



*The Role Of RAEME Is To :-  
" Provide Maintenance Engineering , Materiel Maintenance ,  
Modifications , and Recovery Support to the Army."*

# *The Horse's Mouth*

## *The Newsletter of the*

# **RAEME Association**

## **of WA (Inc.)**

# **Winter 2011**

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are now held bi monthly at the 113 Workshops, Karrakatta Barracks. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 22nd of AUG 2011.

**DISCLAIMER**

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/ contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

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**EDITORS NOTE**

Welcome to the Winter edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH. We are on the hunt for some new blood to help keep the REME Assoc of WA going. Do you have a few moments spare each month to help out. Do you have a few ideas on where we can go from here? Well if you

do nominate yourself for a place on the committee or better yet if you have a few computer skills, take over as Ed of this great magazine. All inquires please contact either Darby or Al. Thanks. Ed.

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### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

HELLO TO ALL, I AM REQUESTING ANYONE WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS WHO WISHES TO PASS IT ONTO THE RAEME ASSOCIATION OF W.A. .

THIS WAY , AS IF YOU ARE A FINANCIAL MEMBER , I CAN SET YOU UP INTO OUR WEB SITE AND ALSO CORRESPOND MORE EASILY AND READILY .  
LOOK FORWARD IN HEARING FROM YOU.

REPLY [wasecretary@raeme.org.au](mailto:wasecretary@raeme.org.au)  
SECRETARY OF RAEME ASSOC. OF W.A.  
ALAN STONER

### **MEMBERSHIP 2011**

On behalf of the RAEME Assoc WA I would like to thank those who have renewed thier memberships this year to support the association.

We have had an overwhelming response with almost 200 relies.

All members are entiteled to receive a RAEME badge (valued \$10) included in thier membership. These can be collected during the meetings at the Bayswater Hotel. The RAEME website also allows more features and accessability for members with user names and passwords being forwarded to mambers once set up.  
See you at the next meeting.  
Al.

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### **The RAEME WA Association is conducting a BBQ/MEAL and visits to two private vehicle collections.**

The date is Sunday 11 Sep 2011.

The costs

BBQ/MEAL - Nil

The second of the collections A Gold coin

Drinks - BYO. Cool room is available.

The BBQ will be held at Mr Ross Maggs home in Cardup.

There is some transport available from Karrakatta, at 9:00 am

There is parking at Cardup.

The vehicle collections are 1. International Trucks at Byford (nil defence)

2. Buick collection at Bedfordale.

The ASSN NEEDS returns from interested people attending, to assist in catering and transport.

The returns are required by 2400 hrs 15 Aug 2011, to the secretary/ committee, by mail, e mail, word of mouth, phone, or any other form of communication.

It would help if people from Rockingham and Mandurah areas travel in own transport to Cardup.

The address is 43 Alice Street Cardup  
look for the flag, arriving at 9:45 am

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## **Funeral of last known WWI active serviceman – Mr Claude Choules 3 Mar 1901-5 May 2011**

Today the last known WWI veteran who saw active service was farewelled by his family, the Royal Australian Navy and the West Australian community at a public service in Fremantle.

The Naval funeral honoured the life and service of Chief Petty Officer Claude Choules with time honoured traditions such as the gunfire salute and a naval uniformed procession, whilst also providing opportunity for the Choules family to celebrate the characteristics that made Claude Choules a family man.

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russ Crane, said that the funeral service gave the chance to remember and celebrate the life and service of former Chief Petty Officer Claude Choules.

“By gathering here to remember, we are also gathering to mark the passing of the Great War into history as the last links break between those who were there and we who remember them,” he said.

Mr Choules was a member of the Royal Navy 1916-1926 and transferred to the Royal Australian Navy and served through WWII until retiring in 1956.

Claude’s career in the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy spanned some of the most significant events in maritime history of the 20th century, therefore his passing signals the end of an era.

