

RAEME Association NSW Inc.

Newsletter

Issue 107 - June 2004

President's Report

Dear Members and Families,

ANZAC Day in Sydney this year was once again celebrated in brilliant sunshine, with many of our veteran community turning out to march in remembrance of their comrades, both men and women, who did not return, and for those who still suffer and die as a result of their war service.

On this very special day, Australians gather all over our country to pay their respects to those young men and women, who fought for the freedom that we sometimes take for granted. May we always remember their sacrifice, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, "Lest we Forget".

We have had the good fortune of finding a new venue for our Anzac Day Reunion, which was most pleasing, and particularly as many more of our members attended the Reunion this year, probably due to the move to a Club venue, viz the Bowlers' Club of New South Wales Limited, the Association had reserved tables and seating, with room to move, there was the opportunity to yarn with old mates, as well as enjoy a meal and refreshments, in comfort.

Hopefully next year, we will see even more members, spouses and partners, as hopefully the word will spread about this excellent venue, which is close to the Town Hall railway station, only a short walk from the end of the March. Thanks should also go to the two Association members who took the time to write letters of support of the new venue.

Recently, several of our Committee members were invited to a Friday afternoon gathering of the "Holsworthy Area Spanners Club", this being supported by the RAEME members in the Holsworthy Area, which on this occasion was held at the 145 Signal Squadron Workshop, where we were made most welcome by all those attending.

The OC of 145 Signal Squadron, Major S. Hill, had returned from operational service on this day, which made for a double celebration. Our Association Treasurer, Bob Joseph, signed up some new members, and supplied memorabilia to the interested diggers, which they were very pleased to purchase.

We also met with the Supervising Officer of the "Holsworthy Area Spanners Club", that being the OC of 17 Construction Workshop, Capt Dee-Ann Jackson. All in attendance enjoyed a very good afternoon on the day.

On the social side, we are proposing that a luncheon, to be held at the Burwood RSL Club, be organized along the same lines as that which was held at the end of last year, the details and theme are to be found else where in this Newsletter. It is also proposed that a mixed formal dinner, possibly to be held at the Moorebank Area Sergeants Mess, will be organized for later in the year, but more on this is to follow when details have been arranged.

Update from New Medal Group

The Minister assisting the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Mal Brough MP, has sought advice on whether the current form of volunteer service recognition is satisfactory from the Chief of the Defence Force, who is the principal adviser on the matter. The Minister is also seeking further advice on a number of issues with a group of pre-eminent Australians with experience in this field. When that consideration is finalized, the Minister will announce the Government's decision publicly.

Breaking News

Following the arduous task of investigating the nominations received by the Sub-Committee for the appointment of a new Association Patron, the Co-Chairmen and their sub-committee have finally presented a nomination to the Executive Committee for their approval.

The nomination was for Colonel Jennifer Watkins, AM. This nomination was passed unanimously by the Committee, and a letter was sent to Colonel Watkins, AM, to determine if she would be willing to accept the position of Patron.

Colonel Watkins has advised me that she would be very proud and privileged to accept this very important position with our Association, and that as our Patron, she would be available to attend major celebrations including ANZAC Day, Reserve Forces Day, the AGM and any significant events.

It is with a high degree of pleasure that I endorse the Committee's recommendation that Colonel Jennifer Watkins, AM, be appointed as our Association Patron.

Kind regards to all, Michael O'Donohoe

Secretary's Desk

G'day. Not much to report back about the Association, it is doing well – and that is only because of you. The members. Thank you to all the members that have sent their “details form” back. If you haven't sent yours in yet, ***please do so***. I even received one from our overseas member, Mr Roy Skinner – who lives in Switzerland. So ***please*** return your form! If you have lost your form – there will be another issue in the next Newsletter. If you have sent one back – you can disregard it.

I've had a couple of phone calls from members with address changes. THANK YOU! It is a great help, and allows us to keep in touch with you.

For all those that attended on ANZAC Day, it was a great day. I won't go on about it, but thank you to those that organised it. There will be more about the day in this Newsletter.

A couple of weeks ago I was down at Bandiana, to attend the 21st birthday for the daughter of a good friend of mine – Peter Hall. (Yes Mr Editor, it is true, I do have friends – even though they live in another state). Whilst I was there, I went to the Army Museum at Bandiana, and I must say, get yourself down there, it is the BEST! A lot of good stuff to see and buy, a lot of new stuff and great displays, so if you are down there – I recommend a visit.

