

RAEME Association NSW Inc.

Newsletter

Issue 103 - April 2003

President's Report

Dear Members and Families,

My best wishes to all for a prosperous and much happier new year in 2003. As someone said, "we are living in uncertain times." This challenge has always been accepted by our forebears, and determination has seen our country survive many hardships in peace and in war. Let us accept their challenge for the future of our country and it's people in the spirit of the ANZACS.

Our patron, Brigadier Philip Amos, has received many letters from our members, and from his replies he is comfortable and very much appreciative of our thoughts, as is his dear wife, Kathy, and family.

Our AGM was conducted on the 22nd February 2003, at Burwood RSL Club, and was followed by a buffet luncheon.

The highlight of the meeting, apart from the election of office bearers for 2003 – 2004, was the acceptance of the resolution for the revision of our Association Constitution, which was last revised in 1993. This permitted among other things, new membership categories such as "Associate" membership, and the combining of the two separate "Life and Honorary" memberships into the one, that of "Honorary Life" membership. This will create a more enlightened approach for the inclusion of Non-RAEME applicants to apply, such as "kindred associations", and for spouse / partners etc to become members of our Association. For access to a copy of the constitution, see else where in this newsletter for the details.

I would like to congratulate the members of the sub-committee who volunteered their time and knowledge, to conduct this very important revision, which has put our Constitution in line with all of the Regulations and Act's of the State Government, and which currently affect our operations as an Incorporated Association.

As ANZAC Day approaches, I remind all members to hopefully march on the day in the city if possible, and to attend our annual reunion at the Crown Hotel, at the corner of Elizabeth and Goulburn Streets, Sydney. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The ANZAC Day committee of the State Branch of the RSL, has advised that there will be fewer St John Ambulance Officers available n the day, and if the weather is HOT, a suggestion is to carry a bottle of water (clear NOT brown) for you or a mate. This year I have been able to obtain a Land Rover for the comfort of some of our more senior age AEME veterans, who will be led by

DISCLAIMER

Thoughts and Opinions expressed in articles in this Newsletter are those held by the Writers and Contributors, and they are **NOT** necessarily those of the President, Committee, it's Members, or the Editor. Spelling of names and places are as given to the editor, and the editor apologizes if they are incorrect.

LtCol Wilf McGilvray ED. Also, the Reserve Forces committee would appreciate all reservists to march in their Corps formations in the Reserve Forces section of the march. Who knows, we might win again!

At the AGM and the last executive committee meeting of our Association, there were two (2) motions put forward, and carried, to recognize and honour, our long serving and dedicated Welfare team of Sandy and Lucy McHutchison.

Motion Number 1.

“That Lucy McHuthison be granted ‘Associate Membership’ of the Association for her outstanding service to this Association, with all ‘fees’ payable to be waived for the duration of that membership.”

The motion was carried.

Motion Number 2.

“That Sandy McHutchison be granted ‘Honorary Life Membership’ of the Association for his outstanding service o this Association.”

The motion was carried.

I would like to say congratulations to Sandy and Lucy, it is good to see that their services have been acknowledged.

Finally, I wish every member and their families, good health and happiness throughout the year.

Kind regards,

Michael O'Donohoe

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From the Secretary's Desk

Watch Out – I'm baacckkk !!!!

I attended the Reserve Forces Day Launch on Thursday 13th March 2003. One of those functions for all the big brass to blow their horns for 3 hours, to finally spend 15 minutes telling us where we are to meet, and where we are to finish. Mark your diary for the 6th July 2003 if you are wishing to attend.

ANZAC Day is looming. RAEME will be meeting as usual at the Crown Hotel on the corner of Goulburn and Elizabeth Streets after the march. There has been a few comments that the location is too small, too crowded and too expensive. I shopped for available locations about three (3) years ago – and it was the only place that meet the requirements of most of our members, and the main requirement from our members was, that it was close to the end of the march – plus it was the only venue that would reserve an area for us without charging us an “up front” fee for the hire of the space. Remember – all the “drinking holes” are pushed to the limit for space on ANZAC Day.

I welcome anyone to do another “shop around” of the neighborhood to find a location that meets the member’s expectations. Working full time greatly restricts my available time for this exercise.

