

RAEME Association NSW Inc.

Newsletter

Issue 105 - January 2004

President's Report

Dear Members and Families,

On behalf of the Executive Committee I hope that everyone had a *Very Happy and Safe Christmas*, and that the *New Year of 2004* will bring a *safer world to live in*.

On the 22nd November 2003, a group of 24 Association members and partners, celebrated at the Burwood RSL Club, where we were accorded a private function room, it's own bar, and table service for a delicious three (3) course dinner of Christmas fare, all for the cost of \$19.80 per head, from 1130 hrs till 1430 hrs. I know that the timing may have been a touch closer to Christmas, but surely we could muster at least 50 Association members. Maybe this year, but more on that during the year.

For those persons that attended the day, I thank you. I am sure everyone knows that we, as a Committee, are only trying to extend occasions such as this for the benefit of our members and partners. I would like to extend a special thanks to my wife Fran for the decorating of the tables; this created a festive atmosphere for the occasion.

Our next main event is of course the Association AGM, which is to be held on the 28th February 2004, at the Burwood RSL Club, hopefully all will be there at 1030 hrs, so that we can get the meeting started on time, hopefully the meeting will take no longer than one (1) hour for the business to be conducted, and then those that wish to, can proceed to the Clubs restaurant for a buffet lunch starting at 1200 hrs, and then to catch up with old friends.

Every member should have received their Newsletter in October 2003, and they will know that they may lodge a proxy vote if they are unable to attend the AGM, and proxy forms were attached to that Newsletter. But please **NOTE**, a proxy vote **MAY NOT** be given to a person who is not an Ordinary Member of the Association.

Also, there were nomination forms for office bearer included with the last Newsletter, so if you wish to be nominated, or to nominate another member, please try to have those forms to the Secretary by the **30th January 2004**. As you can imagine, the Secretary has a lot to prepare for the AGM, and it is easier for him if the forms are in early, so as he can get the list of nominations prepared. If as a last resort (*a very last resort*), and you wish to be nominated on the day, then they will be accepted at the AGM, but must be presented before the meeting starts.

There have been several names of people who could be nominated for the position of Association Patron mentioned over the recent months, but again, members wishing to nominate a person, must do so in writing, as previously explained in the Newsletters. All nominations are to be lodged with the Secretary via the PO Box address, and will then be referred to the Sub-committee duly appointed for discussion. All of these nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence, and not discussed out side of the Sub-committee.

This matter is now serious to the extent that a new Patron must be selected, but that is not to say that the Committee will hasten to appoint a prospective candidate. Remember, we will only get one (1) chance to secure the person most suitable. So, that having been said, lets have those nominations in now, thank you.

On a sad note, I have to inform our members that Della Marment, wife of the late Joe Marment, is not enjoying good health after yet another stay in hospital. We all wish the very best to Della for a speedy recovery.

The *New Medal Group* conducted a public meeting on the 28th November 2003, at the Paddington – Woollahra RSL Club, to announce the objective of the group, which is to:

“Achieve the issue of a medal, to be awarded to those members of the ADF, of the three (3) services, both Regular and Reserve, whose members have not been recognised previously for their service.”

This group, which comprises Senior Officers of the ADF, and even some of our members, have been very active in this endeavour as part of the *New Medal Group*. I would like to thank Barry McFayden, Bob Joseph, Roland Millbank and Fred Jolly for accepting their conscription to this group by yours truly, thanks fellows.

Please note: the eligibility is that: *“a person must have served two (2) years in the ADF, and have completed their engagement. Eligibility for this Medal will commence from the 1st January 1946.”*

Reserve Forces Day in 2004 will be conducted in Sydney and Newcastle on Sunday 4th July 2004. The theme for this years Parade is to high light the role of the horse 90 years ago, when both soldiers and horses were drawn from all over Australia, and grouped into formations for embarkation of the 1st AIF.

Thus 90 horses, one (1) for each year since the commencement of World War I, will hopefully lead the Parade, and possibly all horses will be Walers. If it is not possible to gather 90 Walers, then “bushmen and their horses” from around the country will be gathered to make up the difference, to show the way in which those riders, and their horses, were enlisted originally.

It is considered that this theme will create a good deal of media attention. There is more on this subject else where in this Newsletter, as Fred Jolly has also written a small article, and I believe he may have some photos to go on our website.