If you are looking for a day out in Sydney – I thoroughly recommend the Antique and Collectables

Fair at Wentworth Park / Greyhound Racers – it's on the 1st Sunday of the month. It is a great couple of hours, if you are into that sort of thing.

Regards, Chris Davis, Secretary (Still!!)

Treasurer's Desk

Recently the Association received donations from members who many years ago paid for Life Membership. As you would be aware, with the introduction of the Revised Constitution, this now comes under the category of Life Subscribers.

When I enquired as to why they were making the donation, they indicated that what they paid many years ago would not cover the cost of them receiving the Newsletter at today's cost. Whilst, as Treasurer it is my duty to ensure that the Association has funds to meet its day to day running expenses, and this is not a plea for funds, but just a request for you ask yourself, can I spare some more for things I may be getting for free, and which my mates are paying for.

Let your conscious be your guide.

Also, I recently posted to member's their fees due, so could you please pay those as soon as possible.

Please send your Cheque or Money Order payable to the:

“RAEME Association NSW Inc.”

All fees should be posted to the following:

The Treasurer
RAEME Association NSW Inc.
PO Box 463
MOOREBANK NSW 1875

Regards, Bob Joseph

103 Workshop Company 5CSSB

The Apprenticeship program (ARTTS Army Reserve Technical Trade Scheme) that I spoke about in my last report is moving forward. 5CSSB and HQ 5 Brigade have been very active in the past few months and it is finally coming to fruition for us. This is a first for our Brigade, although our brothers at 8 CSSB have been in a pilot program for the past three years. Their program has been very successful and netted a good number of vehicle mechanics and some other trades including some cooks. We will commence with only vehicle mechanics, as this is our most critical trade at 5 CSSB. We are hoping for at least six first years to commence in January 2005, so our deadlines for recruiting these members is fast drawing to a close. If you know some one who is between the ages of 17 and 21 years, and is looking for the best of both worlds, by joining a great team in the Army Reserve and to gain a certificate three in Automotive Mechanical -heavy vehicle road transport, then this is a great opportunity for them.

The ARTTS scheme is a partnership between the Army Reserve and a nominated Group Training Company. Applicants must remain active members of The Reserve and have passes in year 10 Maths, English and Science. They also need to be medically and physically fit, and be an

Australian Citizen. This is a fantastic new scheme that assists young men and women in getting their trade qualifications with great benefits. The army Reserve in conjunction with the GTC find work placement, both in the Army and with host civilian employers. Successful applicants receive full Army pay whilst undergoing Basic Training (45 Days) at Kapooka. So if you know someone who fits the above criteria, and you know that they would suit this type of scheme, please get them to contact the recruiting Sgt at 5CSSB, Sgt Karina Peacock, on 93160102.

Well, enough for the paid commercials, we have been very active in our first six months of the year. We have ANZAC Day behind us with our usual two parades, dawn service at Concord RSL and then into town for the main march. A well done to all the banner parties, as usual a very professional effort. We will be heading out on our third deployment for the year very shortly, and this caused us a great deal of preparation. The Workshop has paraded outside normal parade requirements to get the equipment and vehicles prepared, I guess we in RAEME would not expect anything less from workshop elements.

As I put in the first Newsletter, normally on the last Friday in August, Wynn Coles and his team hold the WO's and SNCO's dinner at the Moorebank Area Sergeants Mess. I would commend this night to all that are eligible to attend, especially if have any connection to the venue, as we are not sure how long it will be available, as I stated before, already the Offer's Mess has closed, so please show your support by attending this function.

On a final note, I would like to congratulate the Committee for the new Reunion venue, I feel that all in attendance benefited, as being all in the same room, members were able to see old mates, and there was sufficient room to move and stand to have a yarn, unlike the Crown Hotel. I look forward to this venue being used on future occasions, well done.

Well that's about it from me, all the best from 103 Workshop Coy 5CSSB.

Terry Spinks
ASM

DNSDC Jottings

Well, hello once again to all the readers. I have been head down, bum up for a while, and I have possibly offended the Editor by not supplying any thing for him to place in the last journal. This time, I had to supply something, or the editor with his poetic licence would have put something in on my behalf. With his perfection and skill for wit and sarcasm, I thought I should submit something.

Well, the news we have all been waiting for in reference to "DIDS" is now available.

