

# FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



## AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Editor

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Brian Holmes	Ph: (08) 8362 3216
John Howard	Ph: (08) 8445 2425
Bob Killoran	Ph: 0412 060 315
Greg Rosser	Ph: 0423 715 464

<b>RAEME National Network - Rep</b>	Richard Moyses
<b>Membership Member</b>	Bob Matthew
<b>Merchandising Member</b>	Bob Killoran
<b>Association Historian</b>	John Howard
<b>Website Coordinator</b>	Bob Matthew

#### Support Team

<b>Auditor</b>	Gary Nicolescu JLU (South)
<b>Assistant Website Coordinator</b>	Grant Kuchel

#### Patron

Honorary COLCOMDT - Central Region:-  
COL David Cocker

### AEME/RAEME Association of SA Inc.

#### Web Site ([www.sa.raeme.org.au](http://www.sa.raeme.org.au))

Webmaster - WO1 Dean Ellis  
e-mail - [jeddell@exemail.com.au](mailto:jeddell@exemail.com.au)

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### **RAEME National Association update.**

In the later part of 2017 a proposal was put forward to restructure the RNA into a simpler network of all RAEME Associations to facilitate improved communication and coordination. The new structure has been supported by our Association and will only require a set of guidelines, for all to operate within.

The new operating name is known as the RAEME National Network (RNN) and would draw a representative from each State/Territory Association. At this stage, I will represent South Australia.

The RNN will be managed by the group of representatives, one of whom would act as the Coordinator, known as the RAEME National Network Coordinator (RNNC). Alex Smithers has been elected as Coordinator in this new Network.

The current RAEME National Website and Facebook will be maintained and amended to meet the new guidelines when adopted. The aim of the RNN is to support all members of RAEME past and present and to assist, when requested, the State/Territory Associations and HOC organisation through the SO2 Corps.

**MAJ R Moyses**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the first newsletter for 2018. I trust this newsletter finds you well and in good health. It seems not long ago that we were celebrating our Corps 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday and getting ready for Christmas, but that was over 2

months ago and time has certainly moved on. The heat in SA over the past month or so has been relentless but hopefully we are heading for milder weather.

The AGM was attended by a small number of members and followed by the Birthday activity which was very well attended.

The highlight of the AGM was certainly the awarding of Life Membership to our Secretary Don Harvy and myself. Grant Kuchel had done a great job concealing the plan and working with other members of the committee to make these awards possible. Don and I are both very grateful and humbled by this recognition.

The Association committee has been largely unchanged for a few years and late last year we had a resignation by our Treasurer, Tony Harriden. Tony resigned due to him and his wife gaining employment overseas. I thank Tony for his work and efforts during his time on the committee and wish him and Kerry all the best for the future.

This vacant Treasurer position was up for grabs during the AGM when all Office Bearer positions are open for

new volunteers. Surprisingly there were no new nominations and it was decided that our Membership Member, Bob Matthew will now wear 2 hats and perform the Treasurer role too. Thanks Bob, this is greatly appreciated.

As always, we would welcome new members to the committee as fresh ideas will make for positive change and perhaps provide new opportunities for the Association. The committee remains committed to the wellbeing and future viability of the Association and I thank all involved for their dedication.

During the afternoon our Colonel Commandant, COL Cocker announced the recipients of the Association sponsored Soldier of the Year Awards. More details on the winners are contained in this newsletter.

We recently held our first committee meeting for 2018 and have decided to introduce a few changes to our activities. The main change will be the venue for our ANZAC Function which is to be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. This year the function is to be held at the Plympton Glenelg RSL on Marion Road Plympton. This change is for a couple of reasons and we are confident the venue will be very suitable, and members will enjoy the change. More details on events are contained in the newsletter.

As the year progresses we will keep you updated on activities and I look forward to catching up with as many members as possible during the year and wish everyone all the very best for 2018.

Arte et Marte  
Richard Moyses  
President



## Congratulations



### 2017 National Craftsman of the Year

The complete results of the winners of the National and State Craftsman of the Year awards (ARA and GRes) have not yet been received and will be included in the first edition of the Newsletter after they have been received.

We have been unofficially advised the ARA CofY (SA) is CFN Simcocks from 7 RAR. *Congratulations. Ed.*

### 2017 Soldiers of the Year

**ARA - CFN Matthew Conroy**, Vehicle Mechanic,  
CSS Battery, 16 ALR

**GRES - CFN Justin Millard**, Vehicle Mechanic,  
Wksp Coy, 9 CSSB

*COL David Cocker and MAJ  
Richard Moyses presenting the  
GRes SofY award to CFN Millard*



### 2017 Best Overall Cadet at 43 ACU

**Cadet LCPL Emily McDonald.**

The Best Overall Cadet Trophy was presented by CAPT (AAC) Alister McCallum, OC 43 Army Cadet unit and Cadet Under Officer Cameron Horsell, Company Commander 43 ACU (see Page 11)