I’d like to take the opportunity to thank Michael Wilkinson and Paul Luck for the great job that they did for filling the secretary role for the last year. They kept the records up to date, and made it easy to pick up and continue.

Just a reminder – have you **changed** your address, or **about** to change it? Please let me know, it is very important. We are getting a lot of returned mail because members are forgetting to advise us of their new address.

Website – have a look (if you have access to a computer). It is looking pretty cool !! Lots of new stuff, including the new Constitution for our Association. You can download and print a copy if required.

Until next time

Chris Davis

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DNSDC Jottings

Well it’s the first letter of the year and I bid you all a hello.

Nothing much has changed since my last submission except an update of the out-sourcing of the Logistic and Maintenance Functions (DIDS). In October/November of last year the Government announced a preferred tenderer, TenixToll, as the organisation that can best do what we do now. Better, cheaper, longer, higher, stronger, etc (a bit of tongue in cheek). With this announcement we all thought that we had some direction on where our lives were going, (as it has only been four years that all personnel have been made potentially excess). With this announcement were a little bit closer to knowing who could potentially be our new bosses and where we had to apply to get new jobs. On announcement, contract negotiations were to commence for three months and a signing of the contract was to happen in January. With a contract signed, a roll out of the national sites was to occur over a 12-month period beginning in March this year. Well, as expected this has not happened. The government has now called for a second review of tenderers and has now gone into parallel negotiations with ADIFOX and TenixToll. Possibly by the end of May those who make decisions delegation should be able to go back to Government with a NEW preferred tenderer. If passed, we should go into contract negotiations for another three months with a possible signing of a contract in August/September of this year. Morale problems you say, You bet Ya. Well that’s the doom and gloom. Now for the good news, we are still getting paid.

Well that’s all for this issue. I know it is a bit short but it saves the Editor having to make up something and put my name to it. I should have some more info next issue.

Regards,

Michael Wilkinson

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5 CSSB News

Firstly let me apologise for the length of time between articles, I will try and make them more regular in the future.

One of the more important changes of late has occurred with the re-naming of the various Companies within the Battalion. The Workshop Company is now 103 Workshop Company 5CSSB, I guess this means another T shirt. It certainly is great to see the name, 103 back on our associated documentation and equipment. I am sure if I ask around the original signage may reappear, hint hint.

We are finding it very difficult in the present climate to attract qualified tradesman to our Unit, so we have embarked on very ambitious scheme of recruiting Army Reserve Apprentices in the vehicle trade into our Unit. This same activity has been trialed very successfully in 8 Brigade. They are on their second intake already. Broadly the system takes the successful applicants into the Army Reserve, including training at Wagga and the normal Reserve activities. At the same time the Apprentices are managed by a Work Place Management Group who supervise their attendance at Tafe, being placed in civilian firms and completing in-house training. This system is vital to our long term viability, as we now require civilian or ex-ARA tradesman to enlist, to fill our vacancies. I will keep you posted on this scheme.

It did not take long for ANZAC day to be upon us again and our ANZAC day activities this year will be to the Concord RSL for the Dawn service and then into town to escort the new RAEME Reserve banner and defend our crown as the best Banner party from last year's parade. As usual we are looking forward to a few quiet beers and some story telling at the Crown after the March. I hope to catch up with some old friends, and don't forget on a day such as this, **Never let the facts get in the way of a good story.** (Sorry Bob Stansfield, I stole your saying again). The Workshop will paraded at 4.00 am for the dawn service at Concord and then we will move into town, so I hope to see you at either venue.

We have had a very good start to the year, with a number of our staff positions being filled. Sgt. Wheel (VM Sergeant), Sgt. Dean (Recovery SGT.), Cpl. Yuong (Cpl. VM). In addition we also welcome some new Reserve members, WO2 Bob Bunbury (our new CSM), WO2 Greg Dunn (ART GUN) and Sgt. John O'Grady (SGT. VM). It is also great to see that our Parade night and Training weekend numbers are the highest they have been for sometime, this goes well for a very successful year.

Well that's about it from me , about time I hear you say, I will try and be more regular with info from our Unit in the future all the best from 5CSSB

Terry Spinks ASM

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What is the difference between a Commissioned Officer and a Warrant Officer ??

When you “commission” a product, you hope it works.

When you “warrant” a product, you guarantee it !