The winning tenderer is TTDL (TenixToll Defence Logistics). TenixToll Defence Logistics is an incorporated joint venture equally owned by the largest Australian-owned defence contractor Tenix Defence Logistics Pty Ltd, and Australia's leading provider of integrated logistics and transportation services, Toll Holdings Limited.

The TenixToll Board consists of two directors from each of the joint venture partners:

- Paul Salteri, Managing Director, Tenix
- General Peter Gratton AC, OBE (Retd), Tenix Director
- Paul Little, Managing Director, Toll
- Mark Rowsthorn, Executive Director, Toll

Southern Region has started it's roll out, and consequently TTDL is seeking to employ the following suitably qualified Logistics Operations, Trades people and Team Leaders for the South Australian, Western Australian, Hobart, Puckapunyal and Watsonia operations.

1. Warehouse Operators
2. Fitter Armourers
3. Spray Painters
4. Motor Mechanics
5. Fitter and Turners
6. Trades Assistants
7. Vehicle Lighting and Power Technicians
8. Radio Mechanics
9. Welders
10. Optics Technicians

The DNSDC Site will be rolling out after June 04 with the full transition being completed by November this year. This means all public servants (approx 450 on this site alone) in the maintenance, storage and distribution side of the business will no longer exist as employees for the Department of Defence. This also has a roll on effect, to all military positions posted to the Workshop's and Non Core Areas having to move on. However positions still remain in the CORE area for a few RAEME personnel.

QLD and the NT will be rolled out after us, and all sites are to be nationally transitioned by 30 Jan 2005.

TenixToll have a Web site, so if you are interested in the state of Defence Logistics, have a look on: www.tenix.com.au
then click on the 'AFFILIATES' box, then scroll to TenixToll.

ARTE et MARTE – Michael Wilkinson

Eulogy - Harold Raymond Wood - 26 April 1991

HAROLD RAYMOND WOOD, greatly loved husband of Thyra, father of Harold, father-in-law of Margaret, and grandfather of Anna, was born in North Adelaide South Australia March 1st 1915. Harold was the last born in a family of four children and tragically grew up never knowing his own father who was killed in France during World War I before he was born. Though raised in difficult financial circumstances, the love of his remaining family sustained Harold's growth though productive school years spent at Thebarton Technical School, where he picked up the necessary and valuable learning skills and required disciplined manner to be accepted by Stevenson Brothers Limited, Rundle Street Adelaide City, as an apprentice Watch and Clock Maker on December 16th 1929 aged 14. Harold successfully completed his six year apprenticeship in that trade which was to be his life's work and earned in the process, the great respect and admiration of all those around him especially including his foreman and apprentice master, Edwin Metcalf. For 62 of his finally reached 76 years, Harold has expertly repaired all manner of timepieces and in fact died while working on Friday April 26th, when he was returning completed contract work to businessman and very good friend John Hall with whom he has worked for over 39 years.

At age 21, Harold left Adelaide, his family and employment, to travel here to Sydney with just a suitcase and a few pounds to start a new life. He commenced work in Sydney for Saunders Pty Ltd and while there, met Thyra Hudson who he married at Mary Immaculate Church Waverley on

the 28th of December 1940. In their over fifty happy years together, Thyra and Harold enjoyed the kind of loving married relationship as can only be truly described as complete. Their joyous union produced one child, a son Harold Charles, who was born to them on the 17th of November 1944, this only son was named after both his father and paternal grandfather. Harold junior appreciates being both blessed and privileged to have grown all through his 46 years of life within the very positive influence of this loving, stable and caring environment.

In 1941, nearly a year after his marriage, Harold was called up for military service and so served from the 5th of November that year, to 22nd November 1945. Harold attained the army rank of Staff Sergeant in the 54th Australian Anti-Aircraft Regiment Workshop, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. During his time in the army, he was transferred variously to Newcastle, Melbourne, and then Newcastle once more, (where Harold junior was born) and finally to Darwin just at wars end, and just before being embarked for the horrors of the New Guinea campaigns. Harold belonged to the Coogee Randwick Returned Services Club since moving to Randwick from Bondi Beach in 1965, and also retained membership of the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club since the late 1960's.

After the war, Harold soon joined the firm of Prouds Pty Ltd where he worked as a contract watchmaker until 1971 when the original Prouds building on the corner of King and Pitt Streets Sydney was demolished to make way for a new development.