“As the last known combat veteran of the ‘war to end all wars,’ Claude’s was among our last living memories of those momentous days when the German High Seas Fleet surrendered in 1918 and later was scuttled at Scapa Flow,” Vice Admiral Russ Crane said.

Mr Claude Choules was cremated at a private family ceremony on conclusion of the public church service.

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### **2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, attended the 2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM) at Puckapunyal Military Range.

The AASAM is designed to pitch the best soldiers against each other in a tough combat-like environment. Since 1984, AASAM has been Australia’s premier military shooting tournament, with a growing international reputation.

This year the competition included teams from: Australia, Canada, France (FFNC), Indonesia, Timor Leste, Brunei, Netherlands, US Marines, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and a contingent of Japanese observers.

“It was a privilege to see such expert soldiers in action. Irrespective of

nationality, the common language was marksmanship,” Senator Feeney said.

“This year was also the first year that computer simulation has been introduced into the military shooting competition. Matches replicate some of the conditions of current operational environments and are an excellent way of validating our current doctrine and training,” the Senator said.

Event organisers Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Wally Jensen and Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Wayne Richards said they were delighted with the increased level of participation from both ADF and International Teams.

Both LTCOL Wally Jensen and LCDR Wayne Richards are Australian Reservists.

“The Champion Shot of the Army competition for 2011 has been the most demanding ever conducted, in terms of the environment, equipment and number of matches fired,” LTCOL Jensen said.

LTCOL Jensen said: “Those individuals who achieved Top 20 status in the competition can proudly say they are among the best shots in our Army.”

Senator Feeney also toured the Road Transport Wing and Land Warfare Development Centre whilst at Puckapunyal.

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### **Dispatch of Spanner Pack**

Good Morning All,  
Great to here and see our soldiers enjoying the content of Spanner Pack.  
Thankyou for your ongoing support.  
Regards  
Raymond Norman OAM  
Chairman  
RAEME Association Queensland  
President  
The RAEME Association (National)

Dear Raymond,

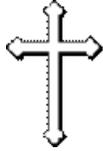
This is just a short note to express the thanks of the Technical Support Troop for the gifts received in the Spanner Packs. I have attached some photographs of the opening and hope that they may help convey the gratitude we feel. Even in this day and age, the soldiers still get a kick out of receiving traditional mail, and when it is filled with such ‘goodies’ as you

provided it is especially welcomed. This may seem late, but I hope it does not diminish our thanks; the post does take some time to reach us, and the arrival of the packs was spread out over a couple of weeks.

Again, thanks for your and your supporter’s generosity and support.

Trent Groves  
CAPTAIN

VALE



Remember the dead but fight like hell for the living.



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**Ian Stewart**

Once again I have to inform you of the loss of another one of our comrades, this time Ian Stewart who I am sure you would have known especially as, I understand it, you spent some time in Perth. Ian was ASM of 17 Construction Squadron Workshops in SVN from 1968 to 1969 and was well liked by all the troops. He was given a commission sometime after his return to Australia.

Ian Stewart was the force behind the RAEME Association being formed here in WA. Ian was the Honorary Colonel when we had a really splintered RAEME body here in WA. Ian called a meeting of the RAEME Vietnam Association, the WO's and SNO's, the Old's and Bold's, the Officers Association and the Corps Committee to form what is today the RAEME Association WA.

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WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

“The Aussie flag does not fly because the wind moves past it...

the Aussie flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it.

Aussie soldiers don't fight because they hate what's in front of them...they fight because they love what's behind them.”

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## **Defence Health Advice - Personnel who deployed to Middle East Area of Operations Feb 2009 to Aug 2010**

Defence personnel, contractors and civilians who underwent minor surgical procedures at the ADF Health Facility at Al Minhad Air Base between February 2009 and August 2010 have been requested to contact their local Defence medical facility or General Practitioner after an issue with a steriliser was recently identified in a governance check. The Al Minhad Air Base Health Facility only performs minor surgical procedures such as the removal of skin lesions and other minor procedures. This facility is not used for any surgical procedures related to battle casualties.

