" National RAEME Vietnam Vets Association, before it causes irreparable damage. The end of the year will also sadly see the disappearance of the last ARA RAEME Workshop in this Region, when 26 Tpt Sqn Wksp relocates to Brisbane. Some of us no doubt still remember the "hay" days serving in lost regional units like, RTC, 3 Base, 4 Base, Pucka Wksp, Melb Wksp, 1 Armd LAD, School of Armour LAD, 21 Const Sqn Wksp, as well as 26 Tpt. The Region has gone from having 3,000 plus RAEME to only 16 ARA by the end of 2007, due to the advent of CSP and redeployment.

This does not mean that ARES units with ARA staff will have an easy time to win the Regional ARA Craftsman of the Year Award, as your nominations must still meet the high standard required for this prestigious award. Ongoing promotion last year resulted in four nominations for the Region in 2006, two ARA and two ARES, the highest result in decades. An outstanding achievement and all units concerned are to be highly commended for their effort, especially as the standard of the reports were exceptional, resulting in the Region winning the National Award for ARES Craftsman of the Year. It was particularly pleasing to see this important Award go to the "Apple Isle" after years of alleged neglect and inactivity. Which reminds me that reports are now due for this year's Award. Look forward to sitting with the RRR to decide on this year's candidates.

Proudly Supporting Australia's Military Forces

Helitech
A DIVISION OF SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT AUSTRALIA LIMITED

• Total Rotorcraft Facility • Sales, Service & Support
• Design Engineering • Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul
• Quality Assurance ISO 9001
• Contract Maintenance • Training

(07) 3632 7000

777 Macarthur Ave Central, Pinkenba, Qld 4008

helibne@helitech.com.au www.helitech.com.au

RAEME Corps Subscriptions Form

Contribution to RAEME Corps Subscriptions is purely voluntary.

Corps Subscriptions Contribution Rates:		
Rank (retirement rank)	Fortnightly Allotment	Lump Payment
CFN – SGT	$1.00	$26.00
WO2 – CAPT	$1.50	$39.00
MAJ +	$2.00	$52.00

Methods of Contributions:

1. Allotment from pay (for serving ARA members) *Allotment is the Preferred Method*

- Allotment to be made to **RAEME Corps Fund Non-BSB Allottee number 460** via your pay rep/clerk.

2. Annual lump-sum payment - made out to RAEME Corps funds

- P'mt fwd to: SO2 Corps – RAEME, HOC Cell, Latchford Bks, BANDIANA, Vic, 3694

3. Direct deposit / funds transfer to RAEME Corps Funds DEFCREDIT account

- DEFCREDIT
- BSB: 803205
- Account Name: RAEME Corps Fund
- Membership Number: 11832
- Account Number: 20509705

Each contributor to Corps Subscriptions will receive a uniquely numbered Corps Membership Medallion. The membership medallion is designed on the St Eligius (Corps Patron Saint) coin.

Regardless of which method of contribution is chosen it is requested that this subscription form be completed and forward to SO2 Corps RAEME to ensure we have your correct contact details to enable us to send you your Corps Medallion.

RAEME CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS CONTRIBUTIONS		
Name:	Initials:	Rank:
PMKEYS Number:*		
Appointment:*		
Unit:*		
Address:		
Suburb:	State:	Postcode:
EMAIL:		
Method of Payment:		
Amount of Contribution: $		

Forward this form to:
MAJ G.M. Anderson
SO2 Corps – RAEME
Latchford Barracks,
BANDIANA, Vic, 3688
Email: graham.anderson@defence.gov.au
Fax: (02) 6055 2436
Ph: (02) 6055 4308

(*: If Applicable)

association reports

RAEME ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Peter Bull shows off some of the exhibits at Moo's Museum

Association Members at Moo's Museum: L to R Michael O'Donohoe, Bob Joseph, Fred Jolly, Graham Burgess, Harry Cole, Brendan Robertson

The Association's 2007 AGM was held on February 24th at Burwood RSL. As forecast in our last report, the AGM also served as the farewell for departing President, Michael O'Donohoe.

A good roll up of members was present to oversee the business of the AGM and join with Association Patron, Col Jennnifer Watkins AM at a post meeting luncheon to thank Michael for his many years of service and to wish him well for the future.

Anzac Day 2007

Thanks to the contributions of many individuals, ranging from HOC, past and present Association members plus an excellent participation by unit personnel; Anzac Day 2007 was a day to be remembered. A full report appears in this edition of *Craftsman*.

A PREFERRED ARMY SUPPLIER

CIGWELD

A THERMADYNE Company PTY LTD

71 Gower Street, Preston, Victoria 3072

Manufacturers & Suppliers of:

★ Gas Welding & Cutting Equipment
★ Arc Welding Equipment
★ Welding Consumables

Phone: 1300 654 674
Fax: (03) 9474 7391

MOO's Museum

Association member Peter Bull has devoted countless hours and considerable funds to create a museum of army memorabilia with the prime focus being the history and development of the Corps of RAEME.

The Association Meeting last January was held at Peter's home to allow all members of the committee an opportunity to appreciate the wealth of items collected and the superb manner in which they are presented.

The museum is an on-going hobby for Peter. Space allowing, he is always receptive to acquiring new items to enhance his display.

Any member that is interested in viewing this fine collection can arrange a suitable time by contacting Peter through his Email address at museum@raemensw.com or phone at 02 8704 5289.

RAEME Dinner

The Association is planning a "Back to RAEME Dinner" for 28th July 2007 to be held at the Burwood RSL.

Past and present RAEME personnel are invited to bring their family, bring their friends and enjoy a great evening.

Organise a "unit table" or just come on down. There is certain to be many friendly faces to greet you.

For further information contact the Association through our website at secretary@raemensw.com or phone Lee Hausman on 0417 433 003.

Brendan Robertson
President
Arte et Marte

vale

MERCIECA. — Bernard J.
Service No. 3796864
RAEME WKSP (VIETNAM)
The President, Committee and Members of the Sunshine RSL Sub-Branch, mourn the passing of a Comrade and extend their condolences to his wife and family.
Lest We Forget

MERCIECA. — Bernard Joseph, passed away Oct. 29, 2006. Cherished husband of Joan, much loved father of Donna and stepfather of Nicole, Melissa and Travis. Step-grandfather of Cameron, Anthony, Bianca, Calean, Grace and Tonisha. Loved brother and brother-in-law of Cris, Charlie and Josephine, Doris and Lell, Pauline and John, Josephine and Vince, Frank, Mary and Vic, Georgina and John, Antonia and Tony, and their families.
You will always be loved and forever remembered

WADWELL. — Charles H.
RAEME 28577
On behalf of the President, Committee and Members of the Epping RSL Sub-Branch Inc, we regret the passing of our esteemed member Charles. Sincere condolences to the Wadwell family.
LEST WE FORGET

FORRISTAL. — Thomas Patrick. Passed away peacefully at the Austin Hospital on Jan. 9, 2007. Deeply loved husband of Joan. Adored Dad of Brendan, Calvin and Lisa, special father-in-law of Megan. Grandpa to Renee, Mia and Liam.
Rest in Peace

WILLIAMS. — David Ernest.
(VX107389 2 Aust. Mechanical Equip. W/Shop AEME)
The President and Members of Leongatha RSL regret the passing of their esteemed member and extend deepest sympathy to the family.
Lest We Forget

ROWLANDS. — David H.
VX 141299
129 Aust. BDE Workshop
The President, Committee and Members of Caulfield R.S.L. regret the passing of their esteemed Member.
Lest We Forget

WILLIAMS. — David Ernest. Passed away peacefully on Feb. 14, 2007, surrounded by his loving family. Aged 84 years.
Late of Leongatha
Beloved husband of Jean for 60 wonderful years
Warm and loving father and friend of Karen and Phil, Dianne and Ken, Joy and Brian.
Loved grandfather and best mate of Brendon, Mark, and Jacqueline; Justine, Carly, Renae and Aleesha; Penelope, Kirsty and Adam.
Proud and playful great-grandfather of Cameron, Klaudia, Jordon, Tyron, Cayle, Maya, and Lilo; Emily, Maddison, Ella and Sophie; Lachlan, Owen, Jesse, Xavier, Molly, Jasmin and Jarrah. (All fondly known as Charlie or Peter).

FORRISTAL. — Thomas P.
VX 133552 RAME
The Presidents Committee and Members of the Northcote RSL Sub-Branch Inc. regret the passing of their esteemed member Tommy.
Lest We Forget

SHEPHERD. — Albert George.
3176519
Unit 102 Field Workshop
The President, Committee and Members of the Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch regret the passing of their colleague and respectfully offer their sympathy to the family.
LEST WE FORGET

SHEPHERD.
Albert George (Albie)
On Nov. 30, 2006
Much loved brother of Alan, brother-in-law of Janet, uncle of Ky and Owen and great uncle of Marcus. Resting peacefully.
Gone, but not forgotten

WADWELL. — Charles Haslem.
2.4.1935 - 1.12.2006
Loved husband of Mary. Loving father and father-in-law of Malcolm and Leigh, Leah and Lorry, Mark, Paul and Debbie. Proud Poppy of Matthew, Kane, Brooke; Michael, Michelle; Anthony, Rebbecca and Brendan.

Old Soldiers never die,
they simply fade away.

MILLER. — Jack.
VX31560
2/2AFW/Shops
The President, Committee and Members of the Reservoir RSL Sub-branch regret the passing of their esteemed member.
LEST WE FORGET

MILLER. — Jack Stewart.
Passed away peacefully on Jan. 9, 2007, aged 87 years.
Loving and devoted husband of Jean, proud and loving father of Keith, Peter and Brian (dec.).
Loving Pop to Kristie, Thomas and James and great grandfather to Wilson and Georgie.
Loved and remembered always

BOYD. — H.L. VX142271.
126 Brigade Workshops
On Mar. 17, 2007
The President and Members of the Waverley RSL Sub-Branch Inc. deeply regret the passing of our esteemed Member Hedley.
LEST WE FORGET

RUSH. — Philomena.
VF517624. AEME Workshops
The President, Committee and Members of Clayton RSL Sub-branch Inc. regret the passing of an esteemed colleague and member and respectfully offer their sympathy to her family.
LEST WE FORGET

RUSH. — Philomena.
Au Revoir, dear Mena
Fond memories. Rest in peace
— Anne and Arnold
Shalom

RUSH. — Mena, May 4, 2007.
Many years of treasured memories sharing happy family celebrations and caring in times of sorrow. Loving thoughts from your Dermot Street pals: Anne, Pat, Irma, Norah, Glad, Audrey and families.
Sleep peacefully dear friend

TRICKEY. — L. A
VX129270 Army CFN
Mar. 16, 2007
The President, Committee and Members of the Kyneton RSL Sub Branch mourn the passing of their esteemed member.
Condolences to the family
LEST WE FORGET

ROWLANDS
David Henry
Passed away peacefully on July 15, 2007
Aged 98
Devoted and loving husband of 75 years to Nellie who passed away June 22, 2007
Reunited, they walk together again
Devoted father to Jimmie and Wendy.
Father-in-law to Dorothy and Denise. Cherished and beloved grandfather to Leonie, Kerrie (dec.), Michelle, David, Leah, Timothy (dec.), Andrew, David (dec.).
Great-grandfather to Paige, Nicole, Drew, Tallin and Brodi.
Grandfather-in-law to Gordon, Megan and Joe.
Our love for you knew no bounds. You have been and will always remain, a guiding light for all of us.
Together again with your beloved wife, you will both always be in our hearts
— Your ever loving family.

DIXON. — John Martin.
(342809 RAEME)
The President and Members of Leongatha RSL regret the passing of their esteemed Member and extend deepest sympathy to the family.
Lest we forget

DIXON. — Nancie Lillian.
Passed away peacefully at John Fawkner Hospital, Mar. 25, 2007, aged 86 years.
Beloved sister of Raymond and Leslie (both dec.) and Thomas and sister-in-law to Anne.
Much loved Aunty to her many nieces and nephews and their families.
At Peace

VALE
TONY "SPAGG" DUNN

The Australian Army Apprentices Association "family" with sadness advises that our brother Tony "Spagg" Dunn aged 64, 13th Vehicle Mechanic, 17 Construction Squadron Workshop in SVN, marched out like so many Vietnam Veterans, much to early, at Greenslopes Hospital on the 9 March 2007.