On a final note, there are two (2) items raised in this Newsletter, one (1) from the Secretary, and one (1) from the Treasurer, and both are equally important.

The Treasurer has added a small note in this Newsletter, in regards to outstanding subscription fees. As we all know, these executive positions are filled voluntarily, and it makes a lot of extra work for the Secretary and Treasurer, in chasing outstanding fees and in keeping our membership register up to date of financial members, and sending out reminders to those members that are in arrears. We do not wish to lose members, but to increase our membership base, and there are regular costs to be met, such as the Newsletter, and it’s postage, so we do need those fees. I think that is enough said on that matter.

The Secretary has raised the point of the attached “*member details form*”, this information is important to the Committee so as we can readily identify any person that we may need to contact, or if some one is trying to locate one of our members. The Secretary has highlighted the fact that it

is “**confidential information**”, and that it will not be transmitted to anyone, the way in which anything is conducted has been laid down by him, and will be strictly adhered to, on that you can be sure. Please fill in the form and post back promptly, thank you.

Wishing you all the best, and I hope to see many of you at the AGM, so please, come along for the day to meet up with old friends, and to have an enjoyable lunch, and maybe a couple of drinks.

Regards, Michael O’Donohoe

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New Members

Capt Nicole Bradley	Ordinary
Andrew King	Ordinary
Malcolm Sparrow	Ordinary

Remember, we are always trying to get new members, so please help the committee by giving out application forms, or notify a committee member, or show them the on line application form on this website, but please spread the word.

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Cherry Tree Walk - Rededication

For those that do not know, there have been some major up-grading of the “Monument of the Vietnam War Memorial the Cherry Tree Walk”, approx \$30,000.00 has been allocated for this exercise. As the Memorial is being refurbished with Granite from South Africa that is being cut and polished by a firm in Sydney and transported down to Bowral.

This is 95% completed. The next job is to fitting in the new Name plates.
For those who have seen the old name plates the new ones will be a lot sharper and define the names much clearer.

There is to be two major Parades taking place there on the 28th February 2004, to “Re-dedicate the site to our Vietnam dead”.

The organisers have scored a major coupe by having the new Governor General to attend on the day. **His Excellency, Major General Phillip Michael Jeffrey AC, CVO, MC (Rt'd), Governor General of Australia.**

He is also a former 8RAR Digger, and the members of 8RAR will also be having their own Parade starting at 11:00hrs for their Annual LONG HAI DAY.

The “Re-dedication Parade” then starts after the 8RAR Parade at 12:00hrs.
An Army band has been promised for the Parade and a Military Honour Guard.

A BBQ will be held on site by the local Nashos.

There is also a “New Homepage” for the “Cherry Tree Walk” being built now, so more on that in the next Newsletter.

For any further details for the “Re-dedication Parade”, contactTony (oink) Blake at ozgrunt@hinet.net.au

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Message from the Commander DNSDC

Dear RAEME NSW Members,

I was fortunate enough to meet a number of you at the Annual RAEME Warrant Officers and Senior Non-commissioned Officers Dinner on the 29th August 2003 at the MASM.

My thanks go to Win Coles for coordinating the function, and to Chris Davis and Chris Jones, who were my hosts for the evening, and who entertained me during that time. To those of you who I did not get to meet (yes I did call it a night quite early), I hope that we both get the opportunity to attend and meet at next year’s function.

Throughout the night, I wondered how such a disparate group stayed together for all these years, and especially with the bagging that you seem to give each other. After a pleasant meal and some very nice wine, it came to me, you weren’t bagging your mates, but rather demonstrating the pride you have in both your Corps (I understand the second largest in the Army), and especially in your particular trade.

Yours was the first such Corps function that I have had the pleasure of being invited to. RAAF “box-packers” don’t often get an invitation to see the heart (the Warrant Officers and Sergeants) of an Army Corps. If the “Ordies” next week can produce as successful function as you did, then they, and I, will be truly fortunate indeed.

The mateship, rivalry and pride displayed on the night are a credit to each and every one of you. Through this Association, and functions such as this nights, you bring history to those currently serving and strength to your Corps. Well done and thank you.

Fred Bament
Group Captain
Commander
DNSDC

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From the Secretary’s Desk

Another busy twelve (12) months for both the committee and volunteers (wives / partners) has come and gone. There is not a lot for me to say that others have not already covered in this Newsletter, but it would be remiss of me not to mention how “chuffed” I was at receiving my award at the Christmas function. Sandy – it is excellent.

