



Edition 6 – March 2004

Of, By and For RAEME People in Queensland''

## SPANNER NEWS

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION - QLD

2004 has started well for your Association with record turnouts at our first two monthly meeting. It was very pleasing to see so many some 'old and bolds'; some 'not so olds and bolds'; and some new faces, including many serving members. Welcome to you all. If attendance continues to rise, we will have to think through our meeting procedures and dinner venue

For our new members, our monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, at the Victoria Barracks Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, commencing 1700hrs. Bookings for the evening meal are a must if you wish to stay on after the meeting, and both are usually finished by 20:00 hours.

There is so much happening in 2004 in which the Association is involved, I have asked the Editor to concentrate on advertising the many activities supported by the Association and continue to keep you informed throughout the year.

I'd like to thank Mick Foster for his enormous commitment to the development of our Association database. Its development is well on track thanks to Mick's efforts over the last few months ably supported by Ewan McLeod, Leo Galligan and Andrew Nicolson. We hope to see it up and running in the new financial year as it is vital to our organising. Also thanks to Leo for his hard work over the holiday break giving the web site a face-lift.

The 'Gathering of RAEME' Function on the ANZAC weekend is gaining momentum and Phil Bond, Frank Maloney and many others must be gratified at the excellent response. I encourage you to attend as many of the planned activities as possible and support their efforts. More detail is available under the heading 'RAEME Gathering'.

The Association ANZAC Day March has also grown dramatically thanks to the 'Gathering' and the hard work of Greg Riley and others. It appears that we will have about three hundred RAEME members marching on the day, behind the Corps Royal and Association Banners. Come along on this historic and memorial day for our Corps and join us in remembering our fallen mates and veterans from many campaigns.

It is important to the executive members of your association that your views are forthcoming. When you have a concern, or a proposal, you don't have to wait for a monthly meeting or the Annual General Meeting, simply contact one of the following:

- ?? Chairman and Membership Committee – Ray Norman on H 07 5476 6254, or email at [norford.1@bigpond.com](mailto:norford.1@bigpond.com)
- ?? Deputy Chairman – LTCOL Anthony McWatters [Anthony.McWatters@defence.gov.au](mailto:Anthony.McWatters@defence.gov.au)
- ?? Secretary – Robert Sawford on 07 3378 8881 or email at [Robert.Sawford@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:Robert.Sawford@mainroads.qld.gov.au)
- ?? Deputy Secretary – Greg Riley on 07 3281 8188 or email [gkr49@iprimus.com.au](mailto:gkr49@iprimus.com.au)
- ?? Treasurer – Andrew Nicolson on 07 3233 4333 or email at [Andrew.Nicolson@defence.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Nicolson@defence.gov.au)
- ?? Deputy Treasurer – Tony Hickey on 07 3851 4794 or email at [AOhickey@bigpond.com](mailto:AOhickey@bigpond.com)

**Raymond G. Norman OAM**  
**Chairman RAEME Association – Queensland**

**RAEME Craftsman Articles** – These are now due, please forward your stories to MAJOR Rod Bolt, SO2 Corps Heritage, Bandiana, ASAP. His contact details are on the top of page 4.

### From the Membership Desk

I continue to be delighted with the amount of interest shown by past and serving members in gaining membership of the Association – we are experiencing steady growth.

Some have asked, 'What do you get for your subscription?' Apart from the obvious advantages of being a member of a like minded organization, you will be kept connected with your friends and colleagues, through the website or the quarterly newsletters. From time to time you will receive discounted entry to Association functions. Attend a couple, and your discount will probably pay for your annual subscription. You will also receive 10% discount on Association's Corps Shop items.

Additionally, your partner will automatically become an Associate Member. Your unique membership number on the membership card can be used by both when seeking the Association discounts.

Our constitution is quite clear on the criteria for membership. It provides a wide definition and means that any person who wears, or has worn the RAEME badge, or has or is associated with the Corps in any way can be a member. We have approximately five hundred RAEME associates on our growing database in Queensland. So we invite you to become financial members - see [www.raemeqld.org](http://www.raemeqld.org) for full details and application forms, or contact one of the executive listed above. The annual subscription is \$10 and Life subscription is \$100.

