



## RAEME ASSOCIATION – QUEENSLAND SPANNER NEWS

Edition 1/11 Mar 11

### CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Hi folks, hope you are having a wonderful start to 2011. It's that time again for the Association to report. Since our last Newsletter, we have been busy with several functions, and most importantly, reorganising some areas with the general structure of the Association.

**Recent Activities.** The 2010 RAEME Birthday activities throughout the South East all went well. Enoggera units held a most successful sports afternoon followed by the obligatory BBQ; while Oakey conducted a potted sports day, followed by a formal dinner. Attendance at these activities was very pleasing considering the workload and operational pressures being experienced by the serving members of our Corps.

The Association held its "RAEME Birthday All Ranks Luncheon" at the Fix Restaurant, Port Office Hotel on the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 10. Attendance was very high with over one hundred members and partners enjoying the lunch and celebrations. Many current veterans of all ranks attended from Oakey, Amberley and Enoggera units. It was a pleasure having these fine young men and women of the Corps in attendance.

We were honoured with the presence of our COL COMDT, COL Bryce Titcume, and both Deputy Heads of Corps (Aero and Ground) LTCOL Mick Millar, Chief Instructor, RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS), who was our special guest speaker; well as LTCOL Todd Ashurst, Chief Instructor of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME), Bandiana. We were also very pleased to have the Corps. RSM,

WO1 Jason Ballard, in attendance. A wonderful day of celebrations was had by all. This is a popular event so please place the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in your diary – this is one annual event not to be missed.

**House-keeping.** The association is tidying up its procedures and communications media. We are fortunate to have the services of Stuart Bowles, who is methodically looking at our procedures with a fresh set of eyes. His first project, which is almost completed, is to streamline our membership procedures including our data. In this regard he will assist Leo Galligan to re-work the membership area on the Association's website. Already a new Membership/Renewal Application Form is available for your use. Shortly, Stewart will be contacting all members to validate names, addresses, contact details etc. I ask that you return this information promptly to assist him maintain our data and systems in a sound state.

As I speak our web site is being updated and details of our main activities including ANZAC Day 2011, Operation Spanner Pack, Spanner Club and Association Calendar are being incorporated as information becomes available. Many other items of interest have been loaded by our Webmaster Leo Galligan, so please take a look and pen a few words on our comments page. Let us know what you would like to see on your web site. Visit [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org) to see the changes.

**ANZAC Day.** This year could see our numbers fall slightly because of the five day long weekend. Please spread the word and bring along your RAEME mates because we are planning a special event.

We had hoped to parade the Prince Phillip Corps Banner during the march to celebrate the Twenty Fifth Birthday of the Banner's presentation. Unfortunately, we cannot obtain the Banner at this time, but we will have the RAEME Head of Corps, Brig Dave Creagh AM, leading the RAEME contingent through the Brisbane CBD. This is a first for the Queensland Association and we are very honoured to have our "Corps Director", in old parlance, leading our group.

We will form up near the corners of George and Margaret Street at approx 1030 hrs (look for the RAEME Association-Queensland Banner). After the march, the usual function will be held at the Port Office Hotel. A special event is planned during lunch to honour the support to date by the Management and Staff of the Port Office Hotel, who

have experienced their own problems, when their Hotel was inundated by the Brisbane River during the recent floods. Your Association has arranged the presentation of a RAEME Corps Certificate of Appreciation to the Hotel Management by the HOC. Our Anzac Day organisers will provide more detail well before the event. It will be posted on our web site and emailed to all on our mailing lists. Come along to this most important day and catch up with your many RAEME mates and meet the younger members of the Corps.

**Spanner Clubs.** In 2010 these activities were few and far between because of the busy lives led by all units at Enoggera and their operational commitments. The first for 2011 at 1 Sig Regt Wksp was successfully conducted on 11 March with a good roll up. It is a great opportunity for all to meet our current serving soldiers most of which have had a large amount of operational service. It is marvellous, to realize, when talking to the diggers, that not much has changed in terms of their professionalism and their larrikin image. The average RAEME digger remains as always: a committed soldier/tradesman. They still have the same “can do” approach to their duties, that their predecessors displayed, and we are all proud of the job they are doing.