Say's it all really, doesn't it !!

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Fond Memories

How often in the quiet times do you reflect back to the past, to the good old days, and reminisce about friends who you have not heard from or about for many years, wonder what they are up to, where they are, and their well being. In my case this is true as I suspect it is also the same with most of us.

Catching up with Pat Quigley at the Army Reserve Day March last year, after a lapse of some 25 years, was to say the least fantastic. During our ramblings I asked Pat about another old friend and was pleasantly surprised to be advised he is still alive and kicking, and thus a telephone call was made. The older retired members of the CMF/ARES will remember Vince Campbell whose dry sense of humour, quick wit and disdain of incompetent officers was legendary.

Vince enlisted on 8/12/41, served in New Guinea with 6 Div. 2/49 LAD looking after the welfare of 2/1 Tank Attack Anti-Tank Regiment. Vince maintains that it was a tank attack regiment when they were on the offensive and an anti-tank regiment when they were in a defensive position. He was demobbed 18/2/46 and joined the CMF in 1951 retiring in December 1969.

Now back to the present, Vince answered the phone, after introductions and recognition a time is set for a meeting at the Campbell residence. On my arrival, 5 minutes late, if Vince had been at home I would have got a bollocking for being late, however and in this case unfortunately Vince was not there but his good wife Audrey was waiting for me. Vince has had some ticker problems over the past years and associated hospitalisation. Audrey informed me that unfortunately Vince had had a bad turn in the morning and was once again back in the Emergency Ward. As Audrey does not drive we decided we would pay Vince a visit to check on his welfare. On arriving at the hospital there he was large as life wired up running the ward.

I could not work out whether Vince decided to have this bad turn to get out of our meeting or it was caused by the excitement of our first get together in 30 years.

I did remonstrate with Vince about the anguish he is causing Audrey to which he responded that it will toughen her up for the life ahead as he intends to be around in another 20 years to receive the telegram from the Queen or Charlie.

So there we were, at Vince's bedside with him chatting up the nurses, being polite but firm with the young doctors, and as tests had shown that there was no damage to the heart muscles, colour back in his face, and generally firing on all cylinders, he was asked to leave, not before the young doctor once again explained to Vince what he should or should not do with his puffer, and in particular its incorrect use that morning. At the conclusions of the doctor's instructions, Vince politely informed the doctor that he was wrong in one part and of course the remark was not taken nicely, however it ended up Vince was right. He hasn't changed a bit.

A few days later I rang Pat Quigley to thank him for Vince's telephone number and to bring him up to date, and as RAEME guys tend to do, we remembered the funnier side of our service together. Pat recalled a few instances involving Vince. On a night parade at Homebush an officer admonished Vince for being regimentally undressed as he did not have his ribbons on his uniform to which Vince replied he had forgotten to put them on, however he then pointed out the officer was also regimentally undressed as on his cap, the cap badge he was wearing, had the king's crown, not the queen's crown. Out on the field on a weekend exercise sitting around the fire after a heavy day a certain Major was complaining to Vince that his feet were very sore, Vince looked down, looked up, and suggested to this officer that if he change the boot on his left foot, put it on

the right, and the right boot put it on the left foot, his feet would feel better immediately. The officer had been walking around all day, boots reversed on the wrong feet. And talking about things on the wrong way around, Pat and Vince are out in the field wearing slouch hats with brims turned up when Vince turns to Pat and says there is something wrong, you must be going backwards. Pat was wearing his slouch hat with the upturned brim above his right ear.

Rolly Wiltshire had his unit out one wet miserable weekend with conditions being so bad that vehicles were being bogged etc. when he decided that he would ask Richmond RAAF Airbase for accommodation for the night, which was granted. Early in the morning two Air force Reserve WO's were disturbing Vince's R&R arguing about who would take their morning parade, having heard enough of this diatribe he interjected and stated that if "you want somebody to take your parade go next door and get one of my corporals".