There are two (2) things I can touch on. One is our membership – remember to keep up the good work and supply the Association with leads for new members. And the second thing is – the committee goes to a lot of trouble in organising functions. I know some people can not come for some reason or other, but would you ***please try***. I am tired of sitting next to the Editor !!!!

You will find on this Website, *“a member details form”*, this is for the updating of our membership register. As a lot of you will know, most of the Committee are younger members, and we do not all know all of our membership base. Some of our records only show an initial for first name, no contact phone numbers or other helpful information, and we need to rectify this as soon as possible.

Now, let me point out a very important point, all information that is given to the Secretary is **CONFIDENTIAL**, and I must **STRESS CONFIDENTIAL**. No information is given to anyone. If a person phones me for any contact details, even if they are your best friend, those details are not disclosed. As some of you know already, I take the phone number of the caller, and then I **phone** our member, and pass the **callers details to them**, and it is then **their decision** whether to return the phone call or not.

Another reason why we need contact phone numbers, and this may sound morbid, is so that when one of our members is sick in hospital, or the worst case, has passed away, we can inform his mates. So please help out by sending the forms back ASAP.

Ohh – and just before I go, I would like to thank the wives / partners for all the help they have given the Association in the past year, because they are the ones that give us the time and support to do all this stuff.

Regards, Chris Davis

(I do not remember forcing him to sit with me, I was there first. Ed)

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From the Treasurer’s Journal

Hello there, I would like to thank all who have paid their subscription fees on time. Also thanks to those who have paid their subscriptions, which were in arrears.

To those who have not paid, and are in arrears, I would like to remind you that under the Constitution you should have paid by the 30th April, each year.

My understanding is that the subscription rate equals the cost of a couple of schooners, so please don’t let your mates down. Please pay as soon as possible, otherwise it will be necessary to remove your name from the register of members in accordance with the Constitution, and then you will lose contact with the Association, and us with you, and that would be a shame.

Best wishes, Bob Joseph

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Book Review:

“Shooting Awards and Prize Medals to Australian Military Forces”

Shooting Awards and Prize Medals to Australian Military Forces is a meticulously researched book that provides a history of the many shooting and other prize medal competitions, military and civilian, involving Australian military forces including cadets. For the first time, the names of the major medal winners at Australia’s military training establishments are recorded in one

publication. There is also a brief history of some important awards including the King's/Queen's Gold Medal awarded at RMC Duntroon, RANC Jervis Bay, and RAAF Academy Point Cook; the Governor-General's Medal at the Army Apprentice School, OCS Portsea, OTU Scheyville (raised for the Vietnam War) and the RAAF Apprentice School. Many other important training awards are also documented including the Lonsdale Medal, the Gullidge Memorial Medal, the Gowlland Memorial Medal and the King's Medal from RMC Sandhurst, which was awarded to Armidale born Australian, George de la Poer Beresford in 1905. As the book describes, "He had an illustrious career serving in France during World War I, Palestine 1918, Kurdistan 1919, North-West Frontier of India 1919-20 and 1930-31, Iraq & Iran 1940 and 1941-42. He retired in 1947 as Major General Sir G Beresford KBE, CB, MC and also was bestowed with the Egyptian Order of the Nile."

Shooting competitions described include the prestigious King's and Queen's events both military and civilian and the world famous Bisley tournament and other overseas competitions in which Australian military members have competed in Canada, NZ, South Africa and USA. All events at the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting held annually since 1984 and all Tri-Service Meetings are also included together with the names of all winners and a brief history of the competitions. Significant cadet competitions are documented including the important Senior Cadet Competitions 1911-29, the ANA Gold Medal Rifle Shooting Competition 1912-75, the King's Trophy and Imperial Challenge Shield Competitions and the Earl Roberts Trophy.

Not only does the book place on record information that has never before been published but it is a book that can be opened at random to read about an award or some interesting other snippet of interest. For example read about the teams rifle match held at Randwick in 1908 between the National Rifle Association Council Team and a team from the visiting US Navy Fleet or read about one of the Australian military's most famous weapons in the write-up on the .303 Centenary Shoot held in Canberra in 1995. Learn about individuals such as champion shooter, Vic Stein, who later coached the Australian Army Shooting Team or Percy Pavey, a shooter who as the book states, "was so dominant in the sport of shooting that in the 1930s Don Bradman was referred to as the Percy Pavey of cricket." Or what about the story of the Colonials who went to England for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897 and while there competed in the Royal Military Tournament at Crystal Palace in London. Trooper R E Harkus, from the Parramatta Half Squadron of the NSW Lancers, won the Colonials Competitions event for Lemon Cutting; a display of mounted swordsmanship.