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## The RAEME Association needs support. Can you give a small amount of time to help?

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The executive ensures Association funds are used only in the administration of the Association and organizing functions. Contacting our members through the Australia Post system can cost up to \$200. The Web Site costs approx \$450 annually, and there are a myriad of other ongoing administrative costs, telephone, email, stationary etc.

We are also trying to build a Corps Shop with appropriate stock including Corps baseball caps, ties, plaques, stubby holder, etc. We believe it will be more convenient for members and others to purchase memorabilia locally.

If financial membership is not what you want, then the Association will happily receive donations to assist in our ongoing administrative costs and organizing costs.

**Raymond G. Norman OAM**  
**Chairman Membership Committee**

### News from the Head of Corps

**Colonel-in-Chief's Milestone.** An invitation has been received from the Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Phillip, who recently requested the attendance of all Corps Directors of all Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps in the Commonwealth at a dinner in Buckingham Palace to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his appointment. BRIG McGahey CSC, the current Head of Corps, will be attending on behalf of RAEME and will take with him a medals case to be presented to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) Museum Curator at Bourdon as a gift from its sister Corps RAEME.

**Re-instatement of the term 'Army Apprentice'.** It appears that the use of the term 'Army Apprentice' is to be formally re-instated. It seems that the Defence Personnel Executive's Marketing Officer - Army has prepared a submission that points out the value of using the term in Defence advertising to attract recruits to Army in the technical trades – what a momentous realization! It won't surprise many readers that Army has struggled to meet its recruiting targets for technical trades for some time and the earlier loss of the term 'Army Apprentice' did nothing to alleviate the problem. Indeed it exacerbated the problem! So the wheel turns. There is also some indication that the term may be used to target a different demographic (16-18 year olds) and will apply to mature age students as well. Watch this space!

### RAEME Association Activities in Queensland - 2004

**2004 Calendar.** This year is shaping up as one of our busiest yet for your Association. The calendar of all the activities is summarised on the last page of this Newsletter, but as some events are not too far off, you will find the following detail useful to plan for the coming weeks.

**RAEME Gathering 2004** - Most would be aware from past correspondence that a weekend activity for all RAEME members, serving and retired called a 'Gathering of RAEME'

is to take place on the weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2004. It is being sponsored by the 106 Field Workshops, and other RAEME Vietnam Veterans, and like other RAEME activities, has the support of the RAEME Association-Queensland.

The Gathering is an all-inclusive event for all who are serving, or have served in RAEME, including partners. The weekend commences on Friday afternoon the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2004, with registration of attendees at the Kedron-Wavell Service Club, where collection of commemorative items, nametags, etc will occur. Saturday includes a sausage sizzle lunch at the Borlace Club, 7 CSSB area, Enoggera Military Camp, followed later by a Dinner Dance at the Kedron-Wavell Service Club, entrance from 18:30 hours on Saturday evening.

Sunday, ANZAC DAY, sees attendance at various Dawn Services followed by the traditional RAEME Association-Queensland ANZAC march through the streets of Brisbane. All RAEME persons are invited to march behind the RAEME Association Banner this year, regardless of unit affiliations, especially visitors from interstate. The venue for the after-march celebrations is the Port Office Hotel where everyone can relax over a few beers and a light lunch.

For further information on the above activities or venues, contact Phil Bond 07 32638222, Fax 07 32638228, Email [philbond@bigpond.net.au](mailto:philbond@bigpond.net.au) If you are making a last minute decision to attend, you need to talk to Phil as soon as possible, as he needs final numbers for planning purposes.

For those RAEME members that are not attending the weekend 'Gathering of RAEME' Activities, the arrangements for the RAEME Association-Queensland ANZAC DAY March will be the same as for past years, including lunch at the Port Office Hotel after the march. The RAEME Association Co-coordinator and contact for ANZAC Day is Greg Riley Email [gkr49@iprimus.com.au](mailto:gkr49@iprimus.com.au) or 07 3281 8188.