In the early 60s at our annual camp at Gan Gan, before Nelson Bay and Port Stephens became fashionable, Comm Z Recovery Company were in their element learning, developing and honing their skills. For some unknown reason I was attached to Vince's section whose responsibility was to set up recovery tasks. At our disposal was an old white scout car and Vince decided that we would set up a water recovery exercise in the morning for a crew to remove the vehicle in the afternoon. We duly proceed in our Diamond T Wrecker with US White car in tow to Nelson Bay where niceties were dispensed with, and one heavy vehicle dumped one training vehicle off a 10 foot embankment into the clear salty waters of Nelson Bay where it rested comfortably on four wheels. Vince was not happy about the situation, promptly asked for volunteers to take a cable into the water, and attach it around the training vehicle so that it could be turned on its back. We were all taught well, nobody volunteered. Vince grumbling stalked off for a few paces and started to strip down to his UPs whilst complaining that the only person that can't swim has to get into the water, now there's a leader! The vehicle being duly turned on its back we departed back to camp for lunch before returning to wait the arrival of the recovery crew.

On arriving at the recovery site one came to the realisation that the Army is effective on land but where water is concerned should take advice from others such as the Navy. Our water recovery exercise had turned into a land exercise, the tide was out. As we were sitting on the bank waiting for the recovery crew to arrive an elderly gentleman was walking his dog along the now waterless beach and stopped by the side of the obviously dilapidated white scout car, and after a few moments turned around and asked in our general direction, "What happened here". To which as quick as a flash Vince replied in his WO1 brusque regimental voice that "some B***** took this for a joyride last night and if I can find the B***** I will court martial him", at which point our civilian and his dog took off down the beach without another word.

Over the past years Vince and Audrey have travelled all over the world, cruises, Siberian Railway, etc. Vince still amazes the unwary by looking at his watch then removing a compass from his pocket, mainly at night, and telling onlookers the time. (Did he teach Paul Hogan this trick – Crocodile Dundee 1) On cruises the compass is placed on the table, a knife near the compass is moved by stealth, the compass needle moves and all are convinced by Vince the ship is changing direction, without list or lean.

Memories of the Good Old Days.

Juan Grasis.

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Recommendations for the Appointment of Association Patron

As most of you will know by now, our Patron, Brig. Philip Amos RFD ED, has resigned his position due to ill health. I express the regrets of the Association members that he has stood down, as he has been a guiding light through the years, and his counsel will be sadly missed.

At the last Executive Committee meeting, a motion was carried that a Sub-committee be formed to seek nominations from members of the executive committee, and other Association members, for the appointment of a Patron for our Association.

The criteria that will be used in the selection of candidates is as follows:

1. The Patron should be / should have been a RAEME officer, of sufficiently high rank to have credibility within the Association, and one who has preferably had command, as opposed to staff, positions during his / her career. This ensures that he has the ability to relate to all ranks, whether serving or retired. A minimum rank of Lieutenant Colonel is recommended.
2. It is preferable that the officer is retired, as he / she may on occasions need to represent the Associations views and needs, and this may cause a serving officer, whether regular or reserve, to have a conflict of interest.
3. Because of what is perceived to be some divisions within RAEME between the regular and reserve forces, the Patron should be able to cross those boundaries, and unite the Association into a common goal, that is to represent the interests of all RAEME soldiers, regardless of rank and service. To this end, an officer who has had service in both areas of RAEME could be an ideal candidate.
4. The officer should have had a career outside the army, so that he / she understands corporate business, and is able to relate to the business community. This would enable he / she to represent the needs of the Association when requesting financial or other support.
5. That person needs to have the interests of the Corps at heart, not just lip service. The person should preferably have contact with those still serving, and who are perhaps now of higher rank, but were his / her contemporaries. The person should have a wide range of connections with those who are retired, so that he / she can tap their experience and support where necessary.

If any members of the Association wish to nominate a person for the important position of Association Patron, your recommendation is to be in writing, and address the reasons for your submission in accordance with the above criteria.

All submissions will be received by the Sub-committee, and when that Sub-committee has some nominations, these nominations will be put before the Association Executive committee for discussion, and then these persons will be approached by **the committee**, to see if they willing to accept the appointment.

The cut off date for your nominations is the 6th June 2003. As stated, your nomination must be in writing, typed, not verbal, and must address the criteria. All nominations should be addressed to the Secretary, Chris Davis, PO box 463, Moorebank NSW, 1875.

Remember, that all information and nominations received are confidential, and will not be discussed outside the Sub-committee.