On your behalf, the Association chips in a few dollars to assist support the running of these functions. Dates will be notified through normal channels for future Spanner Club activities. RAEME Association members are always welcome, so watch for the calendar updates.

**Operation Spanner Pack.** This crucial project continues to contribute to the moral of our deployed soldiers. It is clear from their many thank you notes, that they appreciate the efforts of the various RAEME Associations nationally, who pull together to get the Spanner Packs to them.

Chief of Army, LTGEN Ken Gillespie AC, DSC, CSM, is also grateful and recently rang me to personally express his appreciation for the members of the various associations and their mighty work. To date some two thousand packs have been sent – a wonderful result. However, we still need your support. In particular we need the following items to be placed in the packs: small grocery and confectionary goods, men’s and women’s magazines, books, small personal hygiene products and anything which can make their off-duty moments interesting and enjoyable. Remember these are young soldiers and have different needs to some of us

“olds and Bolds”, but they commonly need some creature comforts to assist them ease their difficult circumstances on operations and remind them of home.



**The latest team effort – From left to right – Ray Norman, Pam and Ron McElwaine, Kath Hermann, Karen Stafford, Jeff, Sue and Sandra Maurice, Brian Daley, Bruce Hermann, Marg and Ewan McLeod, Barb Daley, Phil and Kathy Gee and Stewart Bowles taking the photo**

We have also surveyed many of our recent returned soldiers, and some of those about to leave for operations. As a result, we are in the process of putting together lists of items most preferred by the soldiers. Some of the favoured items include food items – vegemite, biscuits, lollies, magazines, packs of cards, hygiene items, games and books.

The Association’s aim is to ensure that every RAEME soldier receives at least one “Spanner Pack” on each deployment/posting overseas. With your help we plan for the first 2011 shipment to be in the hands of our tradesmen / soldiers before ANZAC Day 2011. You can assist by providing financial donations; becoming a commercial sponsor with appropriate products, and or dollars; putting us in touch with other possible sponsors, or packing items for despatch. We are very open to suggestions and assistance.

More information can be obtained from any member of the Committee or you can contact me directly on 07 54766254 or [norford.2@bigpond.com](mailto:norford.2@bigpond.com). Donations can be sent as follows:

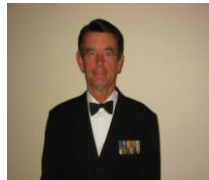
- **Post:** Cheque/Money order to The Treasurer, RAEME Association QLD, PO Box 11 CANNON HILL, QLD, 4170 OR

- **EFT:** To DEFCREDIT BSB 803-205, Account Number 2068037 Member Number 82731
- **Note:** Please add your surname and initials to the reference box. If you use the direct deposit method, please email the Treasurer (Nico) [treasurer@raemeqld.org](mailto:treasurer@raemeqld.org) to advise him that you have deposited the money for Operation Spanner Pack, or call 07 33323704
- **Ensure** you mark your cheque/money orders donations for "OPERATION SPANNER PACK" on the reverse side

I trust you can join me in contributing to and enjoying a big year for the Association at one of our many activities in 2011. Finally may I say a big thank you to our sponsors for their continuing support over the last year – we couldn't do all the things we do so successfully without your financial and material support.