Tony was well known across our many corps and will be remembered by many with affection and care, We offer our deepest condolences to his family from his "other family", We still remember his smile.

VOLVO
Mack
MACK VOLVO DARWIN
NEW & USED TRUCKS – TRUCK & TRAILER PARTS, SERVICE & REPAIRS – ALL MAKES ALL MODELS
8999 9200
Fax: 8947 0182
24 Hours Parts & Service
1890 Berrimah Road, Berrimah

LINSELL INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES PTY LTD
(Inc in NSW) ABN 87 110 693 546
BOLTS & NUTS
HAND & POWER TOOLS
DRILLS, TAPS & DIES
ABRASIVES
Factory 1
73 Governor Macquarie Drive
Chipping Norton 2170
Ph: (02) 9755 1528
Fax: (02) 9755 1557

RMC GRADUATES 2007

On Saturday, 16 June 2007, 85 new officers Graduated from the Royal Military College – Duntroon (RMC-D) and to be commissioned as Lieutenants. Of these 85 Graduates, six have been allocated to RAEME (pictured). For these new officers, Graduation and commissioning represents the culmination of eighteen months of training at RMC-D in Canberra and of the six, four have previous service as soldiers in various corps. This includes LT Lee Jarrett, who served as a Craftsman vehicle mechanic, and LT Matt Barnes who served as an RACT Corporal. The corps extends a warm welcome to the new graduates.

From left: LT Sinclair Swain (1 CSSB), LT Barbie Badcock (ASEME), LT Lee Jarrett (1 Sig Regt), LT Matt Barnes (2/14 LHR (QMI)), LT Tony Pudney (3 CSSB) and LT Lisa Shearer (1 Avn Regt)

BRUCE HERMANN

STAFF SERGEANT – RAEME

SSGT Bruce Hermann has just reached a mile stone in his military career that most of us will find difficult to match, 40 years service with RAEME, and still going strong.

He enlisted in the CMF in February 1967 as a vehicle mechanic and was posted to 104 FD WKSP. 1968 saw him enlist for National Service and ultimately end up in Vietnam on tour with A and B SQN 3 CAV, based at Nui Dat from Mar 1969 to Apr 1970, where he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

On his Return To Australia he rejoined 104 FD WKSP and over the years worked for a number of units including for a long time, with the Brisbane water transport units, before being posted to his old unit 104 FD WKSP in Nov 1993. He has seen the transition of his unit over the years from 104 FD WKSP, to 7 BASB and 7CSSB, with the Reserve element currently known as 6 CSST.

The first part of his career saw him rocket through the rank structure to the dizzy heights of Staff Sergeant in Jul 1972. Bruce has completed a number of trade courses through out the years, which has seen him in roles as vehicle mechanic, recovery mechanic and marine fitter. A funny irony in his career, after working on carriers for so long, was the need formally to complete trade training, and in Oct 2001 he completed his A VEH Maintenance Course.

Of course none of this could have happened without the support of his family, wife Kathryn, children Paul and Kim, and now grand children Mackenzie and Alexandra.

A good friend too many that known him, we congratulate SSGT Bruce Hermann on reaching this mile stone.

Awards

- AASM 1945 - 75
- Vietnam Medal
- National Service Medal (ANSM)
- Reserve Force Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal

A SPECIAL COMMENDATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Sergeant (SGT) Matthew Jung of 3 Brigade soldier, receives a Commendation from the Special Operations Command, for his service in Afghanistan with the Special Air Service Regiment. 32 year old Sergeant Matthew Jung, an Army Vehicle Mechanic, originally from Yarram Victoria, spent four and a half months, in 2006; with the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) in Afghanistan, keeping their large variety of vehicles on the road. In recognition of his outstanding dedication to his job, Special Operations Command presented Matt with a Commendation. An extract from his Commendation read "You have achieved excellent results in performing all of your tasks, especially as the principle adviser on all matters in relation to your duties as the Artificer Sergeant Major and Technical Integrity Supervisor."

The Commendation went on to say "Overall, your contribution was remarkable and has earned you the respect and admiration of all soldiers and officers. Your leadership in the workshops ensured that the large and weary fleet of Special Operations vehicles were maintained to the highest standards possible in order to support the high tempo of operations. Through the support provided by you and your workshop, Special Operations soldiers could perform their tasks with the knowledge that they were going on combat operations with well maintained vehicles that were ready for action. Your achievements are of the highest order and are in keeping with the finest traditions of Special Operations Command Australia, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force."

SGT Jung, now posted to the 113 Workshop, 13 Combat Service Support Battalion, at Irwin Barracks Perth, said on receiving the commendation, "I was taken back at first, then I felt some pride in that the Regiment (SASR) had thought so highly of my work", Matt went onto say "It wasn't a sole person job, I wouldn't have received this commendation without the hard work and support of my tradesman working along side me over there."

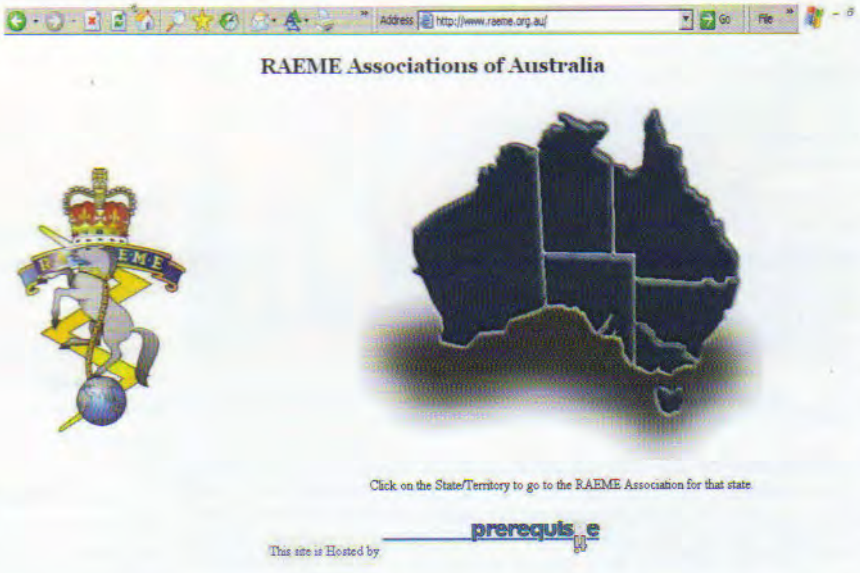
Matt said it wasn't a nine to five day in Afghanistan, "we would find ourselves working all hours, day and night; till the job was done and done well". Matt added "these guys are doing a hard and dangerous job, and the last thing they need to worry about is their vehicle, and if it was going to brake down or not."

When asked about where Matt had hung his Commendation, Matt replied "It went straight in the poolroom."

Story and pic by WO2 Ryan

RAEME ASSOCIATIONS OF AUSTRALIA WEBSITES

The regional RAEME associations of Australia have recently grouped their websites under the one site at www.raeme.org.au. This will bring up a map of Australia – you then click on the State/Territory to go to the RAEME Association for that state. The home page for the RAEME Associations of Australia is shown on the right.



LETTERS

Passing shot

Another busy year of deployments, exercises and courses. Not to mention the normal busy in barracks role of fixing everything for everyone in an unrealistic timeframe. Individually we all know how busy we and our unit have been, as well as the funny achievements and stupid stuff our mates have entertained us with. These moments in time have not been shared with the rest of RAEME through 'our' magazine *The Craftsman*.

This lack of material may be put down to lack of time, lack of interest or the fact that everything that you have written in the past has been altered, edited, or cut by those more senior than you. This over the top editing posture that has been adopted on some articles has changed the view of some of our budding authors to the point of "Why bother, its only going to be re-written anyway".

At the end of the day it is *your* stories, *your* photos' and most importantly your magazine. The proof reading of the articles should be the truth according to you. As you know there is only 10% truth to a good story. Your stories should then by run by the custodians of the customs and traditions of the Corps, the Sergeants. RAEME junior and senior NCO's should have the language and writing skills as well as judgement to ensure that the content of the article will not cause a black eye to form on the reputation of the WKSP, the Corps or the Army. Additionally these stand-up men and women should have a sense of humour dry and experienced enough to help authors get their story across in the tone it was meant to be told.

In closing, all you boys and girls out there start writing about your WKSP stuff-ups, achievements and day to day happenings. Junior and Senior NCO's help them out by using your skills as an educated leader and a former Craftie and stand up at the end of the day and say "This is fit for print". The unit editorial process should end with you. When this starts happening we should see the Craftie look like a magazine rather then a pamphlet.

ARTE ET MARTE

CPL Mick Gordon

The following poem was discovered recently by LTCOL (Rtd) A.G. Higgins as he was cleaning out some old cupboards. LTCOL Higgins was a member of the 1/53. Armament Artificers Course at the time of the ill fated expedition.

The Legion of the Lost

The Arm Arts went out in the morning,
In charge of a bloke called "Traj"'
They went with the express intention
Of securing their "Pathfinder's Badge".

They left just after the sun had risen,
All keyed up and brimful of verve,
They did not take heed of the weather,
But they did of their good guide Merv.

Now Merv was one of those bright lads,
Who'd reach his goal at all cost,
But in spite of the aid of the party,
He went and got himself lost.

To make matters worse it began raining,
And by ten they were wet to the hide,
Not a sole had taken a greatcoat,
But that did not dampen their pride.

On and on they plodded,
Up hill, over creek and down dale,
Through scrub, over bolder and around tree,
The compasses, they knew, couldn't fail.

They were due at the RV about four,
But not a sign of it could they see,
So up spoke brave little Mervie,
"Boys, you're lost – leave this to me.

"Leave it to you", said one, dark and handsome,
"All you Staff .....ds are the same,
"You bring us out here to play scouts,
"Then tell us WE are to blame."

Poor Merv was beside himself with anxiety,
As darkness had begun to fall,
And the other blokes at the RV,
Couldn't understand it at all.

The country was dangerous at night-time,
What with blacks, roos, cliffs and rain,
They decided to stop where they were,
And in the morning, try again.

By this time they were not happy,
No tea, wet smokes, and no beer,
They decided to build a big bonfire,
To scare away spirits and fear.

Now "Trag", being a born leader,
Thought it best to go home and report,
So he jumped in his Vauxhall jalopy.
And sped like the wind for the fort.

He hadn't gone far from the RV,
When he struck a patch of wet sand,
And went right down to his back axles,
With not a soul to lend a hand.

He pushed, he sweated and he swore like hell,
He tried this and he tried that to no avail,
Until nigh on FIVE hours later,
He got out, and again hit the trail.

He arrived at the fort wet and fuming,
Reported the party's sad plight,
Said "as its stopped raining and not windy,
"They would spend a comfortable night.

Orders were given to draw stores and hot meals,
And hie themselves back at all cost,
Taking pistols and flares and lanterns and things,
To help search for the party that was lost.

No news was forthcoming at break of next day,
And worry was certainly rife,
Not for the safety of the party that was lost,
But good kind Merv was in strife.

The legion of the lost have found their way home
And glad to return to
They're proud to belong to the Arm Atrs Course,
It takes good staff work to get LOST.

Written by WO1 Tich Fleet, Elec Wing, RTC

1/53 Armament Artificers Course,
RTC, Ingleburn, NSW
Notes:
TRAG was CAPT TRAGEDY Thomas, OC Corps Trg Wing, RTC
MERV – WO2 Mervyn Putland, Corps Trg Wing
"ONE DARK AND HANDSOME" was WO1 David (Scholar) Watkinson (ART candidate from RTC Elec Wing)

Bed-Check Charlie

I have this morning viewed an episode of M.A.S.H in my almost compete collection of the M.A.S.H series of C.Ds, in which' **5 O'clock Charlie'**, a North Korean single winged, backfiring engined, plane flown by an independent person who would seek out a target close to the Chinese border and throw a bomb out of his open cockpit. With the plane wobbling about and spluttering he would then head back over the Yalu. We called him **'Bed-check Charlie'** as he made his sorties toward the end of twilight. At about two thundered feet he was plainly visible from the ground but we were under a blanket of darkness. Charlie on his first pass over us never did anything. He would then turn his motor off and glide back down to our bivouac area just off the road. The rush of wind through his strut wires made a swishing sound and when about over the middle of our encampment call out "Is there anyone down there". No one answered but he dropped the bomb anyway. No damage occurred anywhere.