When the new Prouds store opened there again on the old site, it did so without its previously held complement of 23 watchmakers. Harold however, in his true enterprising manner, continued his firmly established contract watchmaking business fully successfully from the instant of that closure until his passing, from his own designed and well-equipped home workroom.

Outside his working life and in the realm of sporting recreation, Harold since the early 1950's had but one sporting interest, that was golf. After learning to play, he joined the Moore Park Golf Club and enjoyed continuous membership there from the 21st of September 1953 up to his death. His death came only a day before the next round with his playing partners who have expressed their shock and sadness at the sudden loss to them of their fellow competitor and appreciated good mate.

In character, Harold was a warm and generous person who was scrupulously honest in all his dealings with others, he was reliable, loyal, and made a committed friend to those who wished to share his friendship. Those friends who best knew him, knew a confident quietly spoken extremely self-reliant meticulous individual with firm fair opinions on most of life's important issues. His opinion on how best to forge a clear passage through our difficult world rested in part on a simple and practical principle, he often said it was good to always try to practice moderation in the partaking of all worthwhile things. Harold was indeed that self recommended and specified controlled person, extremes in anything were an anathema to him.

Above all though, Harold's gentle devotion to his wife and family, a family especially including those many relatives he gathered and thoroughly enjoyed on Thyra's side through marriage, was obviously total, he was absolutely no more no less than the whole family man of his real nature.

Goodbye to you Harold from all of us who will miss you dearly and will always warmly remember your being. Of many other persons too it can be said that they have shared the capacity to love and be loved equally as much as you, but surely and certainly there can be no others of whom it can be rightly claimed, that they have been more so loving, and then in turn so greatly loved.

Note:

You may ask the reason for the inclusion of this eulogy, as the member passed away in 1991. The first reason is this, he was a member of our Corps, and it should be included as a tribute to the man. The second reason is that, his only son would like to hear from anyone that may have known his father, to see if they have any photo's from the war years which may include his father, or if they have any stories that may include his father.

Harold Junior has already tried the Website, his only reply was from me. It is more than likely that those of our members that may have known him, due to there age, may not have access to the internet, so I have included it in this Newsletter, and hopefully some one may be able to help. Harold can be contacted by email at: woody@accsoft.com.au

Now it is over to you, please help if possible, Chris Jones

Letters to the Editor

Letter One

Dear Sir,

I attended the recent Anzac Day March and following Reunion at the new venue – the Bowlers' Club of NSW.

The Bowlers' Club was a vast improvement upon our previous venue, as there was ample seating, an open area whereby one could actually see who was in attendance, and good food and bar service.

Whilst it is perhaps not as close to the end of the march as the previous location, it is certainly more central to transport after the Reunion and I think that is a more important consideration.

I wish to express my thanks to those concerned who recommended the Bowlers' Club and to the Committee for acting upon that recommendation. I trust that our Reunion at this new location will continue.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Handel

Letter Two

Anzac Day 2004 Reserve Forces group duly formed up in the usual position in Phillip Street. As usual, it was a case of hurry up and wait. After a good chat with some thirty old friends and comrades, we crossed the start line in good order some time after 1200 hrs. The advance proceeded to plan (somebody's) in files of ten for approximately 100 meters, only to be bogged down for some 15 minutes or so further up Phillip Street. Something about (Greatcoats) I think.

There some confusion surfaced about the suitability of the route for Tens, so we quickly reformed into eight's. This had the twofold effect of making the group appear bigger, and the upsetting of those erstwhile men who were running around demanding Tens. Oh well, things will get a little off the plan occasionally?

The advance eventually recommenced with the group stepping off in good order. Once again we managed to get a good Cadet band behind us so that we wheeled into the Cenotaph Plaza in excellent order. Proudly eyes left and right, headdress over the heart. Once into George Street, we gave good eyes right to the War Widows and proceeded still in good order. Proud of you men.

On entering the Bowlers Club Venue, we found that so many had turned out for the new venue, that the early birds took all of the allocated seats. However, the Beer was cold and very nice as Jonesy had promised, the company was great, so all was well in our world.

I must say that it was a pleasure to be able to mingle and chat with all members once again. Well done to the organisers.

Regards

2265126

Ed Note: Two things. For those that don't know who this is, it is Fred Jolly. Second, I went to a lot of trouble to sample the beer for the members, I do care about you !!

Letter Three

I attended the ANZAC Day march and the get together at the NSW Bowling Club following the march. A bit further to walk to the club, but well worth the effort.