Thankyou and Regards,

Raymond G. Norman OAM  
Chairman 07 54766254  
[www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org)  
[norford.2@bigpond.com](mailto:norford.2@bigpond.com)




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## RAEME ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND CONTACT LIST

**Chairman:** Raymond Norman- 07 54766254 or [norford.2@bigpond.com](mailto:norford.2@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:** Gary Sargent- 07 3341 4378 or [gary.sargent@pyrosales.com.au](mailto:gary.sargent@pyrosales.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Andrew Nicolson or B 07 3332 3704  
[Andrew.Nicolson@defence.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Nicolson@defence.gov.au)

**Membership:** Stuart Bowles H 07 5457 3951 or [stubowles@bigpond.com](mailto:stubowles@bigpond.com)

**Promotions/Merchandising:** Bruce Hermann 07 3399 6602 - [email under repair at this time](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It is nearly time to renew your annual subscriptions, which remains at \$10 for another year. By starting the process early, it will hopefully ensure I do not get flooded with many forms at the same time. By the

time you get around to renewing your membership, a new, simplified and unique (same form for application and renewal) form will be available on the website. In a similar vein, I am looking at updating ALL membership details, as Ray mentioned above, so please expect an email from me in the coming weeks asking for certain information. We don't do this very often, but you would not be surprised to know how many members "get lost" when their contact details change. Up to date and correct information will ensure we send you pertinent and important information in a timely fashion. You can be re- assured that we will respect your privacy with the data provided.

Thanking you in anticipation.  
Stuart Bowles  
Membership Committee  
[www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org)  
[stubowles@bigpond.com](mailto:stubowles@bigpond.com)

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## FROM THE COL COMDT

Welcome to 2011 – what a start is has been for our Sunshine State. Firstly I'd like to pay due credit to those members of the Corps, who have or continue to assist those, who have been impacted adversely by the recent disasters around Queensland. We are mindful of the many members (past and present) who have experienced personal and physical loss as a result of recent heavy rain, storms, floods and cyclones. You are in our thoughts. Paradoxically, we know that many others are have given up their time during the holidays, and later, to help those less fortunate than themselves – so well done.

These disasters, and the work being done by many, RAEME units around Australia, involved in recovery activities, has set the tone for 2011 – we are off to a "galloping" start and with the many things planned by your local association, we will soon have cause to celebrate!

My year has also started early. Last weekend I was conducting the Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge, the premier Australian Army Cadets activity, in Canungra. Chief of Army attended on Saturday and I had the pleasure of meeting his Aide-de-Camp, CAPT Kane Wright. Kane is a RAEME officer and, to the best of my knowledge, the first one to hold this most prestigious appointment. This is a great feather in the Corps' cap. On a similar note LTCOL Andy Freeman, another RAEME officer, is the Military Assistant to Commander 1st Division.

This is another prestigious appointment and along with Kane's appointment bears testimony to the quality of officers we have in the Corps. This is equally matched by the quality of soldiers in the Corps. I have had a lot of very positive feedback from around the traps regarding the professionalism of, and high quality output being produced by, RAEME soldiers both here in Australia and overseas on operations. There is no doubt that the Corps is in great shape.

From the various presentations at the 2010 Corps Seminar, the theme of which was "Maintaining the Army of 2019", it is clear that there will be a continuing need for such professionalism and high quality output. On the horizon is a large quantity and variety of technically sophisticated equipment in the process of being introduced into service. Clearly this will place great demands on the soldier/tradesmen of our Army as well as many interesting and exciting challenges. You can rest assured that we as a Corps are most definitely up to it.

I recommend that all Association members read the article on the development of the National RAEME Association, kindly provided by the COL COMDT SA and NT. This is a very exciting initiative which will see the Corps nationally able to lever off the expertise and experience of the various regional associations resulting in a better total outcome for all of us in or associated with the Corps. It would be remiss of me not to mention that this initiative has gained the momentum through the tireless efforts of our Chairman, Raymond Norman. Well done, Raymond.

I would like to say how delighted I am that Ross Grant has returned to the fold after a stint in Melbourne. He has reputedly retired but you all know him as well as I do. In his usual fashion he has "hit the ground running" and accepted the mantle of Editor of this Newsletter. Ross, welcome back and thank you for your contribution.

Finally, I am looking forward to ANZAC Day this year. We are most privileged to have the Head of Corps, BRIG Dave Creagh attending, together with the usual contingent of Apprentices from the South Queensland On-the-Job Training cell. It is always a pleasure to catch up with these young people who represent the future of our Corps. I hope to see you all at the march and afterwards at the Port Office Hotel for what I have no doubt will be a most successful event.