# AEME/RAEME Association of SA DIARY DATES 2018

<u>Activity/Function</u>	<u>Date</u>
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
- RAEME Luncheon (Avoca Hotel)	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
- Committee of Management Meeting	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April
- 2018 RAEME Mixed ANZAC Reunion – Plympton/Glenelg RSL	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April
- 2018 ANZAC Day March	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
- RAEME and other Log Association's Combined Function	TBA
- Committee of Management Meeting	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
- 2018 RAEME Formal Dinner (Mixed and All Ranks)	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> August
- RAEME Luncheon (Avoca Hotel)	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
- Committee of Management Meeting	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September
- Annual General Meeting	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
- RAEME Birthday Family Function	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December

## Allied Military Association Functions

- Defence Reserves Association of SA - AGM	TBA
- Keswick Museum History Week Lunch (See April edition)	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May



***NONE REPORTED in SA***



<p>• <b>McKEOWN</b>, Jim Passed away 1 Jun 17</p> <p>• <b>ROSS</b>, Mick 102 Fd Wksp in 1967-1968 Passed away 17 Jul 17</p> <p>• <b>LEWIS</b>, Leigh 102 Fd Wksp - Vietnam Passed away on Friday 28 Jul 17</p>	<p>• <b>JONES</b>, Ed Passed away 13 Aug 17</p> <p>• <b>ZACNY</b>, 'Zac' Jurgen, Passed away 24 Sept 17</p> <p>• <b>HAYES</b>, Arthur (Lofty) Passed away 23 Nov 17</p> <p>• <b>FARRAR</b>, Mick 17th Intake VM 17 Construction Sqn 1966 Passed Away 21 Dec 17</p>	<p>• <b>TOBIN</b>, Les Served with 9th Battalion Passed Away 5 Jan 18</p> <p>• <b>WO1 COOPER</b>, Brian (Roughy) OAM 9th Intake VM ASM 113 Fd Wksp Passed Away 20 Jan 18</p>
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## VALE – Lest We Forget

**Online lists of recent RAEME members Deaths and Illnesses are always available at:**

<http://www.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-alt>

<http://www.sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-report>

## **Membership Renewal**

***Is your Membership up for Renewal??????***

*Fee payment can be made to Bob Matthew (0409 962 208).*

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW HEAD OF CORPS BRIG ANDREW FREEMAN



Brigadier Freeman was born on the 5th December 1967 in Rockhampton, Queensland. He attended Yeppoon State High School before enlisting in the Australian Army on the 7th January 1985 as an Electrical Fitter Apprentice. On completion of his apprenticeship he attended the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1990. Upon graduating to the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1991, he attended Long Term School in the UK studying Aircraft Engineering.

Over the past 32 years Brigadier Freeman has gained extensive command, operations, personnel management, logistics, Army Aviation and staff work experience, having been appointed as Deputy Assistant Adjutant Quartermaster (DQ) Headquarters 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Staff Officer Grade One Logistics Headquarters 16th Aviation Brigade, Commanding Officer of the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion, MA to Commander 1st Division, Director of Logistics – Army (Army G4), Director General Land (Army G3) and will assume command of 17 Combat Service Support Brigade in October 2017.

Operationally Brigadier Freeman deployed to Kuwait in 1999 with the 101st Airborne Division, East Timor in 2001/2 as a Commander of an Aviation Workshop Detachment, to Iraq in 2007/8 with the British Army as the Staff Officer Grade One Plans on their Divisional Headquarters (Basra), and to Afghanistan in 2014 for 12 months as the CJ4 Director at NATO Special Operations Component Command–Afghanistan.

Brigadier Freeman was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service in the 2016 Australia Day Honours and Awards for his contribution to the NATO's Special Operations Command in Afghanistan. Academically Brigadier Freeman is an Aircraft Engineer having studied at the School of Aeronautical Engineering – UK (1992), has a Bachelor of Social Science Degree from Southern Cross University (1998), has attended the Australian Command and Staff College (2003) and the Centre for Defence Studies (2015) achieving Masters Degrees in Defence Studies from the University of Canberra, and in Strategic Studies from Deakin University.

Brigadier Freeman is married to Jane, who is a very supportive and an understanding wife, and they have four children; identical twin girls Stephanie and Jenna (21) and two boys Ben (19) and Sam (15). Brigadier Freeman's interests include maintaining a high level of fitness, fishing, golf and socializing



## 75 years on - How have we done?



It is always good to reflect on what our predecessors have achieved, and how we should maintain their history in the face of rapid technological and social change. It is a matter of **“Reflecting on the past to maintain the future”**.

This was the theme of BRIG Smeaton's address to the Memorial Service in Bandiana, He told those present that over the next 12 months the Corps will begin discussions on how we, as a Corps, handle maintenance engineering, repair and recovery within the Army. The results of these discussions will be presented at the 2018 Corps Conference and will then be used to drive our future.

There are three main themes, or pillars that underpin the discussions over the direction of the Corps – A Unified Maintenance Concept, Professional Military Education and Reform and Reassessment of the RAEME base trades. The Unified Maintenance Concept will lay out how RAEME intends to do maintenance, which maintenance RAEME will do, and where it will be done, with the new equipment and systems such as Land400 and others. Professional Military Education will ensure that all of our Corps remains current and relevant to the ever-changing battlefield of tomorrow. Where and how will we conduct maintenance management education of our officers and soldiers? How do we adapt our new system of education to the Corps' changing needs? The Reform and Reassessment of the RAEME base trades acknowledges that we are about to receive quantities of new equipment that is technologically different from the old. This is not a new concept, but RAEME runs the risk of shoe-horning new maintenance tasks and concepts into old trade structures. This is not a conversation for those of senior rank.