Another time I was on a rise watching a Yank convoy returning from a U.S Division which was up near the Yalu River **Charlie** came down from the rear of the convoy and was leaning over the side of the two seater monoplane firing his BURP gun into the convoy and to this day, the drivers being Afro-Americans, the whites of the drivers eyes showed brighter through the windscreen than the headlights. Though the U.S Army vehicles were speed governed, supposedly, the speed of vehicles increased so fast giving belief to the fact that said governors had been removed for such a situation.

Some Bods wanted to shoot him down but the majority were against it as **Charlie** was an amusement to us all. How did **Charlie** pin point our Battalion? On guard one night I patrolled the perimeter and I discovered at each corner was a twenty centimetre mud conical shaped hollow form with a glowing ember inside.

After Pakchon I had my third term in a M.A.S.H and told the experience we had with Charlie. Perhaps someone brought it to the attention of M.A.S.H directors and so the parody of M.A.S.H. – M.AS.H series, terrific humour, and reality – the actors should all get Oscars.

C.W. Hill
3 Rd Intake Apprentice

Thanks for the Memories

Dear Sir,
I hope you do not mind me writing to you. My son Major Wayne (Shorty) Langford (now posted to Latchford Bks from Adelaide) brought me home a copy of the Craftsman. It brought back a lot of memories to me. I started my Army life at Bandiana. I met my late husband in 1949. I married CFN Laurie (sparks) Langford in 1950. We had a wonderful life at Bandi. We had to convert our Nissan Hut (which was in A block near the Post Office) at weekends. This took time and a few cartons of ?? We moved in 1950. It was to be our home for 7 years. I had 3 boys. Our past time was occupied with our rugby team in group 13. We had players from all codes of the corps. Jack Walmsley, Kevin Coffee, Neil Sims and Peter (Bertie) Bourke to name a few. Laurie was the hooker. We had the picture theatre which is still there. Also other pastimes of a weekend was to get a taxi go to the Stump (Perry's) collect a keg put it in the boot and drive to different members places. We even held a motor cycle prix on a track at 3 sub Depot. There was a kindergarten for our kids to attend. So you see we had lots of fun without TV etc. In 1953-54 Laurie served in Korea, I am a war widow. In 1957 Laurie was posted to Broadmeadows, 3 Base Wksp and made Sergeant. He became known as the Iggle.

When we arrived there, there were two messes – one for RAEME and one for C.O.D and in 1958 the messes combined.

Laurie retired in 1963 and went to work for Ansett Airlines and retired in 1987. He was made a life member of the Broadmeadows SGT Mess in May 1988. Laurie passed away on 2 September 1992.

Thank you for the memories
Yours sincerely,
Norma Langford

Pandanus Park 2006

Since early 2000, a group of Vietnam veterans, headed by Major Les Hiddins of Bush Tucker Man fame, have been trying to establish a War Veterans Retreat in Far North Queensland.

It is located at Kalpowar Station, next to Lakefield National Park and along the Normanby River.

Project Pandanus Park has been gathering momentum and each year saw more and more people attending Vietnam Veterans Day on the18th August. In 2003 a Memorial was built and consecrated by Father John Newman. Each year saw more RAEME personnel and this year 2006.

For the 40th Anniversary of LONG TAN we saw 15 ex RAEME personnel and some wives and partners. If you like camping or caravanning, then this is the place, for any veteran and his wife or partner, to come and chill out.

This is 5 Star bush camping. What you bring in, you take out and the only things you leave behind are your footprints. Check out the website www.veteransanctuary.@tripod. Or just type in Pandanus Park in Google Australia. You can spend hours reading about the struggles with the Queensland Government, reading accounts from people who went to Pandanus, see photos etc.

Although it was initiated by Vietnam Veterans, it is intended for all veterans and it is hoped that you young RAEME fellows, who have been, or still are, in East Timor, Iraq and any other War zone the Government has, or will send you, will avail yourselves of this "Healing Place ".

Fred Greenway

Back Row: Laurie O'Dwyer, 1 ALSG Wksp Det, 101 Fd Wksp, 65/66, Laurie's partner Ginger, Fred Greenway, 1 Div Int Unit, 68/69, Matt Lawson ,106 Fd Wksp, 69/70, Matt's wife Val
Centre Row: Ian Rowe, 1 Div S&T Wksp, 67/68, Bev Shay, with her husband John Shay, 4 RAR, Raeme att, Geoff Engelby, 161 Ind Recce Flt, 67/68, and his wife Trish in front, Kevin and Mrs Steele, 161 Ind Recce Flt, 66/67, Doc Cairns, 161 Ind Recce Flt, Ian Hogan, 1 Div S&T Wksp, 67/68, Ray Eacott, Det 1 Div S&T Wksp/5 Coy Raasc Wksp, 68/69, Jim McFarlane and dog, A Sqn 3 Cav Regt LAD, 66/67
Kneeling in front: Jeff Clarke, 161 Ind Recce Flt, 66/67, Peter Crampton, 1 Fd Eng Sqn Wksp, 70/71, Garry Holmes, 106 Fd Wksp 67, 2 RAR Raeme att 68.
Olds and Bolds doing it tough in Kalpowar, North Queensland

ARTICLE

Bushmaster fitted with Protected Weapon Station in Iraq

INFANTRY MOBILITY VEHICLE PROTECTED WEAPON SYSTEM RAPID ACQUISITION AND INTRODUCTION INTO SERVICE IN THE MEAO

The protection level of the Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle (IMV) was enhanced through the rapid acquisition of 44 Protected Weapon Systems (PWS), utilising the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS). The primary focus of the rapid acquisition was to support the operations of the Overwatch Battle Group West (OBG-W) and the Reconstruction Taskforce (RTF) in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO).

The PWS incorporates a colour day camera with a thermal imaging camera to enable 24 hour, all weather operations. The PWS is equipped with a laser range finder, is fully stabilised and is fitted with a 7.62mm MAG 58 machine gun. In capability terms, the PWS (CROWS) is the world leading remote weapons system. The PWS allows the crew to operate the machine gun and sensors from behind the protection of the armoured hull of the Bushmaster.

In July 2006, Project Bushranger (Defence Materiel Organisation) was directed to conduct a rapid acquisition of 44 PWS, integrate them into the IMV by December 2006 and sustain them until at least the end of 2008. After conducting a Market Survey (with Thales Australia as the Original Equipment Manufacturer of the IMV) and source evaluation activities, the CROWS was selected for the PWS Rapid Acquisition.

Thales Australia were requested to conduct a Market Survey of available Military off the Shelf (MOTS) PWS, in its role as the IMV Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and Design Authority (DA). Thales Australia submitted their assessment, together with all supporting documentation, to the Bushranger Project Office. Assistance in selecting the most suitable system was provided by feedback from soldiers using other remote weapons systems. The Bushranger Project Office evaluated the proposals and the CROWS was selected.

The PWS is produced by an Australian company, Electro Optic Systems (EOS). Up to 50% of the components of the PWS are produced in Queanbeyan under a technology sharing arrangement with the United States. This system was developed for the US Army CROWS program over the past 6 years and is presently employed by the US Army on operations. The weapon system was purchased and integrated through Thales Australia. Thales Australia will also be supporting the capability in concert with EOS.

In order to meet the tight timeframes of the rapid acquisition, Project Bushranger implemented the fastest possible method of delivering the PWS capability from industry to Army. The first PWS were delivered in Australia in November 2006 for the conduct of technical certification and train-the-trainer activities. A Defence Materiel Organisation-led nine member Introduction Into Service (IIS) Team was assembled to conduct IIS for OBG-W and RTF in the MEAO commencing in January 2007. Key Introduction into Service activities in the MEAO was the installation of the PWS and conduct of formal training. Formal training in-theatre was provided for PWS operators and maintainers in separate five day courses. Familiarisation training was provided to other vehicle operators in a two day course. The IIS Team was drawn from DMO, Training and Land Command units. The RAEME participation in the PWS IIS Team was:

- Project Manager: MAJ Dave Benson (DMO)
- Maintainer Instructor/Installation Team Leader:

Fitting the First PWS in the MEAO

SGT Mark Jones (ALTC)

- Installation Team: CPL Warren Conley (7 CSSB) and CPL Andreas Hofmann (6 RAR).

During the conduct of IIS in the MEAO, 35 PWS were installed. Each installation required the removal of the existing gun ring from the IMV and replacing it with the CROWS gimbal. In the cabin, the key elements to be installed were the screen, switch panel, controller (joystick) and processors. The installation of the PWS had an ERT of 8 hours with a crew of three (1 x TESG, 1 x IMV qualified VM and 1 x Fitter Armourer). In practicality, the ART for installation varied from between six and twelve hours depending on a variety of factors.

Over the course of IIS training in Iraq and Afghanistan, the following throughput of trainees was achieved:

- 37 IMV Drivers completed the PWS Driver Aspects Course
- 45 IMV Operators/Supervisors completed the PWS Commander's Course
- 3 RAAC or RAInf Gunnery Instructors completed the PWS TTO's Course
- 11 RAEME tradesmen completed the PWS Maintainer's Course.

The primary audience for the PWS Maintainer's Course and the trade qualified to perform maintenance on the PWS was ECN 421/ECN 422, however to improve knowledge (particularly in the area of installation and removal of the PWS), ECN 229 and 146 students participated in the Maintainer's Course.

The soldiers are providing extremely positive feedback on the PWS, with the enhanced capabilities of the upgraded IMV being incorporated into combat team Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs).

The PWS Rapid Acquisition provided an excellent opportunity to deliver a world leading technical capability to Australian soldiers on operations. The success of the endeavour is largely due to the hard work of personnel from DMO, AHQ, the units who provided personnel to the PWS IIS Team and the PWS IIS Team itself.

Upholding the finest RAEME tradition – a few hands of 500 with the Iraqi Most Wanted CIA Playing Cards during a PWS Qualifying Range Shoot

The 2007 Craftsman's Port

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the 101 FD WKSP 1957 – 2007

This year's port will be supplied by Kakadu Winery, in the Northern Territory. It is a quality Tawny Port and will have the above Plaque on the front of the label and a brief history of the 101 FD WKSP on the back.

The cost of the port will be $20.00 per bottle

Please contact your local RAEME Port Rep to place your order.

To ensure delivery by the first week in November orders and money need to be in to your local reps by 22 September 2007.

Region / Unit	Name	EMail / Phone No
AWMA	LT Badcock B.	barbie-anne.badcock@defence.gov.au/0424 130 368
3 CSR	LCPL Kelly S.	scott.kelly2@defence.gov.au/07 4771 6959
JLU (NQ)	W01 Airey P.	peter.airey@defence.gov.au/07 4771 9804
RAMS (Oakey)	W02 Heaney M.	michael.heaney1@defence.gov.au/07 4691 7622
102 Fd Wksp	SGT Herodes G.	guido.herodes@defence.gov.au/07 4771 7562
Canberra Region	SGT Loadsman G.	gregory.loadsman@defence.gov.au/02 6265 9227

ARTICLE

ARMY'S TECHNICAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

A SPEED HUMP TO PROGRESS OR SOUND POLICY FOR A WELL MAINTAINED ARMY?

By CAPT John Bouloukos

Introduction

Over the last five years Army's Technical Regulatory Framework (TRF) has been implemented from its pilot implementation in 1 Bde during 2001 to becoming a more mature system with specific TRF training have commenced within TC-A throughout 2005. During this time there have been many comments about the TRF both positive and negative; the negative comments generally caused by a lack of understanding or a miss conception in the policy. This can be attributed to the large and timely process of implementing the TRF into Army and the wider ADO, as well as the gap in time taken to develop the specific training to support it.

Purpose

The purpose of this article is to share the experiences of the author in working closely with the TRF since its pilot implementation and attempt to highlight some of its benefits, predominantly to the Corps of RAEME.

Background

During the 1990s Army went through a number of reform programs and as a result there was an erosion in the technical control mechanisms used to ensure that Army's materiel was effectively managed, ensuring safety to all and that the materiel was available for any likely tasks. After a series of fatal accidents (notably HMAS WESTRALIA), the CDF and secretary mandated a requirement to mange the technical integrity of Defence materiel and Army's TRF was born.

