



NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH OF THE QUEENSLAND RAEME ASSOCIATION

C/- 17 ELTON DRIVE
KELSO QLD 4815

Ph: 07 47891160

EMAIL: brebri2e@bigpond.com

YOUR COMMITTEE

<i>President/Secretary</i>	- <i>Brian Tuohy (really it's Brenda)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	- <i>Vince Serventy (really it's Lorraine!!)</i>
<i>Asst Treasurer</i>	- <i>Brian Robb</i>
<i>Social Member</i>	- <i>Ross Casey</i>
<i>Asst Social</i>	- <i>Julie Fedorniak</i>
<i>Army Reserve Rep</i>	- <i>Bob Lauro</i>
<i>Regular Army Rep</i>	- <i>Amir Tito</i>
<i>Ex-Serving Rep</i>	- <i>Alan Meiklejohn</i>
<i>Committee Member</i>	- <i>Neville Brown</i>

If you would like to be on the committee please let me know !!!

Well, here we are into the thick of 2008. The committee met for the first time in Feb to finalise the family day that was held on the 24th Feb at the Townsville Bowls Day and to set the theme for the rest of the year. Discussion revolved around numerous issues, mainly concentrating on getting the members roll back up and running, ANZAC Day 2008, finances, introduction of the NQ Association to new members posted into Townsville, subscriptions and a few other bits and pieces.

I will endeavour to cover each issue, some in detail and some in not so much detail, so here goes:

PRESIDENT/SECRETARY REPORT:

New & Old Committee Members I took the opportunity to thank old and new committee members for dedicating their time and effort to the Association for 2008. I informed the committee that we had the full backing of the chairman and committee of the main Queensland RAEME Association and additionally the Head of Corps as well as the Corps committee. We now needed to get on with planning for the future, especially Anzac day, the Annual All Ranks Dinner and especially the need to have a bi-annual newsletter to let members know what is happening in and around NQ and do this I would need assistance from all parties to aid in getting information out to present and past serving spanners.

Invite to Lavarack I was invited by the TTMO (for the oldies, TTMO is the new version of the area appy master) at Lavarack Barracks early Feb to give a presentation to the some 58 new adult trade trainees that have been posted into the Townsville region on what the NQ RAEME Association was all about and snuck in a bit of RAEME History as well. On your behalf, I welcomed the new members to the Corps and especially to NQ and extended an invite to them to attend the Anzac Day commemorations with us. I also informed them of the annual all ranks dinner that we have previously held and was met with great enthusiasm for attendance. (Just because the TTMO was there had nothing to do with it!!!) They have already started a pay plan where the TTMO collects \$5 per pay so that it isn't a big hit in the back pocket when it is time to cough up the bickies.

Spanner Packs I also informed the committee that currently there was a program that is spreading across the RAEME Associations Australia wide to provide care packs for our fellow spanners deployed overseas. The NSW Association has already sent some packages to IRAQ & Afghanistan and that more funding was needed to keep these packages going overseas to our spanners deployed. The packs are simplistic in nature but as you can imagine, a welcome surprise when they arrive. They consist of things like vegemite, biscuits, lollies etc but you can imagine what the boys and girls deployed a long way from family will be thinking when they know that their RAEME mates back home are thinking of them. A small gesture I know, but one that is inspired by our esprit-de-corps and one that we have long lived for and that is to stick with one's mates especially in times of adversity. To that end, I have asked the committee to support this by supporting a raffle that will be run by our Social Member, Ross Casey, during 2008 and donating the proceeds to the "SPANNER CARE PACKAGES". Also, if members wish to donate to this, they can forward donations to me to be forwarded to the main QLD RAEME Association.

Subscriptions The offer to members to pay a once off life time fee/subscription to the NQ RAEME Association has been met with four members taking up the offer. For those that have retired within the area it means that a one off payment of \$100 will see them remain a life financial member of the NQ Association and also allows the committee easier management of funds. For those that wish to take the normal offer of an initial \$20 and then \$10 every year thereafter, still remains extant. I must thank Lorraine Serventy and Brenda Tuohy for putting in the hard yards tracking down members, ex members and those we have lost due to posting and discharge. They have and are still in the process of contacting everyone so we can update the members' ledger and ensure that those who have joined are still contactable and accountable.