An assessment found that the administration of the steriliser's records was not carried out in accordance with Australian standards. As such there was no guarantee that some instruments within the Health Facility were sterilised effectively.

Defence is unable to identify with 100% accuracy all individuals who had a minor surgical procedure performed as in some cases administrative records regarding minor procedures were not maintained except on personnel health records.

However, the instruments were thoroughly cleaned and put through a six layer process making it unlikely for infectious agents to survive.

Since the issue was identified the steriliser has been returned to Australia and tested.

The steriliser was found to be operating in accordance with Australian standards and full sterilisation was achieved during the testing process.

Chief of Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant General Ash Power, said further investigation into the procedural error had been completed and steps taken

to rectify the procedural errors in management.

"My key concern now is to ensure that any Defence personnel, contractors and civilians who had a minor surgical procedure at the facility have peace of mind," Lieutenant General Power said.

"The medical advice I have received indicates that the risk of infection is considered low but all personnel need to ensure they undertake their full post-deployment medical, which includes a screening blood test, to be certain."

"If personnel have completed the full medical review on their return to Australia any issues would already have been picked up – what we need to ensure is any of those people who have not yet gone through the process do so.

Defence members who have concerns should contact their local Defence health facility to discuss the issue and receive further advice.

Defence Civilians or contractors to Defence, or any other visitors to the ADF Health Facility at Al Minhad Air Base who may have been affected should contact their general practitioner using the same procedure they completed for their pre-deployment medical screening.

Defence will issue a full information package on the incident and recommended actions for potentially affected people.

This package will be available on the internet at [www.defence.gov.au/health](http://www.defence.gov.au/health) from 24 May.

The ADF population has a very low incidence of infectious disease thereby reducing the overall risk to patients through cross-contamination.

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## LESSONS LEARNT

If you are 36, or older, you might think this is hilarious!

When I was a kid, adults used to bore me to tears with their tedious diatribes about how hard things were. When they were growing up; what with walking twenty-five miles to school every morning.... Uphill... Barefoot... BOTH ways...yadda, yadda, yadda And I remember promising myself that when I grew up, there was no way in hell I was going to lay a bunch of crap like that on my kids about how hard I had it and how easy they've got it!

But now that I'm over the ripe old age of forty, I can't help but look around and notice the youth of today. You've got it so easy! I mean, compared to my childhood, you live in a damn Utopia! And I hate to say it, but you kids today, you don't know how good you've got it!

1) I mean, when I was a kid we didn't have the Internet. If we wanted to know something, we had to go to the damn library and look it up ourselves, in the card catalog!!

2) There was no email!! We had to actually write somebody a letter - with a pen! Then you had to walk all the way across the street and put it in the mailbox, and it would take like a week to get there! Stamps were 10 cents!

3) Child Protective Services didn't care if our parents beat us. As a matter of fact, the parents of all my friends also had permission to kick our ass! Nowhere was safe!

4) There were no MP3's or Napsters or iTunes! If you wanted to steal music, you had to hitchhike to the record store and shoplift it yourself!

5) Or you had to wait around all day to tape it off the radio, and the DJ would usually talk over the beginning and @#\*% it all up! There were no CD players! We had tape decks in our car. We'd play our favorite tape and "eject" it when finished, and then the tape would come undone rendering it useless. Cause, hey, that's how we rolled, Baby! Dig?

6) We didn't have fancy crap like Call Waiting! If you were on the phone and somebody else called, they got a busy signal, that's it!

7) There weren't any freakin' cell phones either. If you left the house, you just didn't make a damn call or receive one. You actually had to be out of touch with your "friends". OH MY GOSH !!! Think of the horror... not being in touch with someone 24/7!!! And then there's TEXTING. Yeah, right. Please! You kids have no idea how annoying you are..

8) And we didn't have fancy Caller ID either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was! It could be your school, your parents, your boss, your bookie, your drug dealer,

the collection agent... you just didn't know!!! You had to pick it up and take your chances, mister!