Readers will also enjoy the story of WWI Light Horseman, Trooper Billy Sing DCM, Mid, Croix de Guerre (Belgium). An excerpt of his biography reads, "Billy, a robust short man standing 5 feet 6 inches, would take up his sniping position with his spotter, who was usually another experienced marksman, before dawn and remain virtually motionless until after sunset each day. It was promulgated in AMO No 35 of 1916 that between May and September 1915 he had accounted for 201 casualties to the enemy. It is believed that this figure is considerably higher but only confirmed casualties were counted. So deadly and accurate was he that some vivid literary descriptions of him include "The crack sniper of the ANZACs", "General Birdwood's pet sniper" and the troops' description "The murderer"."

This hardbound A4 sized book is beautifully produced with 48 colour plates containing 400 photos of badges and medals, mostly in colour and individually described. Many of these have never before been published. Only 500 books have been printed, and this virtually guarantees that this limited edition book will become a collector's item.

If you wish to purchase this book, the price is \$97.00 (includes \$9.00 reg. P&P within Australia), or \$115.00 by insured airmail to any overseas destination.

Contact Mr J.M. O'Connor at:

PO Box 454 or johnnyoconnor@bigpond.com
Kingsgrove NSW 1480

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A Message from the Prime Minister

Message: National Launch of Reserve Forces Day Activities for 2004 – 29th November 2003

I am delighted to provide this message for the National Launch of Reserve Forces Day 2004, and to express my appreciation to the men and women who comprise Australia's Reserve Forces for the professional contribution they make to Australia's security.

Reserve Forces remain valued and important partners in the defence and security of Australia and its interests and the promotion of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). In recent years, the traditional role for the Reserves – as a mobilisation base for the ADF in time of a major conflict – has been replaced by a true sense of the importance of the Reserves in adapting to meet the requirements of contemporary military operations. The professional endeavour of Reserve units and individuals on recent operations and the development of high readiness Reserve capabilities in each capital city, bear testament to this change.

Significantly, 2004 will mark the 90th anniversary of the commencement of World War I. We remember those brave Australians who stepped forward to provide service for their country at a time of great need; a service which is continued by the Reserve Forces of today. I note too that the theme for this Reserve Force Day will be the value and contribution of the horse, and the role it played in Australia's victories.

On behalf of all Australians, I acknowledge our nation's great debt to the Reserves for their commitment and courage in continuing a long tradition of distinguished service. To this end, I wish all Reservists and the Reserve Forces Day Council every success in the years ahead.

Signed, John Howard
Prime Minister, Canberra.

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Reserve Forces Day and the New Medal Group

Friday the 28th November saw the launch of the New Medal Group's campaign to achieve the awarding of a "New Recognition Medal for Volunteer Service in the ADF", both Regular and Reserve. The presentation was made before a number of dignitaries including Federal Politicians, members of the RSL and other VIP's was held at the Paddington RSL.

Indications are that the government will hear the claim for a medal for those who have completed their volunteer commitments. What the criteria is to be is yet to be thrashed out. Essentially, it will be a medal for those servicemen and women who have volunteered to serve their country and have not received recognition for that service. So all past and present serving members should lobby their local Federal member, and create a maximum amount of noise to this end. Members of this

Association are serving on the New Medal Group committee, and need your support. So get with it.

Saturday the 29th saw the launch of Reserve Forces Day 2004. This function was held at the Mounted Police Barracks and was very impressive, and the theme for this year is to be the “Waler Horses” that carried our Mounted Rifles through many earlier campaigns.

The display commenced with the entry of a Light Horse Troop, all splendidly mounted on their Walers complete with full kit. One trooper gave a rendition of Banjo Paterson’s poem “The Old Campaigner”, and there were a few “not so dry eyes” at the end of the poem. This was followed by a group of the “Waler Society of Australia” with their magnificent horses, and their President gave an address on the history of the Waler and how it was the best Cavalry Horse ever bred.