*This is a conversation that we MUST have and the HOC wants all RAEME personnel to get involved from Craftsmen to Major General level.*

**WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART AND GET INVOLVED IN  
ALL DISCUSSIONS AND WORKSHOPS IN OUR AREAS**

# TWO NEW ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

At the AGM in December 2017, Grant Kuchel (our previous past President) tabled a motion that our Secretary Don Harvy be granted Life Membership because of his dedication to the association and tireless work on its behalf particularly in organising the numerous Bunnings sausage Sizzles which have put us in such a strong financial position. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by those present. Don was presented with his Life Membership certificate by LTCOL Greg Rosser (Retd) and Don's wife Raylene was presented with a bunch of flowers by Grant Kuchel.



This motion was also seconded and passed unanimously.



As MAJ Moyses wife was not present at the AGM both Life Membership Certificates and flowers were presented again at the Birthday function by our COLCOMDT COL David Cocker later in the day.



As previously agreed to by the rest of the committee, Grant then spoke about how we should do something significant for the Corps 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday and he tabled a motion to change the constitution from allowing one Life Membership appointment per year to allow two Life Membership appointments for this year only. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

He then nominated our current President (MAJ Richard Moyses) as the additional Life Member for 2017 stating that MAJ Moyses has been a long-term member of the association and has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the AEME/RAEME Association of SA and in addition had held the position of President of the RAEME National Association on behalf of our Association.





# Coming Activities

## 2018 RAEME ANZAC FUNCTION

For logistical reasons the committee has decided to move from Warradale Barracks for this year's RAEME Mixed ANZAC Reunion. The function will be held on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April** commencing at 6:00pm. The new venue will be the **Plympton-Glenelg RSL, 464 Marion Road, Plympton Park**. There is some parking on-site, but otherwise street parking is required.

The format will be similar to last year with a BBQ meal (at approximately 7.00pm) followed by a "Remembrance Ceremony" at 9:00pm.

This function is for serving and ex-serving members and their partners and friends. It will be an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and tell more "TALL Stories". A great evening was enjoyed by all last year and the committee is working very hard to make sure the new venue makes it an even better function than previous ANZAC Years.

An Invitation with all the details and a map showing the new location is included with this Newsletter and will be repeated in the April Newsletter.

**Mark the 21<sup>st</sup> April in your diary now and plan to be there!!!**

## 2018 ANZAC DAY MARCH

This year the march will be held on Wednesday 25th April and the organisers are promising "good weather". Regardless of the weather we all share a great bond as we march and then enjoy a drink afterwards



The Association will be providing relevant information to the RSL regarding our participation

in the march and we have been in contact with the march organisers who have said there will be some changes to groupings and start point locations again this year.

Full details will be available on the RSL Website ([www.rslsa.org.au](http://www.rslsa.org.au)) and in "The Signal" magazine.

**ANZAC March details will also be included in the April Newsletter.**

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

It has been decided to change the location and timings for Committee of Management Meetings. **All members are still welcome to attend.**

Meetings will now be held approximately Quarterly at the **Plympton-Glenelg RSL**, nominally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month commencing at 6.00pm. Meetings are held in April, June and September with the AGM in December.

**Please confirm location and timings if you are planning to attend as it sometimes changes.**

## RAEME LUNCHEON

The RAEME Luncheon get-togethers are held twice a year on the first Tuesday in March and September. They are open to all serving