9) We didn't have any fancy PlayStation or Xbox video games with high-resolution 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600! With games like 'Space Invaders' and 'Asteroids'. Your screen guy was a little square! You actually had to use your imagination!!! And there were no multiple levels or screens, it was just one screen.. Forever! And you could never win. The game just kept getting harder and harder and faster and faster until you died! Just like LIFE!

10) You had to use a little book called a TV Guide to find out what was on! You were screwed when it came to channel surfing! You had to get off your ass and walk over to the TV to change the channel!!! NO REMOTES!!! Oh, no, what's the world coming to?!?!

11) There was no Cartoon Network either! You could only get cartoons on Saturday Morning. Do you hear what I'm saying? We had to wait ALL WEEK for cartoons, you spoiled little rat-bastards!

12) And we didn't have microwaves. If we wanted to heat something up, we had to use the stove! Imagine that!

13) And our parents told us to stay outside and play... all day long.. Oh, no, no electronics to soothe and comfort. And if you came back inside... you were doing chores! And car seats - oh, please! Mom threw you in the back seat and you hung on. If you were lucky, you got the "safety arm" across the chest at the last moment if she had to stop suddenly, and if your head hit the dashboard, well that was your fault for calling "shot gun" in the first place!

See! That's exactly what I'm talking about! You kids today have got it too easy. You're spoiled rotten! You guys wouldn't have lasted five minutes back in 1970 or any time before!

Regards, The Over 40 Crowd

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### **Why did the British wear red coats in battle?**

During the recent royal wedding, the millions around the world saw that Prince William chose to wear a uniform that included the famous British "red coat." Many people have asked, "why did the British wear red coats in battle?"

A long time ago, Britain and France were at war. During one battle, the French captured a British Colonel. They took him to their headquarters, and the French General began to question him.

Finally, as an afterthought, the French General asked, "Why do you British officers all wear red coats? Don't you know the red material makes you easier targets for us to shoot at?"

In his casual, matter-of-fact, way, the officer informed the General that the reason British officers wear red coats is so that if they are shot, the blood won't show, and the men they are leading won't panic.

And that is why, from that day forward, all French Army officers wear brown trousers

## **BACK TO THE BUSH VETERAN'S REUNION**

31ST OCTOBER 2011 - 6TH NOVEMBER 2011

You are invited back to Bruce Rock for a great week of relaxation, comradeship, fun and laughter.

There will be many of the same activities as previous years with Golf, Bowls, Rifle shooting, A Garden Party, Town Tours, the usual informative evening on a health subject. There will be the usual school concert at the Federation Amphitheatre. Saturday will see the street markets back, A town hall full of information booths.

Entertainment will be provided with a free barbeque at the Recreation Centre after the march through town on Saturday.

So, come prepared to enjoy real Country Hospitality, have a great time and catch up with old mate and maybe make some new ones!

For more information please contact Colin Turner on 08 9061 1773 or 0429 150 847  
or by email

bkvets@bigpond.com or Brooke Perez on 08 9061 1377 or exo@brucerock.wa.gov.au

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### **Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011**

More than 22,000 Australian Defence and US Defense personnel are participating in the military training exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 in Australia 11-29 July.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial training activity jointly sponsored by the US Pacific Command and Australian Defence Force (ADF) Joint Operations Command to train the US 7th Fleet and Australian Deployable Joint Headquarters staffs as a designated Combined Task Force.

Brigadier Bob Brown, the Australian spokesman for Talisman Sabre, said that the exercise is a unique and invaluable opportunity to exercise combined and joint Defence capability between Australia and the US.

"This is a major undertaking which reflects the closeness of the Australian and US alliance and the strength of the military-to-military relationship," Brigadier Brown said.

This year's exercise is the first time there will be significant involvement from other Australian and US government agencies.

Active participation by Australian government agencies includes the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID, Australian Federal Police, and the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence.