Arte et Marte

Bryce Titcume  
RAEME Colonel  
Commandant - Queensland



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## AWARDS TO CORPS MEMBERS IN 2010-11

There have been some notable awards in recent weeks:

- **Brigadier David Anthony CREAGH, AM, ACT** – For exceptional service as Commander 17th Combat Service Support Brigade, Chief of Staff Headquarters Training Command and Director Logistics – Army and currently Head of Corps RAEME
- **Lieutenant Colonel Martin Jeffery McKONE, CSM, NSW** – For meritorious achievement as the Staff Officer Grade One Personnel Policy – Army
- **Sergeant Thomas Kevin BAUER, CSM, Qld** – For meritorious achievement as a forward repair team leader and maintenance manager with Timor-Leste Aviation Group XII on Operation ASTUTE from October 2009 to February 2010

Equally important, the following RAEME Corps Awards were made in late 2010 at the Corps conference:

- **LT Peter Jennings Award** – LT B.W. Angus
- **Artificer of the Year Award** – SGT P.P. Mills and SGT P.C. Crosby
- **BRIG Martins Award** – CPL S.J. Marengo
- **BRIG McGahey Golden Spanner Award** – 5 Avn Regt
- **Regimental Award** – SGT L.V. Kite,
- **Junior Regimental award** – CPL J.D. Powell
- **SE QLD CFN of the Year** – CFN Matthew J. Klefisch, 8/9 RAR

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## RAEME BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS 28 NOV 10

Once again the Port Office Hotel did us proud hosting the 2010 RAEME Birthday Lunch. Attendance was very high with over one hundred members and partners enjoying the lunch and celebration. Many current veterans of all ranks

attended from Oakey, Amberley and Enoggera units. It was a thrill to have these fine young men and women of the Corps in attendance.



### Chairman Ray Norman Welcoming the Attendees and HOC Representatives

As mentioned, we were delighted that our COL COMDT, COL Bryce Titcume, both Deputy Heads of Corps (Aero and Ground) LTCOL Mick Millar, and the Corps. RSM, WO1 Jason Ballard, were in attendance. The Association is always proud to host our senior Corps representatives.



### Fix Restaurant and Bar at the Port Office Hotel

The next luncheon will be held in the Fix Bar on the 27th November 2011, so put the date in your diary – this is a popular event and is not to be missed.

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**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Land Systems–Australia

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## FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL RAEME ASSOCIATION TO BE KNOWN AS “THE RAEME ASSOCIATION”

(With thanks to COL Greg Rosser COL COMDT SA and NT for allowing us to use this article)

*The concept of a National Association has been discussed for a number of years, but no real progress had been made until the recent RAEME Head of Corps Conference, where the concept, as produced by Ray Norman, Chairman RAEME Association - Queensland, was accepted in-principle. The proposal had the general support of all state based associations with Ray charged to develop the in-principle agreement and organisational concept.*

**Key outcomes** of the HOC Committee include:

- **Approval** of the title “The RAEME Association”
- **Provision** of further guidance on the way forward
- **Facilitation** of further development of The RAEME Association through respective Colonels’ Commandant, State Associations, Regional Chapters and Sub Branches
- **Approval** of the rewrite of Corps Instruction No 12 to incorporate:
  - the proposed framework
  - a proposed Draft Charter.

**Preferred title of the Association** is to be “The RAEME Association” and not “The National RAEME Association” and this requires little explanation. It is uniquely national and complies with Corps Instruction 12. All other RAEME Associations are identified by their regional location.