The vast majority of the policy that underpins the TRF is not new, in fact a lot of it existed in various forms, in a large number of different documents, managed by different agencies. The Technical Regulation of Army Materiel Manual (TRAMM) consolidates the policy into one authoritative reference point. The TRAMM is not intended to give all the detail, it lists mandated requirements and requires personnel to access and comply with more specific references such as operator handbooks or EMEIs. The point here is that the TRAMM is only a small part that makes up the entire TRF system, which on the whole, is not new!

The article focuses almost entirely on the TRF in operation within Land Command Units and will be split into two parts, based on the largest sections of the TRF, Maintenance and Engineering Design.

Part 1: Maintenance Processes

Maintenance Processes – Operator Maintenance

In Land Command units the TRF impacts most on maintenance processes and it is here where the TRF provides the most benefit to all equipment operators and RAEME personnel. Maintenance is an all-encompassing term, which is split into two parts technical and non-technical or operator maintenance. RAEME elements, elements of RASig and RAAOC are responsible for technical maintenance of Army's equipment, it important here for RAEME to make a clear distinction their task is not to conduct maintenance, the Corps is responsible for the conduct of technical maintenance on the majority of land materiel.

RAEME elements should stress this fact to their dependant units, because under the TRF all operators and commanders are responsible for the conduct of all operator maintenance tasks, for their land materiel. What constitutes operator maintenance is listed in operator handbooks/manuals and or EMEIs. By ensuring the correct conduct of all operator maintenance tasks will improve the number of land materiel items available for use and should assist workshops in better managing their workloads.

Useability tags/labels are designed to ensure that operators are aware of what condition the land materiel (equipment) is in and any restrictions which apply to its use. It's another feature of the TRF where operators are provided with tools to help them to ensure the equipment is safe for use and gives them responsibility for the conduct of all operator maintenance tasks.

Maintenance Processes – Technical Maintenance

One of the greatest concerns of the TRF to the junior tradespeople is what does it all mean when they sign a job card stating they completed a technical maintenance task. Firstly it is a record to identify who completed a particular task and that the task was completed in accordance with the approved reference

(generally EMEIs). As long as the task was completed as per the reference and only authorised parts (sourced through SDSS) used, a tradesperson has no need to be concerned with liability in the unfortunate and unlikely event of an accident.

Where tradespeople believe that technical maintenance references are incomplete or information is missing it is important to raise a RODUM; to have the DMO investigate the issue and release updated references that comply with the TRF.

RAEME as a Corps, must be pro-active and ensure the RODUM system is used to improve not just our equipment, but also the references used daily to perform technical maintenance in accordance with the TRF.

Part 2: Local Engineering Change Management Process

The TRF mandates a detailed process to be used in order to manage the Engineering Change Process (ECP), in particular, the extensive process required to develop, approve and implement local engineering changes (local mods).

Originally the author was a firm believer in a workshops ability to complete local mods as quickly as possible to achieve a task or improve a units equipment to best meet their needs. Since working more closely with the TRF, and getting a better insight into the implications of such practices, local mods should be developed with caution, unless there is an extremely urgent operational need (this does not imply exercises, although to train in such practices is a necessary requirement).

Engineering Changes – Effects on Equipment

The reason for this change in-heart stems from the point that the unit only manages the equipment held on account; the entitlement is only for an equipment type, not a particular ARN. By making local mods, the equipment is changed and workloads increase if the National Fleet Manger (NFM) wants to rotate the fleet or if the equipment is damaged, requiring major repairs and is replaced by repair pool holdings (which will not be modified). Before any replacement of equipment can occur, all local designs must be removed and the unit must decide if the removed design is to be fitted to the replaced equipment, a considerable burden on any workshop.

Local mods also mean that personnel moving between units, each with different mods on the same equipment type, will need to become familiar with the designs and their impacts on operator maintenance and equipment operations.

In general local designs can have the potential to cause major problems as people are unfamiliar with unit specific local designs, possible impacts on the operation of the equipment and or the need for the supporting workshop to manage their workloads including the need to reverse the mods.

Engineering Changes – Time Costs

So far the discussion has focused on the effects of local designs on workloads and the operation/build standard of the equipment. This is not the only rationale why local designs should not be developed by individual units. When considering design work, most people rarely consider the time it takes for a tradesperson to complete the activity, which is not time spent on maintaining or supervising workshop activities. Additionally, costs considered usually only look at the materials, because people think that labour is 'free', when actually the time used to develop the design and manufacture the product should all be costed based on the labour figures of SDSS. In doing this it may actually prove to be cheaper for a civilian company to do the work, although the training benefit gained from developing local designs must also be considered.

Engineering Changes – The Design and Review Process

Many tradespeople are worried about the design process and what will happen to them individually, as a result of their involvement. There should be no concerns with any implications for a design, as long as the process is followed and applied correctly. To develop a design, it is simply a matter of using ones trade, technical skills and experiences to assist operators (or oneself) to develop their ideas. Beyond this the design will go through a range of reviews, by independent senior tradespeople and engineers before the design is considered for incorporation.

The final review and acceptance of a design can only be completed by an engineer, who on behalf of the Commonwealth accepts the design as being safe, fit for service and compliant to all relevant Australian Standards, including Army's TRF. In accepting the design the engineer must themselves be satisfied in the entire design process and in effect it is their design, once accepted. The final decision to actually incorporate the design into a unit's equipment fleet rests with the CO, who will make the executive decision for this.

If an authorised engineer does not accept the design, the CO can still make an executive decision to proceed with the designs incorporation. In so doing, the CO takes full responsibility and accountability for any effects or accidents that may result in the unlikely event of an accident. If another person (regardless of rank or position) decides to do their own local mod without following the process, they accept all responsibility and accountability for its effects.

In short, were there is a clear need to develop a local design within a unit, it should and can be progressed. The process can be long as a result of the numerous design review stages, ensuring the end product will not cause unintended harm or damage to the equipment or personnel and will not negatively impact on the equipment's operations. The whole process is to ensure that all members involved are not subjecting themselves or others to unnecessary risks; follow the documented process and there will be few problems encountered.

Conclusion

In summary this article has attempted to examine Army's TRF and provide comments on how it has progressed since its implementation. The key point to gain from this is that the system on a whole is not new, it's just that what once existed was either not enforced or had not been updated. By working with the TRF, accepting its place in Defence activities and using it to improve our non-technical and technical maintenance systems, Army workshops can become extremely efficient and set high standards of craftsmanship and quality of output for our dependant units.

The TRF when applied whole heartedly, incorporated with OHS and other polices, with 'common sense', will see RAEME's core role of providing maintenance (technical) and recovery support to Army achieved with the highest standard. This ensures that our outputs of repaired, serviced and or inspected equipment's are safe and ready to fight, in a timely manner.

In conclusion, Army's TRF is not a speed hump to progress, but a system that when applied with 'common sense', in a practical way, improves all maintenance activities within Army and the ADO.

THE ARMY MUSEUM BANDIANA

OC/Manager: Major Graham Docksey, OAM (02) 6055 2833
2IC/Assistant Manager: Captain Phil Craig (02) 6055 2549
Curator: Mr Neil Dailey (02) 6055 2234
Museum Shop and General Inquiries:
(02) 6055 2525 or Fax (02) 6055 2886
E-mail: bandiana.museum@defence.gov.au
www.army.gov.au/awma_mus/default.htm.
Open to the public seven days a week from 9.30am until 4pm.
Closed on Good Friday, ANZAC Day,
Christmas and Boxing Days.

Vision

The Army Museum Bandiana will provide a leading edge focus for the interpretation and public display of Australia's rich Military Heritage, with a special emphasis on the history of the Army's logistic corps.

Mission

The Army Museum Bandiana is committed to best practice in the preservation, management, storage and display of its collections in order to protect and preserve Army's heritage and to promote its history to the public.

Greetings from staff and volunteers from the Winter Wonderland of Albury and Wodonga. Did you hear we now have the Hume Freeway Bypass of Albury and Wodonga open with a link directly to Bandiana? Seeing is believing. Major Graham Docksey has recently returned from his tenth trip to Gallipoli for the ANZAC Day activities. He was disappointed however as he was not able to go hot air ballooning because it snowed, maybe next year perhaps.

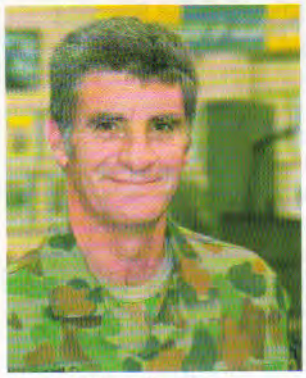
Congratulations to Warrant Officer Kym Lambert and Mr Ray (Zippy) Zeinert for their award of a Head Army History Unit Commendation in December. Both well deserved and keep up the great work fellas.

New addition: 1989 Suzuki GR650

New acquisition: 1988 Nissan Pintara

The museum shop

The shop stocks a range of Corps items including plaques, ties, thermal mugs, Corps statues, coffee cups, mouse mats, Corps history books, stubby holders, tie tacks, tie clips, Corps prints, collector tea spoons and much, much more. Give Sharon a ring on (02) 6055 2525 or check out the website.



Warrant Officer Class Two
Peter Gould
Assistant Curator
Australian Army Catering Corps

Get to know the staff: WO2 Peter Gould, AACC

Peter enlisted in the ARA in 1974 at age 20 and was hoping to continue his trade as a fitter and turner, however due to the high number of tradesmen in the Army at that time he had to make a hasty decision on an alternative trade choice, hence the Catering Corps. His reason: "My mother, who was a great cook, had taught me a lot so I decided to give it a go, a choice that continued for 25 years, most would say that I did continue my original trade, the old fitter and turner thing that other Corps are jealous of". Subsequent postings have been: 6 RAR, DSU Enoggera on promotion to Corporal, HQ 3 Task Force as the personal cook for the Commander, 8/9 RAR on promotion to SGT, Army School of Catering as an instructor, School of Armour, Army School of Transport on promotion to Warrant Officer Class Two, RMC, Melbourne Logistic Battalion, Directorate of Army Catering and Puckapunyal Logistic Battalion. In 1998 Peter secured a job with the Bandiana Logistic Group as a public servant after a very satisfying 25 years service in the AACC. Peter continued in the Inactive Reserve for a number of years until finally deciding to go Active again. I am really keen to improve the AACC display in the Army Museum Bandiana with the assistance of other staff. "This is a great place and provides a lot of job satisfaction, a relaxed place to work with really good committed people. I hope to continue for a long time to come and see and help make the displays better and better".

"I'll sign off with my Corps motto 'We Sustain'".

Get to know the staff: Mrs Sharon Lillis

Mrs Sharon Lillis
Assistant Curator General

Sharon arrived in the Albury Wodonga Military Area (AWMA) in 1991 in the initial position as steward in the RAAOC Officer's Mess at South Bandiana. In March 1993 Sharon was given the opportunity to take on a completely different role as the Accommodation Clerk for the AWMA. This was a role that over time became very challenging, yet rewarding. It was during this time that a number of APS positions became redundant with the introduction of

CSP. As her position gave her much enjoyment and satisfaction she chose to continue in the position with the new contractor. "After 10 years of allocating many, many thousands of bods to beds like everything else I suppose there came a time when it had to end". In September 2006 Sharon was given the opportunity to join the Army History Unit, Army Museum Bandiana as an Assistant Curator. "In this position I have gained so much knowledge and a real appreciation of both our past and present history. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff members including the amazing team of volunteers. Without these members and their dedication the museum wouldn't have what it has to offer to the public and Defence at this time. In closing I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for making the museum working environment a very friendly and a happy place to be".

Sharon is the first point of contact in the museum on (02) 6055 2525 and is available to provide advice with regards visits and shop items.

Opening of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway Bypass

The museum participated in the opening of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway Bypass on Sunday the 4th of March 2007 by providing eleven historic vehicles for the historic vehicle motorised parade. The bypass was opened by the Prime Minister to the applause of a very large crowd. This occasion provided another excellent opportunity to promote the museum.

Corowa Military Vehicle Gathering – 2007

The museum participated in the annual military vehicle gathering in Corowa NSW on Saturday the 17th of March 2007. The theme for this year was the Milliary Staff Car and Military Cycle. The museum provide three staff cars and four motor cycles for the Guinness Book of Records motorised parade and photograph. The museum provided the 1940 Willy's Sedan, 1959 FC Holden Sedan and the 1978 Ford LTD. This was an excellent opportunity to further promote the museum to a wide audience of military vehicle enthusiasts.