The highlight of the day was speech by Senator Bronwyn Bishop, who gave a very sincere and enlightening history of the Reserve and it’s predecessors. For once, this cynic felt that here was a politician who not only knew her Military History, but also indicated a great respect for those who served.

Best Wishes, Fred Jolly

PS: Fred also sent along five (5) colour photos of the day, and they can seen on this website on the image page.

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Roving Reporter

Dubbo – Weekend 6 to 8 June 2003

Weather – getting cool – no rain.

The Royal Australian Engineers, 1st Field Squadron Group, Tunnel Rats of the Dat (Vietnam 1966 to 1973) organised their second Reunion at the Dubbo RSL Memorial Club.

The weekend started with Friday 6th being registration day, reminiscing, shaking of hands and not remembering names, recognizing faces until you notice their name tags, slowly but surely the name registers.

Then Saturday 7th, a free day, then in the evening a sit down dinner at the Dubbo RSL Club. To remember the Engineers who lost their lives in Vietnam, a unique happening at the dinner was carried out. On every table was a lighted candle, and a placard with the name of a deceased Engineer in Vietnam. The main lights were switched off, and as the name of the Engineer on your table was read out, the candle was extinguished until all the candles were out.

This is a remembrance to the fallen.

The meal was excellent, and a pleasant evening was had by all those in attendance.

Last day, Sunday 8th, a Memorial Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony were held at the old Dubbo Air Force Barracks. The Vietnam Veterans Association provided a B-B-Q, and also for viewing was the new replacement “NAMBUS”.

A very pleasant weekend, especially meeting with old friends, much shaking of hands, and renewing of old friendships. The weekend away was a good excuse for a break, and the next weekend will be in 2005, and possibly will be held in Queensland. Registering can be obtained by contacting;

RAE Reunion
PO Box 93
South West Rocks, NSW, 2431

Phone: (02) 65666163

Thanks must go to the organisers on the reunion, as a lot of hard work has gone into the presentation, especially the dinner, again I say, an excellent organised and pleasant weekend.

See you in 2005.
Lawrie O'Brien
Your Roving Reporter

Saturday – 19th July 2003

A reunion of 47 personnel from the “Eighty Eight (88) Tac Sign Association” gathered at the Auburn RSL Club for an evening “get-together”.

Membership represents those personnel (of all Corps) that served with the “88 Tac Sign”, all are welcome to join. The reunion is held every two (2) years.

Members partook an excellent meal, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

For further information, contact:

Mr Frank Vella
870 Merrylands Road,
Greystanes 2145
02 96363259 (home)

or

Bob Lawson
02 44561708 (home)

Register now, see you there. That's it from your Roving Reporter until the next time, see you then.

Lawrie O'Brien

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ANZAC Day 2003 Remembered

ANZAC Day 2003. Another one to be remembered.

I would like to address this open letter to all of the Corps members who attended the march, and who later retired to the Crown Hotel. As always, I made to feel at home, and as usual it was a very

old friendship with a legend of the Corps (Lawrie O'Brien) that went back to 1951 that as usual drew me back, although I knew little of the others who marched.

It was still good to be back amongst those who knew a "greaser from a toe rag". But the purpose of this letter is not to act like a typical old "sweat", but instead to speak of those that are serving now, and who adopted me on the day. If my speech was somewhat slurred, and my stand unsteady, I apologise, if my yarns and my tall tales of the Corps were stretched, and my language unsteady, then this too I must plead guilty to.

To the patient "Crafties, Corporals and Sergeants" who I plagued, I thank you for your ability to withstand the onslaught on your ears.

But I have a special thank you to render, and that is to the ladies of the Corps, a wife and a fiancée who assisted to control me on the day, and to see me safe on the train when the time came.

To Cpl Rose and "Wardie" of the 17th Construction Workshop Troop, a very special thank you. To you and all of those who my 6 schooner memory will not work beyond 7. I thank you all.

To the Officers, the men and women who command these people, I say thank you, for I know that with soldiers such as these in your command, the Corps is in good hands.

To my new mates and their loved ones from the 17th Construction Workshop Troop, may we meet soon, as my home is yours.

Signed, Just Bill.

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The Veteran

If you can read this ... thank a teacher.
If you're reading it in English ... thank a Veteran

It is the Veteran, not the preacher,
Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Veteran, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Veteran, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Veteran, not the campus organiser,
Who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the Veteran, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Veteran, not the politician,
Who has given us the right to vote.