US agencies participating in the Exercise include the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, and members of the US Civilian Response Corps from the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, Agriculture, Homeland Security, Health & Human Services, and the US Agency for International Development.

The inclusion of civil agencies this year will help to strengthen civil-military collaboration for future operations and the bilateral partnerships between the US and Australia.

Approximately 14,000 US and 8,500 Australian personnel will conduct sea, land, and air training predominantly in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area near Rockhampton, but also in Royal Australian Air Force Bases in Townsville, Darwin, Tindal and Amberley. Exercises will also be conducted in the maritime areas of the Coral, Timor and Arafura Seas.

The ADF has conducted a full environmental impact assessment on the Shoalwater Bay region and strong measures have been put in place for participants to respect and protect the marine environment within which they will be operating.

Additional information on the exercise and environmental measures is available at <http://www.defence.gov.au/opEx/exercises/ts11/>

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### **39 Howitzer Guns to be made available to RSLs and historical organisations**

Minister for Defence Materiel Jason Clare today announced that 39 M2A2 Howitzer Guns will be made available to RSL clubs and historical organisations around the country.

“The M2A2 Howitzer Gun has provided outstanding service to Australia, and making the guns available will help to preserve this important part of our military history,” Mr Clare said.

“The Howitzers have been a vital component of Australia’s arsenal. They were critical in providing close artillery fire support to the Australian Army in Vietnam.”

24 M2A2 Howitzers were used in Vietnam.

“During the six years they were in Vietnam, the Howitzers fired thousands of 105mm rounds,” Mr Clare said.

“In July 1967, the Howitzers provided invaluable artillery support to the biggest allied offensive in the Phuoc Tuy Province.

“With the help of the Howitzers the Australian, US and New Zealand troops helped clear an area that had previously been dominated by enemy forces for more than seven years.” The Howitzers were introduced into service in 1967 to replace the famous 25 pounder field gun.

The Howitzer can be towed by truck, lifted by helicopter or moved manually for short distances.

The gun has not deployed on operations since Vietnam but has remained in service.

Approved recipients will be expected to pay for demilitarisation and other costs, such as transport and site preparation. The total maximum cost is estimated to be approximately \$16,000.

The tender is expected to be released in July. Organisations wishing to receive notification when the tender is released can register their interest with the Defence Disposals Agency, by email [disposals@defence.gov.au](mailto:disposals@defence.gov.au), or phone on 02 9393 2914. Imagery of the M2A2 Howitzer Guns is available at: <http://images.defence.gov.au/fotoweb/Grid.fwx?archiveId=5003&search=20113130>

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## **DAYS OF SADNESS**

Days of Sadness, Heartfelt pain  
Our Aussie Soldiers killed again  
And many people in this war  
Will question "What's this fighting for?"  
"We know the lads are good and tough  
But surely this must be enough!  
They say "Get rid of all this pain  
and bring our Soldiers home again"

Days of Sadness, tortured grief  
Life for these lads was cruelly brief  
And family's unspoken fears  
Are realised in a Vale of tears  
But hear the words these families say  
"If our troops must come home today  
Then that would be the cruellest pain  
For then our boys have died in vain."

Days of Sadness, Pain and Pride  
Our husbands, brothers, Sons have died  
But we believe their sacrifice  
Will help to pay our freedom's price  
Our Nation's history tells the tale  
Of those whose courage didn't fail  
Who gave their lives for you and me  
To free our world from tyranny.

Days of Sadness, deepest sorrows  
Our boys have given their tomorrows  
Our Anzac Story tells the cost  
Of many other young lives lost  
Who fell with faces to the foe  
To buy the peace their children know  
They fought until the job was done  
The only way that peace is won.

Days of Sadness, pained goodbyes  
While loved ones mourn a Nation cries  
The Eulogies will tell the tales  
Of those whose courage didn't fail  
Our courage too we now must show  
Our fighting lads deserve to know  
That even though the cost is great  
We'll let them fight on for their mates.