Ready to move off from the museum

Formed up waiting for the word to move

Museum staff ready to go

Part of the large vehicle and cycle gathering

Development work

The development plan is well underway with many new and refurbished displays coming on line. A total revamp of the Catering Display is presently well underway. The Medical Corps Display has been completed and work has commenced on the Dental Corps Display. A new display featuring Army Contributions less (UN sponsored deployments) since 1863 is nearing completion but is lacking small objects for the display. A major refurbishment of the vehicle display is planned to be implemented over the winter period and will take several months to complete. The historic vehicle collection has over 160 bikes, cars, trucks, heavy equipment and armoured vehicles and is growing from week to week as equipment goes out of service or is donated or collected. A new United Nations display cabinet has been constructed.

The Unknown Australian Soldier

On Remembrance Day 1993 the remains of an Unknown Australian Soldier were interned in the Australian War Memorial. The gun-carriage that was used for the memorial service is now on display in the museum.

Ceremonial Gun-carriage, limber and tractor

A new inclusion: 1953 FX Holden Utility

ARTICLE

RAEME GROUND TRADES DFRT RESULTS

By Development Group Army Logistic Training Centre

The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) is the Army Corps responsible for the maintenance, recovery and repair of the Army's aircraft, vehicles, watercraft, weapon systems and technical equipment. A review of the RAEME ground trades was presented before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) at a formal hearing in Canberra on 6th December 2006, which had been preceded by a site inspection of the RAEME ground trades hosted by 1 Bde in Darwin between 24th and 25th of October 2006.

The review only dealt with the ground trades of RAEME with consideration given to reviewing the RAEME air trades, together with the other aviation areas of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), at a later date. The three RAEME ground trades are:

- Mechanical trades consisting of the Fitter Armament category, the Mechanic Vehicle category and the Metalsmith category which merge to the Artificer Mechanical at the senior level;
- Electrical/Electronic trades consisting of the Technician Electrical category and the Technician Electronic category which merge to the Artificer Electronics at the senior level;
- Mechanic Recovery category.

The air and ground trades within the Corps of RAEME, with the exception of the Mechanic Recovery category, were last reviewed by the DFRT in 1994 as part of the RAEME trade restructure. The Mechanic Recovery category was reviewed in 2002. The 1994 and 2002 Determinations introduced multi-tiered employment categories for the RAEME trades, from Craftsman (CFN) to Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1), which recognised the incremental increase in trade related skills and competencies associated with the levels of responsibility required by personnel at each skill grade.

In 2003, the Army Logistic Training Centre conducted a trade review of the RAEME ground trades and found that significant changes had occurred for the Australian Regular Army (ARA) element of those trades since last reviewed by the DFRT. Revolutionary advances in technology, increases in personal accountability and liability in accordance with the Technical Regulatory Framework, and the requirement for lower skill grades to work with limited or no supervision, have led to a significant increase in the levels of responsibility and work value for the ARA element of the RAEME ground.

It was further identified that the Army Reserve (ARes) element could not realistically complete the required training continuum prescribed under the 1994 Determination and therefore ought to be separately addressed. The ADF case presented before the DFRT builds on the 1994 structures and addresses in a targeted fashion those aspects affected by changes since that time. The Reserve continuum has been replaced to answer genuine concerns about the achievability of trade progression, while still achieving a capability to Army. In some cases where the Reserve structure does not mirror changes identified for the Regular Army, the purpose to be achieved is the recognition of lesser skilling and a lesser role, with the direct consequence being a differentiated pay group structure, which the Reserve members will in fact be able to achieve and progress. Under the 1994 regime, Reserve members stagnated at the lower skill grades through the lack of training time to meet the necessary requirements. In that sense, the ADF case represents a natural result of the Reserve Remuneration Review case which sought to correct the historical anomaly whereby groups of Reserve received a salary discount as a result of a gap in 'skills, efficiency and professionalism,' which did not exist for the modern Reserve member capable of deploying to meet a capability need. The joint submission in that case was predicated on the concept that where there was still such a gap, account was to be taken by way of salary placement in a work value analysis, relative to the permanent force counterpart. That concept is expressed in the differentiated RAEME ground trade structures presented during the recent ADF case.

Restructuring the RAEME ground trades will ensure that they are well able to meet the Army's capability requirements into the future. The new structure is sufficiently flexible to recognise the difference in work value between the ARA and ARes elements of the trades, while providing an avenue to accommodate movement of High Readiness Reserve members to the ARA. It provides clearly defined paths that encourage personnel to pursue career progression through attaining superior trade skills and qualifications, and appropriately remunerates personnel in accordance with their levels of skill and qualification, coupled with the nature of the work they undertake.

The review of the Mechanic Recovery in this case is a follow up to the previous review in 2002. In 2003, ALTC conducted a review of the MECH RECOV category that revealed that the existing structure was appropriate for the current capability requirements of the Army. It acknowledged, however, that there was an increased requirement for the middle management level to perform tasks as Operations RAEME Warrant Officers. This resulted in the Subject Four for Warrant Officer Mechanic Recovery Manager Course to provide workshop management and project management skills. The role of the MECH RECOV has not experienced significant change in the nature of work since 2002, however, there have been major changes in the

levels of responsibility and complexity, and the training requirements, particularly at the MECH RECOV Manager Grade 2 level.

So what was submitted in the ADF case for RAEME trade structure?

The major component of the case was the ability to differentiate between ARA and Army Reserve members including a new training system for Army Reserve members in two week blocks. It has also been accepted that these members do not need to be trained to the same level as ARA members. The new system will provide Army with a RAEME Reserve soldier who is deployable within a niche capability. This new structure will offer a career path that will provide the Reserve soldier with promotion and trade course opportunities not previous available. For example; in relation to present deployments, an Army Reserve Fitter Armament could be deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan to maintain small arms and minor equipment, whilst leaving the ARA Fitter Armament to concentrate on maintaining the specialist equipment. This new structure will offer the Army Reserve soldier promotion and trade course opportunities that were not previously available.

So if there are two different skills sets, how are the different skill sets identified?

The new trade structure that the was accepted by the DFRT was through the utilisation of new Employment Category Numbers (ECN) and associated trade name that will indicate the level of training members have received and therefore their skills set/capability that can be provided to a unit's capability. As a result of the reduced training requirements and skill sets for the Army Reserve soldiers, there has been identified some pay group reductions for some trade groups as they had failed to meet with the 1994 training regime required to comply with the DFRT determination of that pay group. Those current serving members who are affected need not to worry, as there has been a grant of eight (8) years non-reduction provision (NRP). With this NRP, Army Reserve members must complete the new training courses to be qualified for the appropriate pay group. Those members transferring from the ARA to the Army Reserve will retain their ARA pay group until they have been promoted to the next rank level or have an extended period of non effective service.

The following tables show the ratified new trade structures and pay groups for RAEME ARA and Army Reserve soldiers.

Mechanical Trades

ECN	TRADE TITLE	RANK	ARA/ARES	PAY GROUP	COURSES/REMARKS
XXX-1 (Note 1)	Trade Title Grade 1 (Note 1)	CFN	ARA/ARes	3	Member with a civilian technical Certificate III recognised by the Trade Testing Authority, ASEME, ALTC
XXX-2	Trade Title Grade 2	CFN	ARA	3	Member on OJT
XXX-3	Trade Title Grade 3	CFN	ARes	4	Member who has completed ARes conversion training requirements
XXX-4	Trade Title Grade 4	CFN	ARA	4	Trade proficient member
XXX-5	Trade Title Specialist	CFN	ARA	5	Member has completed a designated specialist equipment maintenance course. (Note 2)
XXX-6	Trade Title Advanced Grade 1	CPL	ARes	4 (Note 3)	Completed Subj 2 CPL Completed ARes Subj 4 CPL
XXX-7	Trade Title Advanced Grade 2	CPL	ARA	5	Completed Subj 2 CPL Completed Subj 4 CPL
XXX-8	Trade Title Supervisor Grade 1	SGT	ARes	4 (Note 3)	Completed Subj 2 SGT Completed ARes Subj 4 SGT
XXX-9	Trade Title Supervisor Grade 2	SGT	ARA	5	Completed Subj 2 SGT Completed Subj 4 SGT

Note 1: Insert in Trade Title appropriate trade name of Fitter Armament, Mechanic Vehicle or Metalsmith.
Note 2: Only a soldier who is Grade 4 qualified/competent and has completed a specialist course will be entitled to Trade Title Specialist and pay group.
Note 3: As the ADV Grade 1 and SPV Grade 1 undertakes less training, possesses fewer qualifications and performs a narrower range of tasks than the ADV Grade 2 and SPV Grade 2. the pay group placement is Pay Group 4.

Electrical/Electronic Trades

ECN	TRADE TITLE	RANK	ARA/ARES	PAY GROUP	COURSES/REMARKS
XXX-1 (Note 1)	Trade Title Grade 1 (Note 1)	CFN	ARes	3	Member with a civilian technical Certificate III recognised by the Trade Testing Authority, ASEME, ALTC
XXX-2	Trade Title Grade 2	CFN	ARA	4	Member on OJT
XXX-3	Trade Title Grade 3	CFN	ARes	4	Member who has completed ARes conversion training requirements
XXX-4	Trade Title Grade 4	CFN	ARA	5	Trade proficient member
XXX-5	Trade Title Specialist	CFN	ARA	6	Member has completed a designated specialist equipment maintenance course. (Note 2 and Note 3)
XXX-6	Trade Title Advanced Grade 1	CPL	ARes	5 (Note 4)	Completed Subj 2 CPL Completed ARes Subj 4 CPL
XXX-7	Trade Title Advanced Grade 2	CPL	ARA	6	Completed Subj 2 CPL Completed Subj 4 CPL
XXX-8	Trade Title Supervisor Grade 1	SGT	ARes	5 (Note 4)	Completed Subj 2 SGT Completed ARes Subj 4 SGT
XXX-9	Trade Title Supervisor Grade 2	SGT	ARA	6	Completed Subj 2 SGT Completed Subj 4 SGT

Note 1: Insert in Trade Title appropriate trade name of Fitter Armament, Mechanic Vehicle or Metalsmith.
Note 2: Currently there are no specialist courses for Technician Electrical trade and as such this trade will not be specialist.
Note 3: Only a soldier who is Grade 4 qualified/competent and has completed a specialist course will be entitled to the Trade Title Specialist and pay group.
Note 4: As the ADV Grade 1 and SPV Grade 1 undertakes less training, possesses fewer qualifications and performs a narrower range of tasks than the ADV Grade 2 and SPV Grade 2, the pay group placement is Pay Group 5.

Mechanic Recovery

ECN	TRADE TITLE	RANK	ARA/ARES	PAY GROUP	COURSES/REMARKS
226-0	MECH RECOV DVR	CFN	ARA/ARes	2	Member who has completed the Basic Vehicle Driver course and being identified for a Basic Mechanic Recovery course.
226-1	MECH RECOV Grade 1	CFN	ARA/ARes	3	Member who has completed the ARA or ARes Basic Mechanic Recovery Course.
226-2	MECH RECOV Grade 2	CFN	ARA	3	Member completed OJE
226-3	MEC RECOV Specialist	CFN	ARA/ARes	4	Member who is trade proficient and completed a specialist stream.
226-4	MEC RECOV Advanced Grade 1	CPL	ARes	3 (Note 1)	Completed Subj 2 CPL Completed ARes Subj 4 CPL
226-5	MEC RECOV Advanced Grade 2	CPL	ARA	4	Completed Subj 2 CPL Completed Subj 4 CPL
226-6	MEC RECOV Supervisor Grade 1	SGT	ARes	3 (Note 1)	Completed Subj 2 SGT Completed ARes Subj 4 SGT
226-7	MEC RECOV Supervisor Grade 2	SGT (Note 2)	ARA	4 (Note 1)	Completed Subj 2 SGT Completed Subj 4 SGT
226-8	MEC RECOV MNGR Grade 1	WO2	ARes	4	Completed Subj 2 WO Completed ARes Subj 4 WO
226-9	MEC RECOV MNGR Grade 2	WO2	ARA	5	Completed Subj 2 WO Completed Subj 4 WO
226-10	MEC RECOV Operations Specialist Grade 1	WO1	ARes	(Note 3)	Not applicable
226-11	MEC RECOV Operations Specialist Grade 2	WO1	ARA	(Note 3)	Not applicable

Note 1: However, very few ARes units possess specialist equipment, and the training time involved to acquire the specialist skills precludes most ARes members from achieving specialist status. As a consequence, the requirement for MEC RECOV ADV Grade 1 and MEC RECOV SPV Grade 1 to undertake specialist training no longer applies. As the MEC RECOV ADV Grade 1 and MEC RECOV SPV Grade 1 undertakes less training, possesses fewer qualifications and performs a narrower range of tasks than the MEC RECOV ADV Grade 2 and MEC RECOV SPV Grade 2, the pay group placement is Pay Group 3.
Note 2: ARA members must have completed a specialist stream prior to being promoted to the rank of SGT.
Note 3: Remuneration IAW WO1 Graded Pay Scale.