NB: This was sent to me anonymously

Christmas Function 2003

It has already been mentioned by the President and Secretary already, but here is my report on the day.

It was a great day, and all that did attend had a great time. It is a pity about the total number in attendance (only 24), but we (the committee) do try to make an effort to organise some functions for our members, we just need the members to attend, but enough of that.

As the President said, we had our own room, with our own bar, and a very nice three (3) course meal, which was full table service, you only had to get off your bum to get a drink from the bar, or a cup of coffee or tea.

I would also like to add to President's remarks about his wife, she set out extras onto all of the tables, which made it look and feel a very warm and joyous event. I would further add, the President also brought along a little decorated Christmas Tree, which added a nice touch to the day, and he also organised several "lucky door" prizes, which went over very well indeed.

As some of you are aware, Sandy McHutchison has a habit of selecting members whom he thinks deserve one (1) of his own original plaques, which I might add, are totally hand made by Sandy. Well, it occurred that he had selected three (3) people for this honour on the day, and those people were Fran O'Donohoe, Chris Davis and myself.

Now, as most of you know, this Association has "Certificates of Appreciation" that it awards to those persons that it deems have helped in some form or another, but I must say, to receive one (1) of Sandy's Plaques beats those certificates hands down, it is a real honour, as Chris Davis said, "he was chuffed", well so was I, and I thank Sandy on behalf of us three for his good thought.

Now, to those that were not there last year (2003), we will be organising a similar function this year, possibly mid year, but there will be more on that in the next Newsletter, so please, this year, we would like maximum attendance, so as to make bigger and better.

Regards, Chris Jones

PS: There are some photos of the day on this website, go see what you missed out on, look in the image section.

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DNSDC Jottings

Well, not that I am very conducive to blackmail by the Editor, here is the goss from the DNCDC, the Centre of Excellence (wank words of the month). It is now the first week in June, and supposably the Minister is ready to table the DIDS outcome to Parliament. Who will it be this month ???? We are waiting with baited breath, who do we call Boss ????, is it Tennix Toll, or ADI Fox ???? We will just have to wait. Well that's all the DIDS information to date.

As I reported some time ago, we have a new Plant procurement now in service, the LET, the "Light Engineer Tractor". This concept was raised a long time ago, when it was known to you older gents as the VFT, the "Very Fast Tractor". This beast travels down the road at 100 km's per hour; it is self-portable to and from job sites, as well as being able to travel in convoys.

It is produced by ADI, and it is now starting to get worldwide sales to both foreign military and civilian departments. Just one (1) problem, who do you think is the sole warranty and repair agency? As an operator, it is great to drive, and the backhoe is a dream to work, but when using the front bucket, with the vehicles long nose, wheels and guards, you have to operate it in “telepathic mode”.

So next time you are driving up a road, in or near a military establishment, or a job site, and you see a loader coming towards you, just remember, you may not have the time to pass it, as you thought you did. I have placed in a couple of pictures to take up some of the page, so that our dearest editor will not have to make up any stories for me (watch out Spinksy, he {the editor} says he will also write for you).

Well hopefully I can give you some more news on the DIDS in the next Newsletter, so long for now, will see you soon.

Arte et Marte, Michael Wilkinson

PS – Two things, first, this is Wilko’s last article, which had not been previously printed, and I told him I would use it for this issue, and second, I could not use the pictures, as they are colour photos, which I cannot reproduce in the Newsletter. I have asked him for copies so as they can be put on the website, up to you Wilko! And what does he mean by his remarks about me making up stories? I am deeply hurt! Ed.

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103 Workshop Company 5CSSB

Firstly, to all the members and their families, compliments of the Season, and a Very Happy New Year.

Our Apprenticeship program is still on the move; it is now being administered by HQ 5 Brigade. There have been several recruiting days run and some applicants have commenced the process of being recruited. I can't update on the success of their applications as all involved have been on leave over the Christmas period.

We have had some movement in the normal Christmas posting cycle. The CO has moved on to greener pastures and the RSM has taken a posting in the US, and our OC will also move on early this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all three of them for their support and assistance that they have given the Association during the past few years. In the next Newsletter, I will try and provide the details of the new arrivals, and also any promotions and changes within the Company.