**Proposed Framework.** The Committee of The RAEME Association will consist of:

- **The President**, who should be selected on an agreed rotation from one of the Regional Associations, Chapters or Sub Branches. This person would be a standing member of the Corps Committee
- **The Vice President**, who is also the Representative Colonel Commandant
- **A Secretary and a Treasurer** appointed from one of the Regional Associations, Chapters or Sub Branches
- **Representatives** from each Regional State Association, Chapters and Sub Branches as

required. (Note: Numbers of Representatives will be governed by the agreed goal and tasks to be performed as agreed and delegated by The RAEME Association President)

- **SO2 Corps Heritage** from HOC Cell
- **RSM /ASM** of the Corps

**The RAEME Association** membership will consist of all:

- members of all Regional Associations, Chapters and Sub Branches by affiliation and association
- current serving members of RAEME at no charge

**Proposed Charter.** A proposed Charter was discussed and it is anticipated that a series of SOPs or Standing Instructions will be drawn up by the Committee to detail procedures in relation to the following:

- Membership
- Committee meetings
- Interaction with Regional Associations Chapters and Sub Branches
- Financial management
- Merchandising
- Web Site
- Insurance
- Calendar of events
- Other agreed goals and tasks

**Interaction between** The RAEME Association and the Regional Associations, Chapters and Sub Branches is still being canvassed, but the following general principle will apply:

- The RAEME Association should not interfere with the conduct of, or dictate terms to, each State Association, Chapter or Sub Branch.
- There will be no membership fees imposed by The RAEME Association upon members. It is primarily a coordination body, which will encourage financial membership of current and ex-serving RAEME members into the extant Regional Associations, Chapters and Sub Branches.
- The RAEME Association is more focused on being the communication channel between the Regional Associations, Chapters, Sub Branches, the Corps Management and the currently serving Corps body. Importantly, it will provide the mechanism through which

currently serving members are introduced to their respective Regional Associations, Chapters or Sub Branches.

- Where commonality exists between the Regional Associations Chapters, Sub Branches and advantages are gained through national agreed level coordination (e.g. merchandising, recording of history, web page linkages, recruitment, pension and welfare support etc) then The RAEME Association should be the mechanism for this coordination.

**Conclusion.** The establishment of a national association, to be known as The RAEME Association, while still in its infancy, is supported by the Corps Committee as it will allow a closer relationship with the regional associations and coordinate activities to common national goals where possible. It also provides a unique opportunity to achieve greater unity of purpose and operation across the entire RAEME network of Regional Associations and the Corps generally.

Critically, The RAEME Association will provide enhanced membership recruiting opportunities that have not been available to the Corps or Regional Associations previously. Potentially it will achieve economies of scale in the purchase of Corps memorabilia, long term savings for the Regional Associations and facilitate the coordination of worthwhile activities like Operation Spanner Pack and support to the Corps Museum that have been long overdue.

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## NOTICE TO ALL ARMY APPRENTICES

Did you know you have an Avenue of Honour at Bonegilla?



**The Avenue of Honour ALTC Bonegilla**

The idea of a Memorial Grove of trees, at the entrance to Latchford Barracks, was developed in 1990 by the staff of the Army Apprentice School. The school had recently moved from its historic home at Balcombe Barracks to the new facilities at Bonegilla and it was felt something needed to be done to recognise the importance of the Army Apprentice training scheme.

To enable the grove to come to fruition, an appeal was made to ex-Apprentices and with assistance from the Regional Army Engineers the majority of the trees were purchased and planted in early 1991.

Originally it was not just going to be an Apprentice Grove of trees, but a much larger project planned to include such people as ex-Commanders, CO's and RSM's of the Apprentice School. It was also proposed to include previous Commanders and CO's of other training establishments like the School of Catering and School of Survey which had also been located at Bonegilla.

Approximately 60 London Plane trees were planted along the entrance roadway and during the Army Apprentice School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations returning class members placed brass plaques at the base of 49 trees (one for each of the classes). In addition to the intake plaques there were also 5 memorial plaques in memory of class mates who had died while on active service. The KIA plaques are collocated with the respective class plaque and tree. Importantly, it should also be recognised that trees were also planted at the front gate for the Pre-Workshop Apprentices who were Apprentices prior to the 1st Class at the Apprentice School getting off the ground in 1947.



Some of the Plaques

Unfortunately during the years of drought and severe water restrictions 12 trees have died due to lack of watering.