Artificer Trades

ECN	TRADE TITLE	RANK	ARA/ARES	PAY GROUP	COURSES/REMARKS
XXX-1 (Note 1)	Trade Title Grade 1 (Note 1)	WO2	ARes	5 (Note 2)	Completed Subj 2 WO Completed ARes Sub 4 WO
XXX-2	Trade Title Grade 2	WO2	ARA	6	Completed Subj 2 WO Complted Subj 4 WO
013-1	Artificer Ground Grade 1	WO1	ARes	(Note 3)	Not applicable
013-2	Artificer Ground Grade 2	WO1	ARA	(Note 3)	Not applicable

Note 1: Insert in Trade Title appropriate trade name of Artificer Mechanical or Artificer Electronics.
Note 2: As the Grade 1 undertakes less training, possesses fewer qualifications and performs a narrower range of tasks than the Grade 2, the pay group placement is Pay Group 5.
Note 3: Remuneration IAW WO1 Graded Pay Scale.

A detailed transition plan is to be released by DPERSCAP-A providing the necessary guidance for the effective management of the smooth change from the previous DFRT determination to the current DFRT determination. If you are entitled to a pay increase it will be back dated to 14 Dec 06, the pay day after the DFRT determination was signed. You will not see any possible increase in your SVA until the DFRT determination has been entered into PACMAN, PMKeyS and verification has occurred on all RAEME trade members and their qualifications.

On behalf of the members of the Corps, RAEME Employment Category Management would like to thank all those members that assisted in achieving these results for the Corp members. In particular thank you to our Case Officer Ms Carey Burke, the Assistant Defence Force Advocate LEUT Angeline Lewis (RAN), and 101 Field Workshop Company, 1 CSSB for presenting the site inspection which enhanced the formal DFRT Hearing.

The successful outcome of the RAEME Ground Pay Case is a direct reflection of the technological advances in capability that Army has undertaken in the last 12 years and the future introduction of equipment in accordance with the Defence Capability Plan timeline. Technical complexity and quantities of equipment has and will continue to increase, along with the corporate governance responsibilities. The subsequent increase in the expectation and skills of the tradesmen of the Corps was highlighted to the DFRT and accepted without challenge.

The initiative to enable the Army Reserve (AR) soldier to provide either a total, or more specific technical capability, is seen as a significant step forward in defining the role of the AR, especially with the implementation of the Hardened and Networked Army construct.

On behalf of the HOC and members of the Corps, I pass my congratulations to the Trade Managers and the myriad of willing organisations and personnel that enabled this significant and well deserved achievement to occur. Indeed the DFRT members were impressed by the professional 'can do' attitude of the 1 Brigade soldiers that represented the Corps during the conduct of the highly insightful site visit in October.

INAUGURAL ANNUAL RAEME DINNER

24 November 2007

RAEME Association Victoria Bandiana Chapter (RAV-B)

Raeme members and partners are invited to the inaugural Rav-B Formal Dinner. A keynote speaker will be invited to address the dinner to be held at the **Albury Commercial Club on 24 November 2007**.

The dinner will be a great opportunity to come together for the many Raeme members, both serving and ex-serving who live at the spiritual home of our corps here in the Albury Wodonga area. It will also be a great excuse for members living further-a-field to re-visit their old stomping ground.

More information and tickets will be available in the near future.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary:
Mr George Reid (02) 6059 3153

- Guest speaker
- Partners
- Sumptuous Dinner
- Black tie/mess kit/coat & tie
- More to follow...

FAREWELL TO THE LAST INDEPENDENT RAEME WORKSHOP

Army Aviation Support Group Workshop

5th BASE WORKSHOP BATTALION RETITLED 01-AUG-72

OAKEY WORKSHOP BATTALION RETITLED 14-NOV-89

OAKEY LOGISTIC BATTALION RETITLED 01-DEC-93

AVIATION SUPPORT GROUP WORKSHOP RETITLED JAN-95

5th Base Workshop Battalion 1979

On 01 December 2006, the Aviation Support Group Workshop (ASGW) held it's official disbandment parade. The parade was held to coincide with the Oakey RAEME birthday activities to mark the significance of the disbandment of ASGW because it is the last remaining independent RAEME workshop in the Army. ASGW has been the home of RAEME Aircraft Technicians and engineering officers for 34 years. The disbandment of ASGW is a significant event in the history of not only Army Aviation, but indeed the Army as a whole. ASGW has for 34 years provided newly qualified RAEME aircraft technicians and engineering officers their first opportunity to put their skills to practice in support of the Army Aviation capability. The disbandment of ASGW also represents the closure of the last remaining independent RAEME Workshop. By the end of 2007, ASGW will be fully commercialised as part of the Rotary Wing Flying Training Rationalisation (RWFTR) programme.

ASGW can trace it's origins all the way back to 1962, to the days of the 16th Army Light Aircraft Squadron located at RAAF Base Amberly. As the Army aviation capability grew so did the need for maintenance support Army Aviation training and medium to heavy maintenance support for the wider capability. Consequently on 01 August 1972 the 5th Base Workshop Battalion was raised Amberley; later moving to it's current location at Oakey in 1973. The 5th Base Workshop Battalion was redesignated Oakey Workshop Battalion in November 1989, and Oakey logistics Battalion in December 1993 when it was to reflect its expanding logistics support role for the Army Aviation capability. In December 1995, the Unit was placed under command of the newly formed Headquarters Aviation Support Group (later Headquarters 16th Brigade (Aviation)) and was

Aviation Support Group Workshop in 2006

1st December 2006 Dining-in night held in Hangar C1 – ASGW

ASGW Disbandment Parade on the tarmac, Army Aviation Centre, Oakey

renamed Aviation Support Group Workshop. In it's final year ASGW remains a direct command unit of 16th Brigade(Avn) responsible for the provision of operational level maintenance support to the Army's Iroquois and Black Hawk helicopter fleets.

In 2006 ASGW supported 2325 Black Hawk flying hours with six aircraft, and 1200 Iroquois flying hours, also with six aircraft. This was in support of all Black Hawk and Iroquois training at Oakey, including technical on-the-training for tradesman, pilot conversion, regimental officer's courses, loadmaster training, continuation training – as well as Search and Rescue and Defence Aid to the Civil Community. Early in 2006 ASGW deployed a composite military and civilian Forward Repair Group as part of OP Larry Assist. In addition to supporting AAvnTC, ASGW has also provided crucial support to operational deployments across 16 Brigade (Aviation).

The disbandment Parade was reviewed by Head of Corps RAEME, BRIG David Welch and included a Kiowa and Black Hawk Flypast. A number of awards were presented and promotions carried out – including promotion to MAJ for CAPT Timothy Baker who took up command of Technical Support Squadron (TSS), 1st Aviation Regiment in 2007.

The parade concluded with the Commander LTCOL Tony Borg departing the Parade Ground on Board a Black Hawk helicopter with his family – a fitting ceremonial farewell for the last Commanding Officer of the workshop.

Following the parade, the RAEME Birthday Billy Cart Derby was held with entrants from the various RAEME detachments in and around Oakey. As is traditionally the case much skill in design and manufacture was on display at the starting grid,

and spectators were treated to a hard fought and action packed race. A team from the Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS) took out the trophy.

The ASGW disbandment activities concluded with a Dining-In night held in the ASGW aircraft hangars, attended by many key players in the Army Aviation Capability both past and present – including the Head of Helicopter Systems Division, MAJGEN Tony Fraser.

ASGW continues to provide Operational Level maintenance on Black Hawk aircraft in support of SAA, and will do so until transition to commercialisation is complete. This is expected to occur well before the end of 2007. The closure of ASGW represents a significant event in the history of the Army, RAEME and Army Aviation.

Arte et Marte

CO ASGW LTCOL Tony Borg leads the march-past

unit jottings

ALTC –SYDNEY (OJT'S)
ANZAC DAY & ON THE JOB TRAINING (SYDNEY)

I marched into ALTC Sydney at the start of the year, during which I have been to a few OJT detachments, some military some civilian. I also was involved in the Anzac march. Below I will express my feelings and opinions on both.

The first detachment was to a civilian contractor where they fit out the Police, Fire and Ambulance with all the electrical modifications. The work is like a factory, the same mods to every single vehicle. There is also a language barrier to break.

The next detachment was at 17CONST SQN. 17 is going on ACAP so I helped prepare most of the units electrical gear, so it was ready for ACAP, the work included mods on equipment, fixing faults on generators and vehicles. It is a good unit with good blokes and high morale.

The next detachment was to a civilian auto electrics workshop. There they do call outs to fix faults on site, or customers will bring there car/truck in. Auto elec work same as everywhere, fault-finding, remove/replace parts and overhauling components. Its dirty work but someone has to do it.

The next detachment was with a civilian electrician. There is a good variety of domestic electrical work, such as roughing in, fitting off, maintenance work, installation of Air conditioning units and call outs. Call outs involve faultfinding and removing/replacing accessories. The electrician was a good bloke with a lot of experience to share.

On ANZAC DAY all of the ALTC trainees and RAEME tradesmen from 17 Sig Regt and a few from other units around Holsworthy marched in the CBD of Sydney, under the RAEME flag and behind The PRINCE PHILLIP BANNER. Despite the rain and the cold, it was good to march with the colours and the banner, it is a rare occasion to march in those circumstances. Then we went to Victoria Barracks in the city and had photos with the banner party. We then went to the Bowler's Club for a buffet lunch, which they kept waiting just for us. Big crowd full of young and old, serving and ex-serving. All in all it was a good day.

In conclusion my time in Sydney has been good, ups and downs but plenty more to come. If you work with good tradesmen you will become a good tradesman, the enjoyment of work is dependant on the people around you, and happy workers are good workers, which results in happy bosses.

CFN Lyndon-Wearing
Tech Elec Trainee, ALTC-Sydney

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TROOP – 1ST FIELD REGIMENT RAA

Here's the Story So Far

The year for the Troop began with the very sad news that a well liked and respected member of the troop and indeed RAEME, had passed away a few days after we entered the New Year. SGT Stephen Lowe preparing to move onto his new posting at 21 Construction Squadron Workshop and left behind his wife and children. Lowey will be sadly missed by his family and many of the RAEME brethren that had the pleasure working along side him.

This year also saw the troop endure a high turnover with many of the older members leaving for greener pastures or postings. Currently the real ASM WO2 Ian Baker is deployed on operations in Iraq and is due to return October 07. In the meantime WO2 Jim Grindrod is filling the role of ASM until Ian Baker returns from his overseas holiday and to whatever the future holds for him. The tempo throughout the year has been steadily increasing, due to the return of 105 Mdm Bty from playing infantry in Tmor, the normal mountain of support tasks (non trade) which TST seems to receive and of course the ongoing maintenance of the regiments equipment.

So what has been going on within the troop? Here's a quick run down of the shenanigans that the sections have been up to, beginning with the 'workers' of RAEME.

EME Ops/RPS

Capt Roger Dudziak heads up the TST, he keeps everyone on their toes by entering the boys in marathons etc and giving off the real playboy image with his flash as Michael Jackson Porsche (who said officers weren't rich ?) We also have ourselves a ARES officer, Lt Sean Graeff, he parades as regular as clockwork and is more than happy to complete all the jobs handed to him by the OC. Last but not least is the Ace, WO2 Jim Grindrod, who spends most of his time giving the RQ more grey hairs and increasing his blood pressure as the king roach tries to tell the brethren how to do our business and failing. The other job he totally loves is pointing out to the gunners is the finer points or equipment maintenance. For example, driver maintenance and Non Technical Inspections etc.