In discussions last year with the CO and OC, and with the new CO's permission, 103 Workshop Coy and 5 CSSB would like to offer our facilities to the Association and it's members for the Post Anzac Day March Activities this year. We would make available our Barracks for parking, and with some assistance from our friends, provide some transport to the March and then back again to the Barracks, and during the afternoon we would also provide some transport to the nearest Public Transport. During the day at the Barracks we would have the bars open, there would be a light lunch provided - for a nominated fee - with the assistance of the Association Committee, and we could possibly display some of the items stored away in our Museum collection, Lawrie, one for you. I will keep you posted on this suggestion. If you have any thoughts on this please notify the committee, or myself, because we would hate to put time and effort into this and not have it

supported.

We could possibly still use the Crown Hotel as a pick up and set down point, so now it is over to the members for their feedback.

On the last Friday in August the WO's and SNCO's dinner was held at the Moorebank Area Sergeants Mess, and as always was a well-run affair by Wyn Coles and his team. Colonel Adams had the floor and gave a very informative over view of the current way of doing business. As always, the good Colonel was informative and kept things in a light hearted manner, except for the jabs at me, as always, what goes around, comes around, Sir. I would commend this night to all that are eligible to attend, especially if you have any connection to the venue, as we are not sure how long it will be available to us, as already the Officer's Mess has closed, so please show your support by attending this function.

We had a very busy second half of the year including a Brigade AFX and many tasks assisting our other Brigade family members. Some members of our Recovery Platoon walked the Kakoda Trail and I am hopeful of one of them possibly putting an article in the next news letter, what about it Jacko?

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

Terry Spinks ASM

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Editor's Note

Hello there, this is a short note from the Editor, to let you know that the problems with my computer have finally been solved, it 'shit itself' totally, and was not repairable. I now have a new machine, which is a vast improvement on the last unit.

As you can see in this Newsletter, some items have been sent in a fair time ago, but I could not get them printed due to 'hardware' problems. I do not 'lose' anything that is sent to me (one item is still so well located, I have been unable to locate it, but I was sent another copy of the article, so that problem no longer exists), and it will all be used at some time, given space in the Newsletter.

I do require articles / news / jokes / funnies / pictures (as in line drawings) / quiz items / you name it, so please help me, to help all of you, send them along, or just email them to me (email address at page 2), but if emailed, could you make it an attached document, that way I do not have to retype the whole thing, that takes a long time, as I am a two (2) finger typist.

Thanks, Chris Jones

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A Salute To Our Australian Soldiers

I sat in my seat of the Boeing 767 at Sydney Airport waiting for everyone to hurry and stow their carry-ons, and grab a seat so we could start what I was sure to be a long, uneventful flight home.

With the huge capacity and slow moving people taking their time to stuff luggage far too big for the overhead, and never paying much attention to holding up the growing line behind them, I

simply shook my head knowing that this flight was not starting out very well. I was anxious to get home to see my loved ones, so I focused on “my” issues and just felt like standing up and yelling for some of these clowns to get their act together. I knew I couldn’t say a word, so I just thumbed through the magazine from the seat pocket in front of me. You know it’s really getting rough when you resort to the overpriced, useless sky mall crap to break the monotony. With everyone finally seated, we just sat there with the cabin door open and no one in any hurry to get us going, although we were well past the scheduled take off time.

No wonder the airline industry is in trouble I told myself. Just then, the attendant came on the intercom to inform us all that we were being delayed. The entire plane let out a collective groan. She resumed speaking to say, “We are holding the aircraft for some very special people who are on their way to the plane, and the delay should not be more than five (5) minutes”. The word came after waiting six (6) times as long as we were promised, that “I” was finally going to be on my way home. Why the hoopla over “these” people? I was expecting some celebrity or sport figure to be the reason for the hold up.

Just get their butts in a seat and lets hit the gas I thought. The attendant came back on the speaker to announce in a loud and excited voice that we were being joined by several Australian Soldiers returning home from Afghanistan !!!

Just as they walked on board, the entire plane erupted into applause. The men were a bit taken by surprise by the 340 people cheering for them as they searched for their seats. They were having their hands shook and touched by almost everyone who was within an arm’s distance of them as they passed down the aisle. One elderly woman kissed the hand of one of the Soldiers as he passed by her. The applause, whistles and cheering didn’t stop for a long time. When we were finally airborne, “I” was not the only civilian checking his conscience as to the long delays in “me” getting home, finding my easy chair, a cold beverage and the remote in my hand.