Arriving I found the club to be much better located than the Crown Hotel, with more room to move around, though there were other groups present in the room, we were all together, not on two levels. Lifts for the members with difficulties climbing the stairs, I also checked out the lunch menu, and found the variety of food and pricing very good, some what better served and the access to the servery was better than we had at the Crown Hotel.

I spoke to several RAEME members present regarding the new venue, and all comments were favourable. I cannot speak for the quality of the food, as I was not feeling 100% on the day, and left early, therefore I did not have a meal, but the food appeared to be of a good standard. I thought the fishmeal of Barramundi etc was very well priced at around, from memory, \$10.00 - \$12.00, and I noted a good variety of meals available, there being ample bar access and service for the liquid refreshments.

I feel the Committee decision to change the location was a good one, the only comment I would make, I suggest we reserve some more seating for next year if we use the same venue. I compared this venue to the days when we used to gather at the Cyprus Hellenic Club, again we had plenty of room, good food and drink, but alas it is no longer available.

Best wishes, David Payne
Member number 58

Letter Four

Hello to All. To anyone that does not know me very well, firstly I would just like to say this in my defence, I am blunt and to the point, or to put it another way, I only see black and white, no grey in between (my Wife's words), I know some would use other words to describe me, but I want no input from Spinks, Wilko or Davis, and if I upset anyone by these words, sorry.

Speaking as a **member** of this Association, and **NOT** as the **editor**, or as a **committee member**, but purely as my own thoughts, I write this short item as an article for inclusion in this Newsletter, (the same as I would if it was a letter from another member). If in doubt or offended about my ideas / feelings, then please refer to the bottom of page 3.

My thoughts are these, the committee does work hard to organise functions for the members of this Association, some are requested by individual members, other ideas are due to “brain storming” at committee meetings, to try to formulate plans for activities / social functions that the members can attend, and hopefully enjoy.

Last year the committee organised a “Christmas luncheon”, at the request of a member, at a good venue, with a full three course, sit down, table service meal, cost of this function was only \$19.80 per person, drinks at member’s expense.

Total number of persons in attendance – 24. Most of those persons that attended were committee members with partners; the member that requested this type of function was noticeably not in attendance.

Now, we all know that people have other commitments, and not everyone can attend every function, but I feel that the members should support any function that is organised by the committee, if the functions that are planned are not of interest, dull, boring or too far to travel, or what ever, let the committee know.

The committee does need guidance (they are not mind readers) to organise these functions for the members, after all, they are working for the Association members, and only trying to get a venue / function that can get our members interest, so that members can meet and socialise, something that does not happen very often, apart from ANZAC Day. Whilst on the subject of ANZAC Day, I would like to thank Michael O’Donohoe, Fred Jolly and Barry McFayden for finding the Bowling Club, excellent work from the three; it was a great venue and day.

Chris Jones

Letter Five

Dear Chris,

As I stand fully chastised over the article I wrote for the Craftsman, I thought that I would try to redeem myself by bunging off a few lines to you on what was to me a memorable ANZAC Day, in the hope that it may return me from Coventry. The enclosed article is pretty well self-explanatory, but just in case I did not fill you in on the day, I will run through a bit of the background.

My first posting was down to Broadmeadows to what was then 3 Base Workshop and to what was my first undesired taste of Melbourne. The year was late 1951; the whole crew was made up of a motley lot of blokes from just about every state and territory in the country. After a while it was not hard to pick out who was from where. The Victorians were always missing as they knew the lay of the land well and would disappear with the speed of a startled Lance Jack looking for his second stripe. The “Crow Eaters and Sand Gropers” always got around in a mob that resembled home sick emus. As for the “New South Welshmen or Corn stalkers”, they had a tendency to disappear and go “Ack Willy” every time the gate was left open. The “Taswegians” were used to it and could be seen sun bathing in the midst of a Melbourne winter.

Those from the “Northern Territory” we never did (nor were game) to round up and ear mark, as

we had no boots to fit them. That only left the “Queenslander” and they were not hard to pick as they constantly wore their overcoats (anti shrapnel) or great coats. I often wondered, and still do, when the “Galloping Grocers (RAAOC)” named the great coats, were they in their wisdom referring to their supposed quality or their spacious size, any way I digress as usual, for amongst these poor begotten refugees from the “Sunshine State” was among others one Cfn Robert (Dusty) Miller.