We also have at our disposal, CPL Taz Parker who runs the RPS/B1 store, Taz has had a very steep learning curve to endure as well as cleaning up the store due to an extended period of neglect, however with help from our drake storeman, Taz is getting on top of the problem and trust me it was a problem.....

EIR

Not only are these two characters the hardest working section of the troop (so they say) and the best looking, they also keep the troop well hydrated and nutritionally sound operating the 'non profit' brew club and run the workshop footy tipping competition. CPL Grant Phillips and his partner in crime, CPL Shane Lewis quietly plug away with all tasks/jobs given to them, no matter what they are.

VEH SECT

Headed by SGT Matt Burns the section has had a busy year dealing with the introduction of the Bushmaster fleet, the Tennex Toll run area service station out inspections and the after effects of the gunners quarantining their vehicles whilst they had their overseas holiday. Not a fun task when there was only one member of the Troop qualified to repair the Bushmaster fleet and the gunners idea of quarantining the vehicles is to park them with the windows down and walk away for 6 months.

Anyway the section have been busily chipping away at the backlog, which can be slow going when you are dealing with Harry half job CFN Karl Kuzmenko and CFN John Bowditch. However with CPL Troy Woollett hot their heels, the amount shenanigans and the production output are now on par with one another. They also have the services of two very good Drake onsite contractors to help out.

GE/GUN BAYS

SGT Mark Cederblad heads one of the busiest sections within the Troop, responsible for the service and repair of the units Hammel and M198 fleet, small arms and all other minor equipment. The section has been just managing with the lack of qualified people to do their daily job, at present, CPL Mark

TST (Minus) on top of Mt Beerwah after a maintanence run

'How good am I" Lenske is deployed to Iraq and the section Sgt is now detached to ARTC. This leaves the crafties CFN Dave Hetherington and CFN Andrew Woods to try and keep everybody happy. GE however is very fortunate to have Kenny Zache down in the gun bays looking after his babies (the Hammel fleet).

Recovery

CPL Matt Moore is the troops TRF and NTI guru, goes without saying that Moorey has had a busy year organising the troops' registers and conducting TRF audits throughout the regiment. He has also been quite busy doing a few recovery tasks on a daily basis, which has certainly allowed him to forget about his mundane and monotonous responsibilities.

The Others

Not forgetting to mention some of the other worker drones of TST, these would our ARES soldiers, these guys come in (to get tax free dollars) during the week and help to fill some of the many holes that we have with deployment of many of our members. Also we are lucky to have the services of six very good Drake contractors, Kenny Zache (yes he's still here), Jim Yarnold (yes, he's back again), Jim Adlerton, Dave Houston and Brad Hartland.

The remainder of 2007 will be taken up with unit exercises that have been planned, trying to avoid getting stabbed for the various MRE's which are being held around the area and the big one, is to come up with an excuse good enough to get you out of stint at ARTC. However it's not all doom and gloom, the Arty boys are always happy to cut the workshop away to do day trips around the SE Qld area (after non teching vehicles of course) and give us the odd early mark.

Also the opportunity to deploy overseas is always there as well at present we have two members deployed with a third member (OC) deploying in November there's always the chance.

Posted Out Members	New March Ins
CAPT Aitken (OC)	CAPT Dudziak (OC)
WO2 Batten (GE)	WO2 Grindrod (ASM)
WO2 Patman (GE)	SGT Cederbald (GE)
SGT Lowe (VEH)	SGT Burns (VEH)
SGT Schou (VEH)	CPL Woollett (VEH)
SGT Watts (REC)	CPL Moore (REC)
CPL Scott (VEH)	

5 RAR Technical Support Platoon

Tech support has hit the ground running this year with the workshop full of vehicles. In preparation for the up coming MAS (Maintenance Advisory Service) inspection on the 5th of February, the new Platoon Commander, LT Towner, had been busily guiding the platoon to be ship shape before the day arrived.

We also saw many march-in's including SGT Amiet, CPL McAlister and PTE Northcott into the RPS Section, SGT Keitaanpaa into the recovery section, CPL Hanley, CFN Middleton and CFN Hamon into EIR section and LT Stone as a SSO RAEME officer. At the end of last year we said goodbye to our ASM, WO1 Greenall and ARTWO, WO2 Hayes, who has now magically reappeared as a CAPT in 7 RAR.

The year looked like it was ramping up to be a packed one with a lot of preparations leading up to deployments in the early months. An important 'Union' innovation was suggested by our 'civvie' brethren. They claimed that they couldn't work properly unless they had a beer fridge in the workshop. For some reason the hierarchy didn't approve this important public relations advance.

In February we saw a few big things happen in Tech Support. We were still surviving after the MAS inspection early in the month. They gave us many helpful points for improvement. We always value their expertise helping us to do a better job.

We recovered five of D COY APC that 1 RAR had borrowed. Unfortunately they were all water logged from the intense rains that Townsville had recently received. As a result the carriers couldn't be started and had to be crane lifted onto trucks to be transported back up here. Surprisingly most of them started after the water was drained and a few electrical problems fixed!

In preparation for the deployment to Iraq, we saw members from 1 CSSB come over to start training with us. They are also helped us get on top of our significant workload. Tech Support was also in high demand in the Brigade at the time with EX TIGER DILEMMA, EX SOUTHERN REACH, the SIO-S course and the MST/MRE taking place in Cultana in March, April and early May. Whilst at Cultana, we provided M113 support and prepared to support ASLAVs and Bushmasters. The experiences learnt from these times were very favourable, especially to our junior members.

Tech support is also looking forward to the 5th Battalion birthday coming up in March and hope to run a function of our own in the near future.

March was a busy month for the 5 RAR. At times Tech Support's strength was reduced to below half with many away on courses and detached to the OBG(W)-3 conducting their preparations to go to Cultana and then Iraq. The remainder of Tech Support (who were now part of Battlegroup Rear) supported Charlie Company's fleet of M113's getting ready to deploy to Cultana.

CFN Brewster Tightens a track retaining bolt with a torque wrench

There was almost a 'changing of the guard' for the positions of ASM and Platoon Commander being taken over by SGT Laing and LT Stone, respectively. Those heading off in OBG(W)-3 include LT Towner, WO1 Bosworth, CPL Hanley, CPL Strid, LCPL Wakely, CFN Relton, CFN Middleton and CFN Hyatt.

And in what may be a first, RAEME can now claim an infantry battalion on the ORBAT, with MAJ Hanlon stepping up from OC Log Coy to be the Acting CO of 5 RAR for 2007.

Prose from the Sections

Veh Sect (Light B Repair) – CPL Benjamin Carthew

Veh sect where responsible for conducting repair and servicing

tasks to the Battalion's fleet of A and B veh prior to deploying on EX SOUTHERN REACH and conducting the OBG(W)3 MRE. Veh sect worked extremely hard in conjunction with members from 1 CSSB who were detached to form part of the CSST for the duration, prior to deploying, to ensure maximum equipment availability and continuity throughout the exercise. Additionally during this period, various section members were attending courses such as the M113 crew commander course, promotion courses and specific unit needs courses. At times this left the section extremely undermanned and required an increased effort and extended hours to ensure the work load was met. The section will have an equally busy schedule upon return of the deployed equipment from Cultana to ensure the effective and timely re-raising of D coy, for which the vehicles and equipment has been earmarked for. The section will also be required to attend various M113AS4 conversion courses prior to the implementation scheduled for late 2007.

Veh Sect (Light A Repair) – CPL Rod Wilkinson

As usual, the start of 2007 saw the section hit the ground running with preparation for the next rotation to Iraq on OBG 3, as well as a visit from our MAS brethren.

Due to the training commitments required for the deployment, the light "A" section is propped up predominately by the crew of civilian Manpower contractors within TSP.

These blokes do a tremendous job of maintaining the Battalion's fleet and unfortunately, are often overlooked when it comes to the praise they deserve for their professionalism and commitment.

The upcoming introduction of the new carriers has seen nearly the entire workshop nominated for driver conversion and maintenance courses later in the year, so the main aim at this point is to keep on top of the work in order to prevent a massive backlog in the future. And as stated, this could not be achieved without our civilian brothers. To the manpower boys, Andy, Pete, Kiwi Mick, Mark, Eddie (B1 Store), Dan and Michael (alias Bob), many thanks for the effort in keeping the section going.

GE Sect – CPL Raymond Perry

GE section fitters carried out inspections of all armaments for deployment to Cultana and then onto Iraq. This included the turret, .50 calibre fitments to the M113, .50 calibre gun and the F88 Steyr. All faults were repaired during the inspection of the weapons if practical, or as soon as possible there after. The fitters are continuing with inspections and repairs of weapons returning from Cultana, overseas and here in the unit lines.

The welding work so far has been minimal but enough to get keep myself reasonably busy. This has given myself time to brush up on my welding practices, as with most trades there is an amount of skill fade, if the skill is not practiced often. Especially as I spent my final two years with the British army training for a civilian future, and I trained as a domestic gas engineer with British Gas for 9 months prior to enlisting with the ADF.

As for future preparations for the upgraded vehicle M113AS4, the welding work won't change much. But the turret configuration has changed from manual to electric operation which will affect the fitter trade. There are plans to train the fitters on the new turret prior to the unit gaining the new vehicle. Sgt Laing, Acting ASM and Cpl Rieck, Acting GE Sect Comd are involved with this if more details are required. Obviously driver training for the vehicle would be of use.

SGT Laing CPL Rieck carried out the section admin from Jan 07 to now, whilst I'm finding my feet in the ADF and getting to grips with all things Australian and my return to the military life.

EIR Sect – SGT Thurgood

My section had very little to do with the preparation of the deployment. Both I and CFN Hamon were on course in Albury. The only other members are CPL Hanley and CFN Middleton who are currently in Cultana preparing for deployment. With regard to the M113AS4 training, it utilises the same comms system as the old version. I am unaware of any differences or need for training on the new vehicle.

RPS Sect

1, 2, 3, 4 engines... Check.

1, 2, 3 transmissions... Check

EMEOPS

This is EMEOPS 5RAR, we're not in right now due to courses and deployments. If you would like to leave a message the personnel on the next posting cycle might return your call

Farewells – CFN C. Gardiner

CFN Clinton Gardiner enlisted into the Army August 2003 from his home town Wagga Wagga. He completed his recruit training and was posted to 1 CSSB in Darwin where his family joined him. Clint then deployed on AMTG 2 to Iraq as a metalsmith for seven months and also posted to 5/7 RAR while on deployment.

Clint returned from Iraq and enjoyed his posting to 5/7 RAR for 12 months when he took discharge from the Army on June 2007 for his family to return back to Wagga Wagga. CFN Clinton Gardiner is a good tradesman and we wish him all the best in his new endeavour.

Compiled by LT Gary Thompson, 7RAR (On loan to 5RAR from Friday 13 Apr 07, which is slightly ominous...)

RECONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SQUADRON, TECHNICAL SUPPORT TROOP

2007 started earlier to what most of the crew from RTF2 were accustomed to, with our Christmas BRL period ending in the first week of the new year to go on exercise to Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

After a month of fun in the Tropical Queensland sun, all 21 members of the OSS TST, with ASM WO1 Nick Rees at the wheel, had started to gel together well. This was not surprising given that many of the members of the workshop had a wealth of experience within their trades and the Army in general.

At the end of the ex, Davo our resident Elecky, treated those of us who are from outside the city of the Broncos to a few nights out. Davo was recently found to be worthy of promotion but not the $10 000.00 retention bonus. It was his shout either way.

Further training and repairs on the IMVs and sundry equipment, and a massive amount of weapon inspections through the MRE at Wide Bay took us up to our pre embarkation leave, where two weeks seemed to take a lifetime. Finally we were back at Enoggera and having our final med checks, documents issued and stores supplied. A rain shower as we boarded the busses was a fitting farewell prior to leaving Brisbane International Airport on a warm Friday evening.

We were welcomed by the smiling face of CAPT Katie Jugowitz, the S1 of RTF2 and only RAEME Officer in the Task Force. Our new SSM, who is not RAEME, accompanied her. He was immediately on our case, signalling the start of a long hot summer in which there would be no beer to temper our ills.

The handover for most of the sections in the workshop consisted of a high-five from the departing workshop team as they boarded the plane we arrived on. One of the crew's first tasks was to erect a new workshop tent and move the whole shooting match a few hundred metres down the road. This was in addi-

tion to carrying out piquet's, attending briefings, fighting for the use of forklifts and platforms, preparing for an MAS visit and oh yeah, servicing the Task Force maintenance needs.