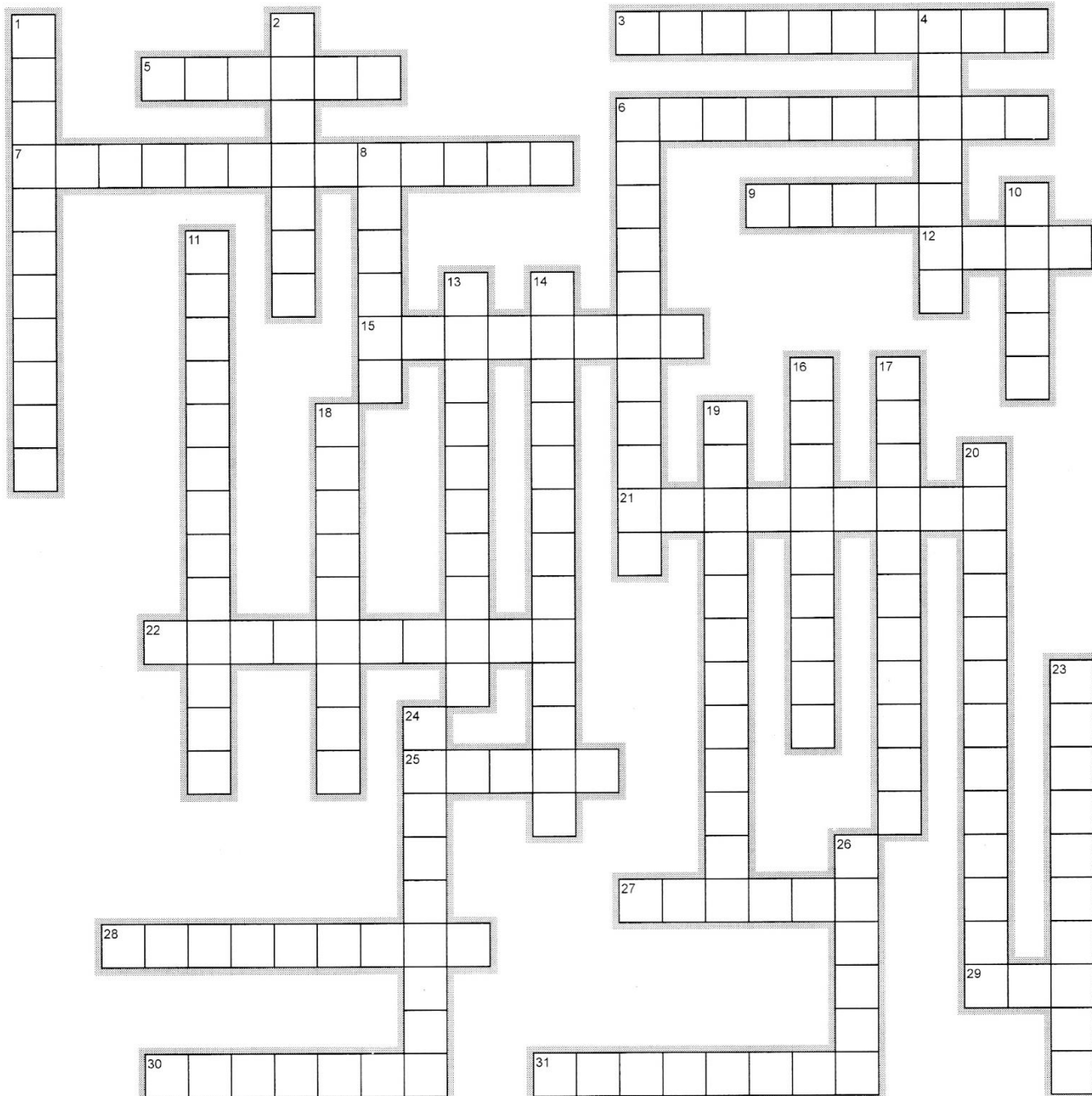
and ex-serving AEME and RAEME personnel and are now being held at the **Avoca Hotel**, 897 South Road Clarence Gardens, at 12:00pm. This Luncheon is organised by Bob Killoran.

**If anyone would like to attend, please contact Bob by phone on 0412 060 315 by the Friday before the luncheon so they can let the Hotel know how many to cater for.** If you know of others who spent time with AEME or RAEME, please let them know or bring them along.

# RAEME CROSSWORD

How well can you do

Thanks to Geoff Parker for organising this, there will be another one next edition



## Across

- 3. NOT EXPENSIVE
- 5. SELECT
- 6. BODY OF MEN ON DEPLOYMENT
- 7. UNDERSTANDING
- 9. SKY PILOT
- 12. ROCKY MARINE HAZARD
- 15. KNOWLEDGE
- 21. TREATY
- 22. A .....OF OWLS
- 25. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
- 27. YEARLY
- 28. MANUFACTURE

- 29. MOUNTING FOR A WHEEL
- 30. DISAGREEMENT
- 31. ABROAD

## Down

- 1. EXPERTS
- 2. TORRENTIAL RAINY SEASON
- 4. BEER FACTORY
- 6. EUROPEAN
- 8. BLACK MAGIC
- 10. SAILOR'S BED
- 11. GREASER
- 13. MEASURES REVS PER MINUTE
- 14. CAME AFTER THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

- 16. TEMPORARY TRUCE
- 17. GRAPE GROWING
- 18. PROTECTION FOR AUTHOR
- 19. REDRESS
- 20. MEASURES CORRECT TORQUE
- 23. ARMOURER
- 24. PROMOTING PROLONGED USE
- 26. FLOWERS

# ARA - WOODSIDE BARRACKS RAEME 2017 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

## Friday 1st December 2017

As part of the ongoing RAEME Birthday tradition, Support Coy 16 ALR challenged members of the other RAEME units in SA to participate in this year's traditional RAEME Birthday activity.

Thanks to WO2 John Prince for providing us with some details and photos of the activities.

The day is designed to;

- Promote RAEME Esprit de Corps.
- Improve tradesman skills
- Develop teamwork
- Develop unit morale
- Develop the tradesman support network