The highlight of the ANZAC Day march will undoubtedly be the large contingent of serving soldiers together with retired members, attending the 'Gathering', marching together behind the Corps Banner. Permission has been obtained from the Head of Corps and parade managers to parade the Corps Banner on behalf of the RAEME Association-Queensland, with the appropriate Guard and Escort, which will include the new Corps RSM, WO1 Tibor Fekete, in charge of the Banner Escort Party. The Australian Army Band - Brisbane will be available to march the Banner in to place prior to the march and will keep the contingent in step throughout the march

**Inaugural RAEME Association Officer's Dinner.** As this edition of the Association Newsletter illustrates, we celebrate the Corps in a number of different ways on an annual basis. For a variety of reasons some of these activities have declined in popularity, especially the Officer's Cocktail Party, normally held in Brisbane. Therefore the Association is undertaking an initiative to encourage officers in Queensland, but particularly in the south-east region, to increase their participation in the life of our Corps and the Association

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Recently a small poll was conducted to ascertain whether a 'Black Tie' dinner would be a suitable alternative activity, and to the Association's delight, the response has been overwhelmingly favourable.

Therefore the Association proposes to hold the dinner at the United Service Club (USC) in Brisbane on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2004. Some 45 officers responded to the survey, so if they bring their spouses or partners, we will have no trouble getting the required numbers. Indeed, we may have to limit the numbers if the take-up' rate is high, as the venue only holds around 130 people comfortably.

The cost of the dinner will be **\$65 per person** for a three course meal. The price will include pre-dinner drinks/beers, and wine and Port with the meal.

The Head of Corps RAEME, BRIG McGahey, CSC, has agreed to be the guest of honour for the night and will address the audience about the recent operations in which the Corps has been involved.

The Association has been blessed with excellent assistance to organize the function and the first task is to compile a comprehensive and up-to-date list of serving and retired officers in Queensland. You can assist the Association by providing accurate contact details to the CAPT Tony Scott, who volunteered to manage the mailing and collation of the invitations. Please feel free to pass this message on to friends and colleagues and if you have any concerns ring either of the people below.

CAPT Tony Scott  
SO3 LOG PREP  
HQ 16 Bde (Avn)  
Bldg E15, Gallipoli Barracks  
Enoggera, QLD 4051

BRIG Ross Grant AM(Rtd)  
PO Box 28  
Bulimba  
QLD 4171

Tel: 07 3332 7744  
Fax: 07 3332 7165  
[tony.scott@defence.gov.au](mailto:tony.scott@defence.gov.au)

Tel: 07 3399 1829  
[rosleog@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rosleog@bigpond.net.au)

The final invitations will be sent out around the end of March and it will be on a 'first come, first dressed basis'. So if you and your partner are interested in supporting this unique event in 2004, which if successful may become an annual event, please mark your calendar now and look for your invitation in the mail.

**Ross Grant**  
**Organizing Committee**

### Other Activities for Early 2004-02-25

**Annual Army Apprentices' Reunion – All Intakes.** The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Army Apprentices' Reunion for southeast Queensland is to be held on the Queen's Birthday Weekend, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2004, at Bulimba Barracks in the old Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which is now a social club, commencing at 11:00 hours. Last year's reunion saw nearly two hundred people turn up and

this year promises to be even better. More information will be provided in the mail shortly.

**Gold Coast Regional Function.** Retired LTCOL David Grant has agreed to organise a RAEME Association function at the Mudgeeraba RSL on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2004. So if you live locally, or can make it on the day to meet our colleagues in that area, then mark your diaries now. The RSL venue is located in Railway St and the function will commence at 1300 hours and finish around 1700 hours.

### Promotion and Sales of Corps Memorabilia

As previously advised the Association has established a local off-shoot to the Corps Shop, which operates from the Army Logistic Museum Bandiana. We are able to assist any member acquire specific items and these are listed on the website or detail can be obtained by contacting any member of the Association Promotion and Sales Committee.

Sales of the new RAEME baseball cap are booming and we will have to order more. As a reminder the hats cost is \$15.00. The cap is navy blue, with the Corps badge on the front and has the Corps colour patch on the back in miniature. It is faced with red and gold strips and was displayed at a recent meeting.