Regards, *Michael O'Donohoe*

Message from the Deputy Head of Corps

*To those that have not seen a copy of the last RAEME Craftsman,
Issue Number 49, Summer 2002 / 2003,
This is a copy of the message printed in that edition.*

“My tenure as Deputy Head of Corps is drawing to a close after two very quick years, which have seen the process of revitalising the Corps begin to bear fruit. It is with regret that I hand over unfinished business to LTCOL Dave Creagh as there is much work to be done. That being said, I feel confident that we have a clearly defined way ahead and, with the assistance of the SO2 Corps, SO2 Corps Heritage, and Corps RSM; the Head of Corps and new Deputy Head of Corps are in good hands, and will receive good support.

This time last year I said that every year seems to be busier than the last, and highlighted a number of operations that members of the Corps were involved in: East Timor, Bougainville, the Sinai, the Middle East, PNG, the Solomons and a number of other regional locations. We live in turbulent times, but who could have foreseen the events of the past year, which have seen our world change as never before, causing a complete rethink of strategic policy and national responsibility. The future is impossible to predict, and, even more so now, we need to be able to adapt to a changing world, and be prepared for any eventuality.

This was the theme of the Corps Seminar held at Bandiana in October. The seminar was attended by approximately 170 SNCO's Warrant Officers and Officers of the Corps, and saw strong debate on a number of issues. At the close, the outgoing Representative Colonel Commandant, Colonel Larry Foley, remarked that as a young officer, he had attended Corps Seminars which were staid, formal affairs. SNCO's and WO2's were not invited, WO1's were invited, but not to contribute, junior officers were to be seen and not heard, and the business was conducted by the senior officers. He said that he was delighted by the change over the years, and welcomed the healthy, and at times passionate, debate. If the Craftsmen of the Corps are our lifeblood, the SNCO's, WO's and junior officers are the veins and arteries that make the body work.

The aim of the Seminar was twofold: to present the current state of the Corps to the members of the Corps, and to provide the Head of Corps with the key issues impacting on Corps capability, which he will present to the Army Capability Management Committee. This committee is chaired by the Deputy Chief of Army, and provided the Corps with the opportunity to raise issues at the highest levels. The seminar achieved these objectives. A range of speakers delivered presentations on command, personnel, training, major equipment systems, operational sustainability, technical mastery and RAEME aviation. A full synopsis of the seminar and outcomes will be provided elsewhere in this magazine.

During the past year we have also initiated the RAEME Newsletter. Distribution is gradually increasing as we add to our mailing list, so keep your eyes open. We intend to change the format to make the Newsletter more relevant and easier to read, and will attempt to focus on key issues. One of the outcomes of the Seminar was a call for feedback from units on key and current issues. Included in the Newsletter will be a simple proforma designed to provide you with the opportunity to raise issues to the HOC through myself, or the SO2 Corps. Simply fax or mail this back, or send and email.

The HOC recently thanked members of the Corps for hanging in there during what he termed 'the dark years', the past five or six years following the disbandment of the Corps Directorates, during which time the Corps was under threat, and many of our issues were not being addressed. We are

now through this bad patch, and very much looking to the future. I am pleased to have been a part of the rebirth of the Head of Corps team, and to have been able to participate in the revitalisation of the Corps. From here we can only ever get stronger. Remember, the spirit of the Corps, and the future of the Corps, rests in our hands.”

LTCOL Mike Barry
CO / CI Materiel Support Division
Deputy Head of Corps

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New Members

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|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| Vince Campbell | Ordinary | As can be seen, we are now listing the types of |
| Lucy McHutchison | Associate | membership that is applied for, as we now have three |
| Frances (Fran) O’Donohoe | Associate | (3) types of membership. |
| Robert Wittrien | Ordinary | See Constitution for revised details, else where on web. |

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A Short Poem

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the soldier,
Who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
who allows the protester to burn the flag.

*By Philip Steele,
Gulf War Veteran,
As printed in the March 2003 edition,
The Vietnam Veteran Newsletter.*

Editor’s Note: *This I think is very appropriate, after what has occurred recently.*

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That’s it for this edition, for those of you that are members of the RAEME Association NSW Inc. , you will notice that this is not the same as the full twelve (12) page edition that we print and post. For those that are not members, there is more in the printed hard copy of our Newsletter, so if you what the LOT, you will need to join.
BFN, Chris Jones, Editor.