One of the many sponsor's displays



Woodside Fire Team  
Great support thanks guys



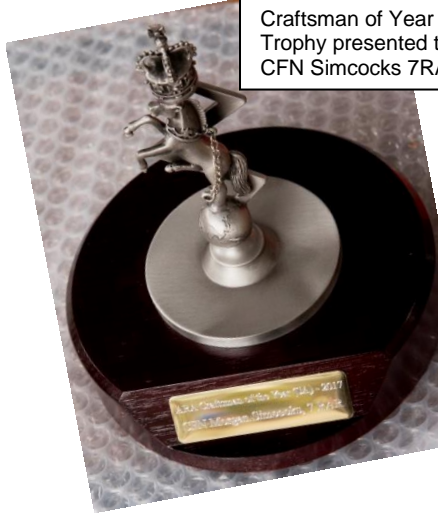
Chin-up Competition



Cutting the Birthday Cake



Iron-man Competition



Craftsman of Year ARA  
Trophy presented to  
CFN Simcocks 7RAR



Burn-out Competition



Burn-out Winner



The compulsory Tug-of-War



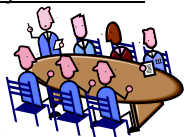


# 2017 AGM REPORT

The 2017 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the Offrs & SNCO Mess at Warradale

## Election of Office Bearers

<u>President:</u>	MAJ Richard Moyses
<u>Vice President</u>	Geoff Parker
<u>Treasurer &amp; Membership</u>	Bob Matthew
<u>Secretary</u>	Don Harvy
<u>Assistant Secretary:</u>	Judy Moyses
<u>Asst Treasurer and Editor:</u>	LTCOL Greg Rosser (Retd)
<u>Ordinary Members:</u>	Bob Killoran      Merchandising
	John Howard      Historian
	Michael Culley
	Brian Holmes
<u>Auditor</u>	Gary Nicolescu
<u>Patron &amp; Hon COLCOMDT:</u>	COL David Cocker



## Financial Statement

An audited statement was provided. Summary is as follows:

Bank Account	\$9,021 (Does not include 7 RAR Corps Fund monies)
Investment Account	\$3,381
Merchandise	\$1,698

## Major items covered include:

- Vote of thanks was given to Tony Harriden for his effort as Treasurer and Vice President. Tony has changed jobs and is no longer living in South Australia.
- The newsletter distribution by email is going well. Only 10 copies of the newsletter are distributed by post. If you hear of any members who are not receiving a copy, ask them to email the editor.
- It was agreed that we continue to financially support 43 Army Cadet Unit for the sum of \$200 for 2018.
- The AEME/RAEME Assoc. Perpetual 43 Army Cadet Unit "Best Cadet" Trophy winner for 2017 is CDTLCPL Emily McDonald. (see article on page 11)

## Other item included:

- The 75<sup>th</sup> Corps Birthday function, which was subsidised by a grant from the Corps Fund, was held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club and was voted a great success by those who attended.
- CAPT Wayne Birch spoke of his new role as Curator of the Army Museum of SA (AMOS) and his desire to set up a RAEME display and sought support and financial donation towards the project. \$250 was allocated.
- Jul 2018 celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CFN Borlace death. Geoff Parker to investigate and report back.
- John Howard presented a framed copy of a picture of the 2009 ANZAC Day March to the Association.
- It was reported that the Association Soldier of Year Awards for 2017 went to:
  - ARA - **CFN Matthew Conroy**, Vehicle Mechanic, CSS Battery 16 ALR
  - GRES - **CFN Justin Millard**, Vehicle Mechanic, Wksp Coy 9 CSSB

## 2018 Functions

- **ANZAC Function** - will be held on Saturday 21st April at the Plympton-Glenelg RSL.
- **RAEME Corps Dinner All Ranks** –to be run again in 2018. Similar venue recommended.
- **RAEME Birthday All Ranks Family Function** - similar format to the 2017 function. Date to be Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December (76<sup>th</sup> Birthday).

## 2017 Life Membership Nominations

Grant Kuchel tabled a motion that as this was a significant year for the Corps (75<sup>th</sup> Birthday) that we pass a motion to change the constitution to allow 2 Life Membership Nominations as a once off change. The motion was passed unanimously.

He then nominated the current President (MAJ Richard Moyses) and our current Secretary (Don Harvy) as Life Members stating that both members were long term members of the Association and had worked tirelessly for the betterment of the AEME/RAEME Association of SA and in addition had held the positions of President and Secretary respectively of the RAEME National Association on behalf of our Association.

The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

*Congratulations to Richard and Don from all of us. Well Deserved. (Ed)*

*Full copy of the minutes, financial statement and other attachments available on request from the Secretary.*



## From the Desk of our Colonel Commandant

*Along with BRIG McGahey, I have been giving presentations on Plan CENTAUR as it is a major initiative in regard to our future maintenance needs. I am providing this overview from BRIG McGahey for your information.*

### **Plan CENTAUR Update – Stage 2 begins.**

Following on from the success of Phase 3 Stage 1 of Plan CENTAUR, Stage 2 commenced in late August, comprising eight projects designed to deliver lasting maintenance improvements. Stage 2 projects include:

- Development of an Army Maintenance Strategy by the end of November, improving Army's ability to articulate its maintenance requirements and enhance effectiveness.

- Development of an Activity Based Equipment Management model, concentrating on Bushmaster PMV (initially), leading to improved demand forecasting and resource efficiency.
- Delivery of a Statement of Work for ASEME's new Technical Trade Contract for Army.
- Enhancement of Vulcan dashboards to include equipment demand data from ACMS to improve data-driven decision making by unit personnel.
- Review of current M1A1 maintenance practices with recommendations to improve operational availability and realise Life of Type savings.
- Productivity projects including LEAN and Productivity Enhancement Training to improve production and workshop effectiveness.