These men had done for all of us and I had been complaining silently about “me” and “my” issues. I took for granted the everyday freedoms I enjoy, and the conveniences of the Australian way of life, I took for granted what others paid the price for my ability to moan and complain about a few minutes delay to “me”.

These Heroes were going home to their loved ones after several months of fighting against terrorists that haunt our society.

I attempted to get my selfish outlook back in order, and minutes before we landed I suggested to the flight attendant that she announce over the speaker a request for everyone to remain in their seats until our hero’s were allowed to gather their things and be first off the plane. The cheers and applause continued until the last Soldier stepped off, and we all rose to go about our too often taken for granted everyday freedoms I felt proud of them. I felt it an honour and privilege to be among the first to welcome them home and to say “Thank You” for a job well done.

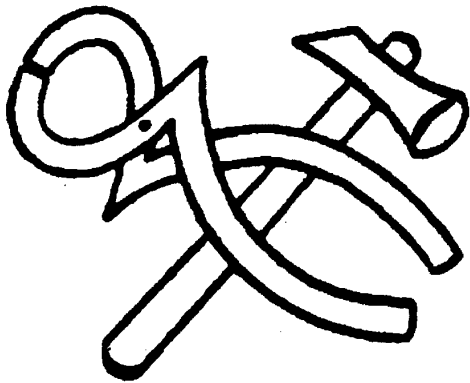
I vowed that I will never forget that flight nor the lesson learned. I cannot say it enough, “Thank You” to those Veterans and Active Servicemen and Women who may read this, and a prayer for those who cannot because they are no longer with us.

GOD BLESS !! WELCOME HOME !! AND THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE !!!!!

This is a ribbon for the Australian Soldiers fighting for Us. Please pass it on to everyone, and remember our Soldiers in your prayers.

Note: This article was sent to me through the mail, I don’t know who the author is.

A Story About A Badge



The badge pictured here was given to me many years ago by my father, WO1 Bert Stapleton. It is of course the well-known “Artificer Badge”, but at one time was known as the “Armourer – Fitter – Smiths Badge”. It is made of brass, as all badges were in those days!

This badge was issued to Dad before World War II (WWII), and I believe was worn on the lower sleeve of the uniform tunic. I can not remember just when he gave it to me, but I kept it with other keep-sakes until I left for South Vietnam in 1966, when I attached it to my green bush hat, and wore it until return in 1967.

Some time after WWII, the wearing of the badge was discontinued for many years, and was eventually re-introduced in 1989. It is now much sought after, and is worn with pride by all RAEME Artificers.

A detailed history of the Artificers Badge is given in “*Craftsmen of the Australian Army*”, the story of RAEME, by Theo Barker.

By Brian Stapleton, First Intake Apprentice, Balcombe 1948 – 1951.

Note: The badge as shown is not the one sent to me in the article, which I believe was a photo of the actual badge, as it would not reproduce very well, so I have used a copy I have of the line drawing of the badge. Sorry. Ed.

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Membership Register

The Association Committee needs your help to update our member’s ledger. A lot of the entries only show an initial, no first name. Some have no contact phone number, or an incorrect phone number.

If the Committee is seeking to contact a member, and there are two (2) with the same surname, and the same initial only, and no phone number, how do we contact that person. If we are trying to pass on a message from one of your mates, or if some one is ill, or worst case, if some one has passed away, it is almost impossible with our current members register details.

As I have already said in my blurb, this information is **Confidential**, it will not be given to anyone else, if some one wishes to contact a member, they have to give me their ‘name and phone number’, I then ring our member, and I pass the ‘callers’ details to them, and it is then their decision as to whether or not they return the call. I may sound as if I am going on about this **Confidentiality**, but the Privacy Act governs us, and we will adhere to it.

Most of the items are self explanatory, but we have included email address (if you have one), as that is a very quick way to notify people of events, sickness or death of a member, or to just ask a question.

So please help us help you, complete the form ASAP, and send it back to the PO Box address

(addressed envelope is included, but it needs a stamp), or bring it along to me at the AGM, or simply look on this website for the email version, which is located at the “Welcome to” page, and which you can send direct to the secretary, by selecting the submit “box”, and that all it takes.

Thanks, Chris Davis, Secretary

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ARTE et MARTE - With Skill and Fighting