The upkeep of the barracks and gardens (including the Memorial Grove) is the responsibility of Base Support. The Base Support Manager has advised they will not replace the missing trees and are unable to commit to providing ongoing management to ensure survival of the remaining trees in the event of future drought events.

There appears to be three options available:

- **Accept that Base Support** can not guarantee the future viability and move the plaques to the AAAA memorial site at South Bandiana
- **Leave the grove** as it is and establish a management plan (self-help) to preserve the remaining trees
- **Replace the missing trees** and establish a management plan (self-help) to address the needs of the new trees and ensure they become fully established plus ensuring the long term preservation of the remaining trees

Discussions are ongoing between the Australian Army Apprentice Association (AAAA), the RAEME HOC cell (Corps Funds) and apprentice class groups to fund the cost of purchasing 12 advanced London Plane trees and appropriate fertiliser to ensure the survival of the new trees. Discussions are also addressing the Grove management plan.



Existing London Plane Tree Grove-Bonegilla

With the recent heavy rains in Victoria (and unfortunately flooding) water may now be available to plant and manage the growth with reasonable certainty. Thanks to all involved and we wish them every success.

## VALE

The following notifications were received

- John England belated notification passed away May 2010
- The daughter of Ian Thomas, Natasha Chapman succumbed to breast cancer in late January
- Dave Cook from Albury Wodonga passed away Feb. 2011
- Colonel Wins (Norm) Hicks-Hall tragically perished in a house fire on the Gold Coast in February
- Gary Bennedick's mother passed away in February
- Ronald Bond from NSW in February 2011
- Captain Andrew Mahoney current serving RAEME Officer from 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade passed away in Adelaide Feb 2011
- WO1 Greg Weston passed away on 11Mar 11 following a short battle with cancer

Our thoughts go out to family and friends

## SICK PARADE DURING JANUARY TO MARCH 2011

- Andrew Nicolson
- Bob Martin
- Bruce Hermann
- Bob Draper
- Ray Norman
- Glen Fuchs
- Ewan McLeod
- Leo Galligan
- Bill Haynes
- BRIG Conrad Ermert (Rtd)

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## COMING EVENTS

### 104 Field Workshops and LAD's Reunion for 2011

The President of the Reunion Committee, Glen Fuchs, wishes to advise all Association members of this important event to be held at the Quarry Club Bulimba on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011. This event is normally a great family day and if you would like to attend, and repeat earlier successes, then please contact Sharon Hudson, M 0416 010 701, for further details and advice on how to access the on-line RSVP system which will soon be available. Firstly, put the

date in your calendars although more information will be forthcoming. Further detail will be provided shortly in a flyer.

## ANZAC Day

Critical early detail for all participants on this important occasion is as follows:

- Form up near the corners of George and Margaret Street at approx 1030 hrs (look for the RAEME Association-Queensland Banner)
- After the march the usual function will be at the Port Office Hotel
- Our Anzac Day organisers will provide more detail well before the event. It will be posted on our web site and emailed to all on our mailing lists
- Come along to this most important day and catch up with your many RAEME mates and meet the younger members of the Corps.

**Note** that for the first time for many years, we will have a dedicated band – the Australian Army Band Brisbane, lead by MAJ Cox.

## RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

A RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion is planned for Sunday 14 Aug 11. It is open to all serving and ex members of RAEME (Army Reserve or Regular Army) or associated Corps, who served with RAEME Res/CMF units, their families and other people, who were associated with RAEME and who wish to renew past friendships. Ex cadre staff members are especially welcome.

Details to note are as follows:

- **Date:** Sunday 14 August 2011
- **Venue:** Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSLA Sub Branch, 2 Clewley Street, CORINDA
- **Note:** The venue is next to Corinda railway station, not the Sherwood Services Club across the road. Bring a folding chair if you wish to sit outside in the grassed area
- **Timings:** 1100 – 1600
- **Dress:** Casual
- **Cost:** \$5/ person
- **Catering:** Sausage Sizzle on the grassed area with drinks at Bar prices

**RSVP:** 7 Aug 11 to John Parfitt Tel: 3376 1778 or Email: jparfitt@bigpond.com 17 Elinga St, Jindalee 4074.



**Sherwood /Indooroopilly RSL**

If you know of anyone interested in attending, who may not be aware of the function, please make an effort to pass on this information. To assist with future planning, kindly provide email addresses where possible.