Stage 2 projects will bring rapid and substantial benefits to Army and the broader maintenance system. This new stage of the program represents the chance to deliver projects that will very quickly make an impact. Projects such as the Army Maintenance Strategy and the Activity Based Equipment Management implementation will improve maintenance system effectiveness, while Productivity Enhancement Training early next year will train Combat Brigade personnel in immediate changes to improve their maintenance planning capability.

We are firmly in the delivery phase of the program, and the CENTAUR team is keen to gain feedback from RAEME personnel – it's the future of your profession and we need your input to get it right."

CENTAUR Stage 1 concluded in June and the new Stage was approved by the Army Resourcing and Capability Management Committee that month. For more information on CENTAUR projects and to get involved, contact the team via email to [plan.centaur@defence.gov.au](mailto:plan.centaur@defence.gov.au)

Regards,

**BRIG D.F. McGahey**  
**Program Director General**  
**Plan CENTAUR**



## **43 ARMY CADET UNIT (WARRADALE)**

*Our Association has agreed to continue supporting the Warradale Cadet Unit again in 2018. The funds are used to help support the cadets in attending field activities and other military activities.*

*As part of our sponsorship the Association also set up a Perpetual Trophy which is awarded for the "Best Overall Performance" and is presented to the best cadet within the unit.*

The recipient for the 2017 Best Overall Performance Trophy was Cadet LCPL Emily McDonald. Emily excelled in her overall performance as a cadet LCPL and is a very worthy winner.

The trophy was presented by CAPT (AAC) Alister McCallum OC43ACU and CUO Cameron Horsell COYCOMD43ACU

43ACU wish to thank all AEME/RAEME Association of SA members for their continued support.

*Presentation to Cadet LCPL McDonald  
by CAPT (ACC) McCallum and CUO Horsell*



## ***Port Vincent Holiday House***



- **200km and just 2 hours away from Adelaide is a four bedroom holiday house**
- **It accommodates 8 persons in 4 bedrooms**
- **2 double beds & 4 single beds**
- **All you need to take is your linen, food & whatever you drink**
- **The town has a Hotel, IGA, Butcher, Ice Cream Parlour, Hardware, Sports Store & General Store**
- **2 Petrol Stations & auto-gas is available**
- **The Marina is available for boat mooring, launching & retrieval**
- **For further information call Trevor or Lyn on (08) 8853 7191, 0428 851 139 or 0422 162 204**

# Spanner Pack Update

## *From Ray Norman*

Late last year, several packs of magazines were sent to our soldiers on operations and reports back to me indicate that they were very pleased once again to receive them. In late October, we sent a further fifty Spanner Packs of groceries and RAEME merchandise to our RAEME Staff in the various areas of operations.

Donations to help run the program are being sought to allow the Spanner Pack team to continue sending packs to our brothers and sisters on operations with a good range of products.

Donations can be made through the RAEME Queensland website:

[www.qld.raeme.org.au](http://www.qld.raeme.org.au) where you will find a donation area. You can also contact the Operation Spanner Pack Manager at:

[rgnorman1944@gmail.com](mailto:rgnorman1944@gmail.com)



## SPANNER PACK THANKS

*Ray Norman - Spanner Pack Coordinator, received this email of appreciation:*

Classification: **NATO/RESOLUTE SUPPORT UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Ray,

Just a quick email to thank you and your team for the Spanner Packs that we recently received here in Kabul. I know all the RAEME guys here appreciated the items that they received and, perhaps as importantly, the fact that there are people back in Australia who realise we still have an enduring presence here in Afghanistan fighting to ensure the security of Afghanistan, Australia and the home nations of the broader Coalition (<https://www.rs.nato.int/default.aspx>).

As you may be aware, we have a quite number of Australians providing Training, Advise, Assist (TAA) to the Afghan Army and Police in their fight against the insurgents. What you may not be aware is that a number of us are providing this function from a log (including maintenance),

medical and ICT perspective. Indeed, the two most senior advisors to the ANA and ANP on logistic matters are both Australian military.

From a logistic perspective I think both the ANA and the ANP are doing pretty well as they have been able to sustain all six Corps of the ANA in the fight this year as well as all the Police Zones, the Afghan Air Force and the Special Forces. Winter has just started to bite with the first snow in Kabul and so the focus for us at the moment is getting the cold weather clothing, winter fuel and associated items out to all the units (using the ANA and ANP distribution networks) before the roads all close. At the same time we are stocking up the Corps and Zones with repair parts so they can reset their units over the winter period.

All the best to your committee and please pass on my thanks to all involved in preparing and distributing the Spanner Packs. As you would know from your own experiences, just the knowledge that there are people back in Australia who are proud of what is being achieved is a big deal for our team here on the ground.

Haydn Kohl  
Brigadier

*. A great effort by all. Ed*

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## Predicting the Weather

The king wanted to go fishing, and he asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours. The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain.

So the king and the queen went fishing. On the way he met a man with a fishing pole riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting. The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rain storm."

The king replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional. Besides, I pay him very high wages. He gave me a very different forecast. I trust him."