There was no time to sit on our hands after the move with plenty of EMEFIX's heading our way as the new RTF crew inspected the state of their equipment. Additionally, as the temperature rose – and did it what – air conditioners soon became the priority.

Some rapid work from the VMs gave the IMV operators from B SQN 3/4 CAV a new look at the Uruzgan country side, while those who were left at Kamp (and no that is not a spelling mistake) Holland had to be content with admiring the Dutch girls sunbaking on the roofs of the accommodation buildings. WAR IS HELL!

Curls (CPL Curley) the Recce Mech, was able to assist with his HRV in a job that was far too big for the Dutch Leopard ARVM, bringing a rolled fuel tanker back upright. Nabby (CPL McNabb) and Truey were able to "Ping" their way through helping the Netherlands's Boffins get their radios back on line after the Dutch EOD guys worked out that gravity applied to their equipment too.

Danny (SGT Unwin) was under the pump right from the word go with requests that will "just take a minute". Unfortunately without the steel that we ordered, he was left to weld dust and thin air.

Juggling half of the workshop on 15 minutes notice to move and most of the remainder on duties made it a little more difficult to achieve the required output. Oil and parts seem to have a hard time infiltrating the FOB, but what has made it in, is well under the control of SGT Tony Romkes and Stevo (PTE Stephens) in the RPS.

With four teams under his guise, Jake the Mus (SGT Donnelly) has his hands full, even when he isn't providing Casevacs for officers who are Non-Battle Casualties.

The teams are:

LAV (Dools [CPL Dooley] & Crackers [CFN Caracatsanis]),

IMV (Chalky [CFN McClarty] & Reedy [CFN Reed]),

B VEH (Jeremy [CPL Cochrane] and Clarky CFN Clarke]), and C VEH (Fingers [CPL Fealy] and Jack [CFN Murch]).

One of the more special moments was when the C-VEH crew discovered that a crushed bottle of window cleaner does not constitute a hydraulic oil leak from under the seat of the hardened cab of a Skid Steer Loader. And the Planties are being offered $25K to stay in!

The weapon and chainsaw maintenance section, headed up by Butch Cassidy (SGT Cassidy) and manned by Hutch (CPL Hutchinson) and Willy (CFN Wilson), have had a busy time with all sorts of things from fire extinguisher to 25mm gun repairs, as well as building a new armoury and holding operator's hands at the range.

With the arrival of the MAS Team shortly before ANZAC Day, the Ace's head was looking like he had spent his 26 years in the Army in the wilds of Afghanistan. Luckily for him he had his EME OPS SGT, Dog Cooney, to act as his PA; answering his phone and running errands while the Ace was ensuring he was readying himself for the inevitable pineapple that accompanies those wonderful people. The trip has only just begun!

On Saturday, 16 June 2007, 85 new officers will graduate from the Royal Military College – Duntroon (RMC-D) and will be commissioned as Lieutenants. Of these 85 graduates, six have been allocated to RAEME (pictured). For these new officers, Graduation and commissioning represents the culmination of eighteen months of training at RMC-D in Canberra and of the six, four have previous service as soldiers in various corps. This includes LT Lee Jarrett, who served as a Craftsman vehicle mechanic, and LT Matt Barnes who served as an RACT Corporal. Before they graduate, the Staff Cadets must complete several final training activities, not the least of which is a final field exercise centred on urban operations at Tin Can Bay and platoon level patrolling in close country at Canungra. The Corps welcomes our newest officers and wishes them all the best for their careers.

From left: LT Sinclair Swain (1 CSSB), LT Barbie Badcock (ASEME), LT Lee Jarrett (1 Sig Regt), LT Matt Barnes (2/14 LHR (QMI)), LT Tony Pudney (3 CSSB) and LT Lisa Shearer (1 Avn Regt)

TANKER ROLL-OVER

By Cpl C.J Curley

Kamp Holland was up to its usual tricks; hot and dusty. The Workshop was running as smooth as Afghan silk. It was Monday around 1600hrs when our Dutch neighbours came looking for some assistance with a fairly substantial problem. A tanker containing approx 40,000 litres of diesel had fallen over just within the confines of FOB Davis.

The Dutch hierarchy needed this tanker moved by the morning; the Dutch had thrown everything but the Heineken at righting the vehicle casualty. First they tried, without luck, to pull it back onto its wheels using a large forklift fitted with a winch – similar to the old LX 120. The tanker and its load weighed approx 45 tonne. Then the they brought in the big guns with their Leopard 2 ARV. It pulled and pulled, and when something finally gave, it was their winch rope with a supposed breaking strain of 120 plus tonnes. Their choice of points to connect their tackle to was, to say the least, interesting.

When all hope seemed to be fading, just like the day light, Francesko "Boogie" Bogaarts – the Dutch Recovery Mechanic – approached the RTF2 Workshop for some assistance. After a

few phone calls between the Dutch and Australian Ops and a quick recce it was decided that the Mack HRV (Heavy Recovery Vehicle) would be used to save the Dutchies day.

At 1730hrs the HRV moved the short distance to the job site, crewed by myself, CPL Curley and my trusty offsider VM CPL Nathaniel "Fingers" Fealy, to right the tanker which had already leaked about 10,000 litres of the precious fuel.

On arrival, pleasantries and ideas were exchanged. The Dutchies, who are a top bunch of blokes, were only too willing to listen and help. It was agreed that the HRV would pull the tanker back on its feet and three Dutch wreckers would act as the steadying/lowering tackle with their massive winches rated to 6.5 tonne (A reminder of Twin Boom days). The Dutch Fire fighters even lent a hand by removing some unwanted mud guards with their impressive jaws of life.

After about an hour and a half the tackle was laid out and connected to some more suitable points on the trailer. The hardest part of the set-up was getting the chains and SWR slings beneath the tanker and out the other side. I hate digging holes, but luckily my Dutch mate Pete, didn't, so after about 50 minutes of 'teams change' the hole was ready for use.

The language barrier and the differences in the way we operate caused a few nervous moments for all, so again we got together to confirm the plan and a couple of basic hand signals. Spectators were moved to a safe area and winch ropes were tensioned in readiness to begin the pull.

To the amazement of the Dutchies and the spectators, the HRV after about five minutes of winching, had the tanker safely back on its wheels. There was hand-shakes and back slapping all round. With our work complete, it was time to pack up and head home for a nice cold bottle of water. Again the Dutchies were worth their weight in Gold carrying all the heavy stuff back to the truck...Dankje Wel (thank you) boys.

All in all it was a fantastic opportunity to work with the Dutch Army and an even greater opportunity to prove the worth and display the capability of the HRV.

EESW 2006/2007

Another year has past here at ALTC / EESW and it is out with the old and in with the new and when I say old I mean OLD. We said good bye to our OC/SI EESW MAJ Alistair Rankin, although he did not go far, he ended up working as the ASEME OPSO. We also farewelled the much loved Julie Meindl. After six years of hard work and dedication to EESW, the wing will never be the same. Julie's last day at EESW ended with a ride in an ambulance, see what happens when you try to leave, your blood pressure suddenly drops you feel all dizzy and you fall over. The trainees and staff really miss her.

2006/2007 also bought a few trips for the boys, including Texas for the Land 907 project (Abram) and a few IRAQ jobs with MAS so get on the ALTC train and join the ride.

At the end of 2006, EESW was named the ASEME Champion Wing. We already knew we were, the trophy just proved it. Throughout the year we took out line honours in numerous sporting events leaving ACW and VTW to think about their 'lefty loosies and righty tighties'. It is EESW's job to retain this title and be triumphant once again.

So who's in command now? MAJ Adam Hogan OC/SI EESW, CAPT Mathew Green 2IC EESW, yes that's right a 2IC. We also have a full compliment of platoon commanders. We also welcome in WO2 Jason Sofield, WSM EESW. If you are wondering why I never farewelled the old WSM (WO2 Jason Rice) he was RAE and therefore not worthy of a mention in the RAEME Craftsman.

Well 2007 has begun and we are off to a flying start, Monday 19 Feb 07 was the official opening of the CAPT Paul Lawton Tank Instructional Facility the facility by the Defence Minister.

The swimming carnival has been and gone and with the amount of stick that OC EESW gave the other ASEME OC's, we had no choice but to be the kings of swim. It was extremely unfortunate that EESW did not win the swimming carnival; we came a very close second. I think VTW paid off the judges.

Mil Training is also under way with EESW organising an Urban Ops phase out at Wirlinga. "Where the *&^% is Wirlinga?" you say. Well it is an old village located behind the Albury Airport. It is abandoned now and it used for a variety of Urban type activities. A special thanks must go out to SGT Thomas Cross for being the brains behind the activity. So far the training has been a valuable experience for both instructors and trainees, as it is realistic, new and above all fun.

That's what has happened so far for 2007 and I know you all want to know what else is on the cards. With around 28 different courses between now and the end of the year, more Mil training, sporting carnivals and extra regimental appointments EESW staff are extremely busy. Despite how busy we are, we are all enjoying ourselves and looking forward to the remainder of the year.

Now, it's not all about the staff here at EESW we do have soldier-tradesmen (trainees) here that do require a mention. The soldiers here at EESW are smart and keen, they are required to maintain a high level of motivation and commitment while conducting trade and military training. The EESW soldiers have achieved the results that are asked of them. It has been shown time and time again that they are far superior to the other wings in ASEME.

Anyway that's enough from me because I have to take EESW staff over to ACW and VTW to read this to them. I don't think they can read!

SGT Chris Cyc
ALTC

RAM Section – LEA

The guard has changed in RAM Section, while support to projects such as Overlander and UAV have continued. Mr Daniel Yates has moved on to a civvie job in SE Queensland and MAJ Matt Shepley, after being awarded LEA Outstanding Employee 2006, has taken on the challenge of REDFIN vehicles. WO1 Roger Smith has completed his Grad Cert in Reliability Engineering and become a CMRP (Certified Maintenance and Reliability Professional) before wangling his way on to a trip to the sandpit – anything to get out of the office and away from the spreadsheets. WO2 Jason Dunn is enjoying the homework of uni study, the daily puzzle of what to put on his timesheet and the entertainment of bringing DMO engineers back down to earth with the practical issues of the field maintainers. CAPT Nick Beumer is finally in a second full year of a posting and starting to kick some goals (from inside the goal square). MAJ Andrew Kelly has arrived back from his U.S. exchange posting and is getting back in to Melbourne life with real coffee. Our newest recruit is the boss, Dr Emile Eerens, who brings a wealth of maintenance engineering experience to LEA and is already pushing forward with questions to the fleet managers. We recently said farewell to our stats, physics and electrical engineering guru Dr John Costella as he found a job in the finance world playing sharemarkets for a lot more money. That leaves us one man down for the moment as we search for someone to join this team of nerds. From RAM Section: Enjoy your time in cams and please, do your MMM data entry well, nrrrrrr. ARTE ET MARTE

MERCEDES-BENZ IN SUPPORT

Mercedes-Benz has a long and successful association with the Department of Defence supplying vehicles ranging from mobile cross-country G wagons to Unimogs and special built Actros fuel tankers. Mercedes-Benz is proud of its specialised military chassis and components that continue to play an important role in the Defence strategies of many countries around the world.

With its worldwide reputation for engineering excellence, commitment to automotive research, and its safety and advanced technological skills, Mercedes-Benz has the global resources to best meet the demands of specialised clientele.

Mobile support in every sense of the word.

Our vehicles offer excellent sustainability with an unrivalled service network, standardised parts, ease of maintenance and optimised 'whole of life' costs.

Mercedes-Benz is a key part of the DaimlerChrysler Group, one of the world's largest suppliers of military vehicles.

Mercedes-Benz

Phone 61 3 9566 9266
DaimlerChrysler Australia/Pacific Pty. Ltd.
Lexia Place, Mulgrave Victoria 3170 Australia

The complete family

MAN offers an entire family of 4x4, 6x6 and 8x8 military vehicles

A class of their own.

MAN millitary's versatile range offers a vehicle for every task.
With options for adaptive armour kits, weapon mounts, load handling systems and a high degree of commonality across the fleet,
MAN really is the driving force.

Tel: +61 2 6282 3211
Fax: +61 2 6282 9863
media@manmilitary.com.au
www.manmilitary.com.au

done... ByFriday FKD47

MAN