**Annual Army Apprentices Reunion – Bulimba – Queen’s Birthday Weekend 2011.**

Details of the next reunion are as follows:

- **Format:** Sausage Sizzle
- **Date:** 12 Jun 11
- **Venue:** Quarry Club, Bulimba Barracks
- **Timings:** Commences 1100 hours
- **Dress:** Casual
- **Cost:** \$5.00 per head
- **Drinks:** Quarry Club prices from the bar
- All Appys, their partners and friends are welcome

**A BOOK TO BE CONSIDERED – “From Boy to Soldier”**

Some of our readers may not be aware of retired Major Syd Cheeseman’s book, which was published to align with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the establishment of the Army Apprentices School. It is a factual warts and all account of life for boys who entered the Army Apprentices Scheme and their evolution to become young soldiers and competent tradesmen. The book contains much detailed information about the establishment of the school, the

early difficulties experienced by both staff and students, its transformation into a fine military, and technical training intuition over its nearly fifty years of existence. Many of the characters and humours incidents in the life of the school get a mention, but so do the some of the serious issues, which required dedication from the staff and perseverance from the students to manage. This is an interesting read, for those that graduated, or survived the regime, but more importantly, it captures a little of the history of an institute that flourished for nearly fifty years and then disappeared. In the opinion of many, its replacement is a poor substitute. The many boys, who passed trough the “Gates of Balcombe”, and later Bonegilla, were provided with a good start to their journey through life and most went on to provided valuable service to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Nation. So, in all its forms, the School has an important place both in our military folklore and serious military history and more Australians should be made aware of its contribution. Syd’s book is recommended for those, who wish to know more, and ensures something of the history of the establishment is retained. The book can be obtained as described below.

A View of the Army Apprentice Scheme 1948 - 1998  
by S. H. Cheeseman AM JP



**Limited Edition Hard Cover**

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**FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK**

I have assumed the role of editor for the Association Newsletter. This is your newsletter as much as the Association’s, so if you have something to report, anecdotes or issues you want aired, then please pass them to me. It is my aim to publish four newsletters a year, published in late March, June, September and

November. So you need to get the newsworthy items to me about three weeks before publication. I look forward to receiving them.

Don't forget your articles for the one annual issue of the Craftsman" Magazine – they need to be to the HOC Cell by no later than 3 Jun 11.

Regards,

Ross Grant AM  
Chairman of the Communications  
Committee  
[Ross.grant140@bigpond.com](mailto:Ross.grant140@bigpond.com)



Brisbane Central

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## RAEME ASSOCIATION –QUEENSLAND CALENDAR 2011

January 2011	

July 2011	
5	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
TBA	Spanner Club

February 2011	
1	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting

August 2011	
2	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
14	RAEME Reserve Reunion

March 2011	
1	Army Birthday
1	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
11	Spanner Club – 1 Sig Regt

September 2011	
6	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
TBA	Spanner Club

April 2011	
5	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
25	ANZAC Day March - Brisbane
25	ANZAC Day Function – Port Office Hotel

October 2011	
4	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
19	RAEME Pre-Corps Conference All
20/21	Ranks BBQ
20	RAEME Corps Conference
21	Officers Corps Dinner
	WO/SNCOs Corps Dinner

May 2011	
3	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
TBA	Spanner Club

November 2011	
8	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
27	All Ranks RAEME Birthday Luncheon – Fix Restaurant (Port Office Hotel)

June 2011	
12	RAEME Association Monthly Meeting
12	RAEME Association AGM – Bulimba
12	Army Apprentice Reunion – Bulimba
TBA	Reserve Forces Day

December 2011	
1	RAEME Birthday