So the king continued on his way. However, in a short time a torrential rain fell from the sky. The King and Queen were totally soaked. Furious, the king returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist.

Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of royal forecaster. The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain."

So the king hired the donkey.

And thus began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government.

The practice is unbroken to this date.

*Thus, political parties were born!*

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# ASSOCIATION WARRADALE

## RAEME BIRTHDAY FAMILY FUNCTION

The 75<sup>th</sup> RAEME Corps Birthday was celebrated by Central Region RAEME personnel at Warradale Barracks on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (following the AGM). As always this was an excellent function which was very well attended. It was fantastic to see so many RAEME and REME members and their families attend and enjoy the function.

A number of members of the REME Association travelled to Warradale Barracks to join us for the function. We certainly appreciate the great relationship that exists between the two groups.



The AEME/RAEME Association of SA "Soldier of the Year" winners for 2017 were as follows:

- **ARA - CFN Matthew Conroy**, Vehicle Mechanic, CSS Battery, 16 ALR
- **GRES - CFN Justin Millard**, Vehicle Mechanic, Wksp Coy, 9 CSSB

CFN Millard was presented with his award at the Birthday function and he also had the honour of cutting the Corps Birthday cake, but unfortunately CFN Conroy was unable to be present at the Birthday function.



Another highlight of the day was the farewell presentations to two of our Federation Star recipients:

CAPT Wayne Birch  
WO2 Grant Kuchel  
(a combined service of over 90 years)

Special RAEME Corps presentations were made by our COLCOMDT COL David Cocker and consisted of certificates and a large framed corps photographs for Wayne and a statuette for Grant.



*Presentation to Wayne Birch by COL Cocker*



*Presentation to Grant Kuchel by COL Cocker and LTCOL Rosser*

As always, it was a great activity to catch up with old RAEME friends and fellow soldiers. As usual the raffles proved very popular with what seemed like almost prizes for everyone.

Our congratulations and thanks go to the organizers and the many helpers who worked so hard on the day to make the function such a success.

Some more faces you might recognise



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## A THOUGHT PROVOKING LETTER

Currently being circulated on the internet

*An open letter to pro bono legal companies*

I write on behalf of some of my peers and fellow Australians with regard to your action in pursuing compensation for the illegal immigrants on Manus Island.

These immigrants came to Australia without invitation, were rescued by our Defence personnel who put their own lives at risk, were fed and lodged at cost to Australian taxpayers and were free to return to their own country at any time. The conditions in which they lived on Manus Island are no worse than many legal immigrants who have arrived here for many years and who, in times past, lived in conditions much less well outfitted than those on Manus. They were able to communicate with anyone, anywhere in the world courtesy of the Australian people paying for the privilege of providing the internet and telephone services.

You have stolen money from all Australians, with your alleged human rights claim. We have people in our communities who are homeless, aged and sick who need assistance also. Will you provide legal aid to them free of charge and pay your own costs to represent them? I think not.

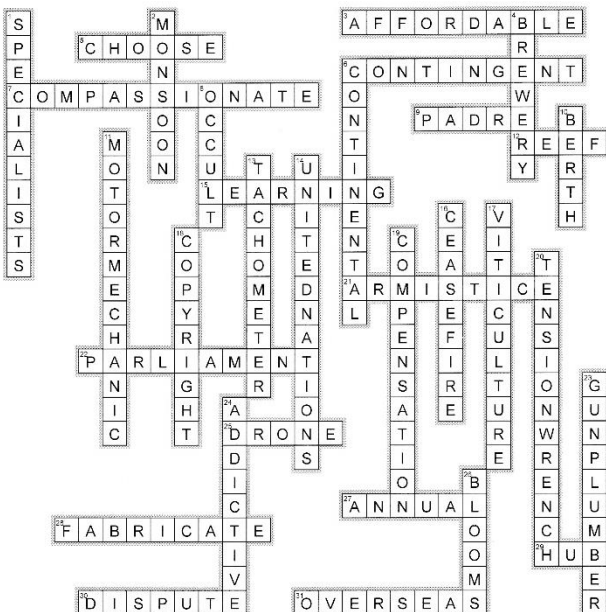
My disdain for your company and their ilk is immeasurable.

I sincerely wish that I could afford to take you to Court and that my request that every illegal on Manus pay back the cost of their rescue and board and lodging, would be granted. That will not of course happen due to the fact that people like yourself have no shame and are willing to extort monies from Australian taxpayers.

Forwarded by  
Veteran Web Network

## Crossword Results

Hope you got them all correct. *Thanks again Geoff*



## SIGNS

### ON A PLUMBER'S TRUCK:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

### ON AN ELECTRICIAN'S TRUCK

"Let us remove your shorts."

### OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

### IN A VETERINARIAN'S WAITING ROOM

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit... Stay.."

### AT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY:

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

### IN THE FRONT YARD OF A FUNERAL HOME:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Subs are due on 1 July in the year your membership is current until. If the date on the list below shows 2017, (or before) then your subs are due NOW

Subs are \$10 per year with a maximum forward payment of 5 years eg \$50 for five years.

All subs are to be forwarded to the Membership Member CPL Bob Matthew (40 Ashbourne Ave KINGSWOOD SA 5062). Please include details of your date of birth if you wish to claim the free "over 75 year rule" membership.