A driver by trade, but later to become a greaser, and the best ‘Toe Rag’ in the Corps. As luck would have it, it was Dusty amongst others who took me under his wing and pretty soon they had me trained in their Queensland ways.

I suppose that it was only natural that Dusty and I got around together and became long time mates. Later in the bit we both transferred out to Pucka to “Bash Nasho’s”, and once again I wondered, did we leave our units for our units good, or was it a mutual agreement. As bad luck and the army would have it, after four years we were transferred in different directions and in spite of every effort we did not get back together until this ANZAC Day. But I am sure that this is old hat to you, as it is probably the story that can be told by all “Old Sweats”.

As I started out to say, the enclosed article is self-explanatory, and I hope that it is of interest to you and the members. Suffice to say that the story of what took place when good Corps tradesmen were sent to instruct National Servicemen is some thing that could fill a book, a BLOODY big book in fact.

How ever, my real reason for writing this is to thank all of the serving Corps members who once again excelled themselves as in any thing that they have done in the past, and equally did on the day by making us all proud of them. I never fail to spend (an all to brief) day with them that I don’t come away feeling very, very proud. I then proceed home to tell all and any of the family who will listen to my tales of young serving members of the Corps.

To all it is obvious they must surely be a credit to the 17 Construction Squadron Workshop Troop, and I deem it an honour to know them. In particular, one Sgt Marcellin Che who is, I would say the guiding factor who I guess has led his mates home before and will do so again and again. As usual I must beg forgiveness from those of you who my memory will not allow me to name, but suffice to say, I look forward to next year and another trip to Sydney, if only to see you all again. In the mean time, as I have said before, if ever you find your selves in my area, my home is yours. Before I close, I would like to include a little poem that I first seen written in the cover of an old instruction manual, long ago when I was going for my first promotion. I have carried it with me ever since, and I believe it more than fits the young men and women who I had the honour to share the day with.

Bill O’Neill

Editor’s Note: Look on the “Noticeboard” for other article.

Roving Reporter

Weekend Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th April 2004-06-21, in Brisbane for:

The “Gathering of RAEME for ANZAC Day 25th April 2004”. Convened by 106 Field Workshop RAEME Association (Inc). Congratulations 106, an Excellent weekend.

Your Roving Reporter reporting from Brisbane, what can I say! I had a ball of a weekend.

Thursday 22 APR 04

I drove to Grafton, and stayed overnight.

Friday 23 APR 04

I pushed onto Brisbane where I had trouble in arriving at my motel. Soho on 333 Wickham Tce, with the one-way streets. Finally after driving around in circles, there it was in all its glory, the motel (very nice motel). Friday evening after a few enquiries, I finally made the Kedron / Wavell Services Club, 375 Gympie Rd, Chermside (long distance from motel). After shaking of many hands, renewing friendships of old friends that I had not seen from 5 to 35 years, and recollection of times together. What a memorable night.

Saturday 24 APR 04

Saturday was a get together at the Borlace Club at Enoggera Barracks to view some memorabilia, partake a sausage sizzle B-B-Q. Saturday evening in the Kedron / Wavell Services Club, where approximately 350 mixed people partook an excellent buffet (plenty of tucker), plus plenty of liquid refreshment of Gold, XXXX and lager, a nice drop.

Evening Order of March.

1. National Anthem
2. Welcome address: Milton Pearson
3. Grace: Alan Jago
4. Guest of Honour: Brigadier Douglas Formby, RAAC
Introduced by Les Edis
5. Representative Colonel Commandant: Brigadier Ross Grant
6. Tributes: Philly Bond, John Sinclair, Ross Grant
7. Toast to the Corp: John Bailey

The music was provided by "Radio Saigon", a Brisbane Band. The night ended early.

Sunday 25 APR 04

The Dawn Service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance in Ann Street.

The ANZAC Day March commenced. For this occasion, only RAEME Post World War II has been elevated to a marching position immediately after the WW II veterans (our position is normally way back towards the end of the march). This was an honour to march in this position. The RAEME Corps Prince Philip Banner was paraded with 120 regular and reserve force soldiers, followed by the Army Band, then the RAEME contingent. It was a great march, I was happy to be able to attend this weekend. At the conclusion of the march, RAEME gathered at the Port Office Hotel, corner of Margaret and Edward Streets, where lunch was served, and a large quantity of liquid refreshment was consumed. About 7.30 pm, after the hotel closed, your Roving Reporter staggered all uphill to his motel, I slept like a log. Weather – sunshine all weekend.