(Vince and I have agreed that it takes a woman's touch to keep on top of the members role----yes, we actually conceded that the women are better than us at tracking)

Anzac Day I have received the nomination form from Townsville City Council to have a place in the 2008 Anzac Day March. I have returned the nomination form and await the date/time to attend the planning and co-ordination meeting. Hopefully by the time the next newsletter goes out I will have more info.

TREASURERS REPORT AS AT 12 FEB 08:

At bank	-	\$930.00
Cash/cheques on hand	-	\$210.00
Total	-	\$1140.00
Outstanding debts	-	\$60.00 (stationary/stamps)
Total fluid funds	-	\$1080.00

SOCIAL MEMBERS REPORT:

Unfortunately, Ross Casey could not attend the committee meeting but I spoke on his behalf having discussed issues with him prior to the meeting.

We have decided to concentrate on five major events for each calendar year, they being:

- New Year Family Day to welcome new members
- ANZAC DAY
- Annual All Ranks Dining In Night
- Partners Dinner
- Christmas Function

Those who have been around for a while will probably remember when we attempted to have a function at least every eight weeks. We tried and failed as we recognise that members also have a life outside the Association so to alleviate conflict with other interests, we opted for the five functions throughout the year mentioned above. This however, does not preclude suggestions or others within the association organising get togethers, parties, picnics etc but would ask that if it is being organised in the name of the association that they contact Ross or Brian so that we can squeeze Vince for some dollars to subsidise functions.

OK, back to the current stuff.

The Family bowls day was only attended by 14 members and their partners but a good day was had by all with a BBQ lunch and a game of bowls even though it was B%\$\$#y hot. With the assistance of a few coldies we got on with it and believe it or not, the spouses of both teams beat the blokes. Better luck next time fellas!!

The next big news is ANZAC Day 2008. All has been finalised for the commemoration with pretty well the same format as last year. Attendance at the Dawn Service of your choice, meet at FLYNN'S IRISH Bar and Bistro (Flinders Street and not to be confused with Irish Finnegan's) after the Dawn Service where, if we have enough people who want us to organise a Gunfire Breakfast, we will do so. Around the 0940 mark, we will head off down to Strand Park and form up for the march. We should step off at around 1015 and it would be great to see if we can beat the 86 marchers we had in 2007. This year it would be appreciated if all who attend can wear the Corps beret with RAEME Badge but if you cannot lay your hands on one, your presence is enough. Also, if you have a small Australian Flag to wave whilst we march, it would add that extra something to our position within the parade. This year we are still in Group Two that will form up on the Strand adjacent to Strand Park. Look for the NQ RAEME Banner.

After the march, it's back to the FLYNN'S IRISH Bar and Bistro where you can sink an ale or two and tell those old warries. Please bring your family and friends as the more the merrier. For Catering purposes, I need to know no later than 16th April who will be attending for the gunfire breakfast. At this stage, it is not known how much a head the breakfast will be as the more that nominate, the cheaper it will be. Last year was \$12.00 a head so I am guessing that this year will be no more than \$14.00 a head with inflation and the cost of hen food!!!. It is imperative that we know numbers by 16th April and you can ring me at home on 47891160 and let me know. If we don't get at least 30, it will be cancelled and you won't know until the day as there will not be enough time to get back to you. It's over to you. See you on ANZAC DAY 2008.

2008 RAEME PORT

The 2008 RAEME Port will be available in the near future. Pricing is not known at this stage but all enquiries are to be directed to Bob Lauro either by email gailmaree_2702@bigpond.com or 0408982775.

EMAIL & ADDRESSES

If you receive this newsletter via post and you have an email address, please let me know via brebri2e@bigpond.com as it will save on postage.

VALE

Brendan Downs

Brendan separated from the ARA Jun/Jul 1999 after 21 years service and took up a position in PNG working at OK TEDI. He passed away 18 Mar in PNG and was cremated in Lismore, NSW last week.

Greg Allison

243426 WO1 Greg ALLISON RAEME passed away on the 26th Mar08, his funeral was held at Conways Funeral Home at 2pm on Tuesday 1Apr08. One of Greg's final wishes was that his RAEME and TPI comrades farewell him.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

That's it for this edition, and I will let you know about the Annual All Ranks Dining In Night when we have finalised arrangements.

Yours In The Association,

Brian Tuohy

07 47891160

17 Elton Drive
KELSO QLD 4815

ARTE ET MARTE