Contact Bob Matthew for details if you want to use Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

According to the records, the following persons are financial members of the Association:

### **Honorary Life Members**

Mike Culley, Eddy Kaminski, Bob Killoran, Grant Kuchel, David Turner, Greg Rosser, Richard Moyses, Don Harvy.

### **Current Members**

Wally Ade (2015), Milton Ahrens (2023), Frank Aldous (Over 75), Graham Amos (2019), Kurt Andersen (2016), Heath Arblaster (2013), Graham Arthy (2014), Joe Barton (Over 75), Paul Berk (2022), Wayne Birch (2018), John Black (2021), Helmut Bohn (2013), David Brand (2025), Kent Brown (2019), Shane Buckley (2017), Robert Butler (2020), Robert Castle (2019), Trevor Clerke (2020), Geoff Coat (2018), Brian Cogan (2016), Don Collins (2020), George Cooke (2016), Phillip Coppin (2017), Ian Coulter (Over 75), Brian Cowell (2020), Peter Cox (2020), George Craig (2018), Bob Davis (2021), Joe Dennis (2023), Chris Duffield (2022), Nick Ebbs (2014), Len Edwards (2008), Mick Ellis (2014), Kym Everett (2013), Andrew Ferguson (2016), Jim Fisher (2013), Brian Flavel (2019), Rodney Fletcher (2014), Jan Gancarz (2025), Charlie Gauci (2015), Bob Gell (2018), Nick Gogilis (Over 75), Steve Gough (2015), Bob Gourley (2021), Tony Gow (2015), Stephen Green (2018), Robert Hansford (2013), Anthony Harriden (2021), Arthur Hasse (2013), Norm Hay (Over 75), Greg Hay (2015), Colin Haynes (2019), Tony Hinton (2017), Brian Holmes (2020), John Howard (Over 75), Gary Howell (2018), Rodney Hussey (2013), Graham Janz (2021), Juris Jaudzems (2019), Ian Jeisman (2020), Jeff Johns (2021), Lindsay Johnson (2013), Mark Johnson (2015), Kain Neale (2017), Eric Kelly (2021), Bob King (Over 75), Geoff Kohler (2020), Colin Kuchel (2014), Alf Lee (2019), Warrick Lee (2021), Adam Leer (2013), Lou Leeuwrik (2021), Greg Lowe (2023), Chris Macintosh (2036), Tony Mackay (2019), Alan Marks (Over 75), Trevor Martin (2021), Bob Matthew (2020), Bob Mathews (2020), Fred

McInerney (2020), Buzz Meakes (2020), Jake Meaney (2016), Terry Monten (2022), Ian Moody (2016), Ron Moran (2022), Barry Naulty (2013), Kain Neale (2016), Ian Nicholls (2017), Gary Nicolescu (2020), Troy Oakes (2021), Peter Oliver (2014), Alex Oschmanns (2013), John Owen (2019), Frank Owen OAM (2018), Doug Pammenter (2017), Nick Papanikolaou (2020), Geoff Parker (2020), Trevor Parrott (Over 75), Roger Parsons (2014), David Pearce (2018), Greg Penno (2014), Rex Perry (2019), John Prince (2024), John Raftery (Over 75), Chris Rajasingham (2022), Hank Ramm (2018), Mick Reeve (2013), Pete Reynolds (2020), Greg Robinson (2016), Stephen Rogers (2017), Dennis Rowlands (2028), Ray Ryan (2022), Perry Sangster (2014), Brian Sayers (2009), Barra Schmidke (2013), Bob Silcock (2019), Vict (or Sobotnik (2019), Walter Soroka (2019), Max Sparrow (2017), Ian Starick (2014), Murray Stock (Over 75), Penny Stone (2012), Donald Sutherland (Over 75), James Szpunar (2017), Michael Tamassy (2020), Ian Taylor (2017), Bob Temby (2018), Graham Terry (2013), Simon Thomas (2021), Robert Thompson (Over 75), Michael Thompson (2018), Dick Tischer (2017), Ken Treloar (2014), Brian Tuohy (2019), Graham Tweeddale (2018), Damien Van De Velde (2016), Mark Van Oostveen (2020), Eugene Wasilenia (2021), Bruce Watson (2020), Graham West OAM (2019), Robert Whaite (2016), Brett Wilkeson (2013), Craig Williams (2021), Brett Williams (2020), John Wilson (2017), Betty Winstanley (2019), Pat Wright (2014), Brian Yelds (2017), John Zander (2022), Pete Zander OAM (2022)

### **Associate Members**

Marg Culley (2018), Anne-Michelle Howell (2021), Christine Kuchel (2019), Joan Lorraine (Over 75), Judy Moyses (2018), Janet Thompson (2018)

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## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Please inform the Secretary, Bob Matthew, or a member of the Committee of Management of any change of postal address or email address. Please note changes in the Committee – including contact detail changes.

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### **Disclaimer**

*The thoughts and opinions expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those held by the individual writers and contributors, and are not necessarily those of the President, the committee, the Association members, or the Editor. The spelling of names, groups and places are as given to the editor and the editor apologizes if they are in any way incorrect.*

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