If you are interested and wish to place an order, please get in touch with the Chairman, Phil Bond, on 07 3263 82222 or one of the Committee Members, Mrs Valda Small, on 07 3395 3370. These two people are also the members to contact if you have an idea for products which we can provide to you as an Association service.

### The Prince Phillip Banner Miniature

The previously advised sales of the Corps Banner miniatures have been huge. In fact the first batch has been sold out and the distribution of the miniatures is about to commence.



**Fig 1 – The Banner miniature**

If you require detail on deliver times and methods please contact one of the following officers:  
MAJOR Graham Anderson, SO2 Corps – RAEME, Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Barracks MILPO BANDIANA, Vic,

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3694 email: [graham.anderson@defence.gov.au](mailto:graham.anderson@defence.gov.au) Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436 or

MAJOR Rodney Bolt, SO2 Corps Heritage – RAEME, Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Barracks, MILPO BANDIANA, Vic, 3694, email: [rodney.bolt@defence.gov.au](mailto:rodney.bolt@defence.gov.au) Ph (02) 6055 2193, Fax (02) 6055 2436.

### RAEME Association Liaison

**Passing Parade.** The Association has been advised of the passing of John Brand on Christmas Day. John spent a considerable amount of time in Water Transport at Bulimba.

**Recent Awards.** The association is pleased to advise that two of our local serving colleagues have been honoured in the 2004 Australia Day Honours. They are:

- ?? LTCOL Kevin Charles Packham, recently arrived CO of the Joint Logistic Unit -North, Bulimba, who was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for service to Army Headquarters in the area of Capability Resources; and
- ?? Warrant Officer Class One Raymond Ian Morgan, also awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal, and who was previously the ASM of 5/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion until he retired to Toowoomba in February, for service to the Battalion during Operation Citadel in East Timor.

### Association Committee Profile - Gary Sargent - Welfare Liaison



Fig 2 – Gary Sargent

Gary enlisted in January 1968 as a 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake Army Apprentice Electrical fitter and retired in 1988 as a WO1 Artificer Electronic Systems Ground.

His postings included Bandiana Area Wksp, Northern Comd Wksp 1 Base Wksp Battalion, RAEME Training Centre, Armoured Centre and 4<sup>th</sup> Base Wksp Battalion with the majority of his service centred around Armoured Vehicles particularly the Leopard Tank.

Post military Gary has worked for Comalco, A V Jennings, as a VIP Home Service Franchisee and is currently in sales with Helios Electroheat who manufacture electric heating elements for the industrial and commercial sector.

Gary and Lynell reside in Rochedale South with their sons David, Paul and Anthony.

## RAEME ASSOCIATION DRAFT CALENDAR 2004

### April 04

6<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> RAEME Gathering Brisbane  
25<sup>th</sup> ANZAC Day March

### May 04

2<sup>nd</sup> RAEME Association Sports Day - Golf/Bowls  
8<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Function (David Grant organiser)  
4<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting

### June 04

1<sup>st</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association – Qld Officers' Inaugural Annual Dinner  
13<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association Annual General Meeting  
13<sup>th</sup> Apprentice Reunion  
TBA Reserve Forces Day

### July 04

6<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting.  
30<sup>th</sup> WO & SNCOs Annual Dinner Enogerra

### August 04

3<sup>rd</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting  
8<sup>th</sup> RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion

### September 04

7<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting

### October 04

5<sup>th</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting  
13-15<sup>th</sup> RAEME Corps Conference, Corps Committee Meeting  
14<sup>th</sup> Officers Annual Dinner Bandiana  
15<sup>th</sup> WO & SNCO Annual Dinner Bandiana

### November 04

2<sup>nd</sup> RAEME Association Monthly Meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> Melbourne Cup  
11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day  
TBA RAEME Birthday Brisbane Area  
TBA RAEME Birthday Darling Downs

### December 04

1<sup>st</sup> RAEME Corps Birthday  
7<sup>th</sup> RAEME Monthly Meeting

**Note:** Some details to be confirmed including: WO/SNCO Dinner, Spanner Club Functions, Smokos, RAEME Unit Reunions, OR's Function. In addition, details of venues and format will be provided closer to the day.