Monday 26 APR 04

I departed Brisbane with a sad heart, I set off to stay overnight in Coffs Harbour.

In conclusion, for the people down south, you missed out on a memorable weekend. This was the fourth time that I have marched under the RAEME Corp Prince Philip Banner. The "Gathering of

RAEME Brisbane 2004' was proudly convened by the 106 Field Workshop RAEME Association (Inc).

Here is a list of names:

Mark Adamson, Reginald Davey, Graham Desantis, Robert Maxted, Willian Steele, Vincient Tuornoff, Lawrence Walters, Sidney Young, Peter Snowden, Les Edis, Don Waddingham, Uncle Reemers, and Ronald Evans.

Best wishes, Lawrie O'Brien

Poem sent by Bill O'Neill

I'd like to think, when life is done,
That I had filled a needed post,
That here and there I'd paid my fare,
With more than talk and idle boast;

That I had taken gifts Divine,
The breath of life on manhood fine,
And tried to use them, now and then,
In service of my fellow men.

Editor's Note: The author of this poem is not known.

Twin Boomers

For all those "Twin Boomers", look at:

Mvmodels.com

The "Diamond T Wrecker" models are superb.

My thanks to Graham Davidson for telling us
about the web site.

Regards, Bob Joseph

Holsworthy Spanners Club

To let you all know, the Holsworthy Spanners Club is in existence again. Recently four members of this Association were invited to attend one of their afternoon get togethers, which was held at 145 Signal Squadron Workshop.

Those that attended were Michael O'Donohoe, Chris Davis, Bob Joseph and myself. Bob did his usual bit of showing our merchandise and selling same, the President and Chris Davis spoke to just about everybody in attendance, as they normally do, they both have the gift of the gab (I sometimes think Mr Davis could sell sand to the arabs).

I handed out application forms for membership, to try to enrol some new Association members, and I put on a bit of pressure for one of their group to write something for this Newsletter, but evidently I failed, as no article was forth coming, although they did send some photos of the function to the webmaster, and they are on our website, maybe better luck next time.

All in all, it was a pleasant afternoon, and with luck, we may get another invitation in the future, so that we can keep in touch with this group, and get to know each other better.

Chris Jones

New Members

Ordinary Members

Gary Paul McFadden
Andrew Wheatley

Army Poem

I've fought on the ground, in the air, and on the sea
You'll know me by my courage and mateship
And pride in my country, young and free

I went to Gallipoli as a youngster
With thoughts of nationhood fresh in my mind
It was there my fighting spirit became known to the world
As I bled at the Neck and Lone Pine

I lost my horse at Beersheba
And the Emden gave me a fright
But I handled myself pretty well – so I'm told
Having proven my ability to fight

I spent two stinkin years in the trenches of France
Getting bashed by the gas and guns
But my spirit shone through at Bullecourt and at Ypres
And at Villiers Brettoneoux we beat back the 'Hun'

I saw York win the Medal of Honour
I stood with the Brits at the Somme
Together we brought the Kaiser to his knees
And the 'War to end all wars' was won

It wasn't long before I was back in the fray
When Hitler and Tojo came to the fore
I wore blue for the first time and went into the sky
And fought high above England's shore

I went in the bag in Singapore
And I got left behind in Crete
But my spirit didn't waiver
Cause I've never had thoughts of defeat

I danced with the Nazis in North Africa
I beat Rommel at Tobruk and Alamein
Then Lavarack and Monty set me on the Vichy French
And I walked through Damascus – Again!

I headed south to defend my homeland
And got to New Guinea in the nick of time
As "Ragged Bloody Heroes" in the mud up on the "Track":
My mates and I held the line

I fought Mao Tse Tung at Kapyong
And Ho Chi Minh at Long Tan
I kicked Guetteres out of East Timor
And I helped rid the world of Saddam

I served in Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda
When those nations saw the eyes of hell
I restored law and order in the Solomon's
And I came running when the Twin Towers fell

Cause there's nothing more important to me than freedom
My sunburnt country I love through and through
And even though I'm not the biggest kid on the block
I've never backed away from a blue!

You see I am an Australian soldier
When there's a job to do – I'm there
Cause my blood sweat and tears are a small price to pay
To Advance Australia Fair.

Editor's Note: This was emailed to me; I have been told it is from the Army News, March 2004

