



The word from the  
**Horse's Mouth**

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA

2018 Vol 35 No 1 - Spring

**President:** Dick Fenton  
 Mobile: 0467 818 144  
 Email: [president@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:president@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Vice President:** Peter Collins  
 Mobile : 0419 043 102  
 Email: [president@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:president@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Secretary:** Perry Beor  
 Mobile: 0477 700 828  
 Email: [secretary@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Treasurer:** Peter Sills-Ohlsen  
 Mobile: 0433 522 577  
 Email: [treasurer@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:treasurer@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Life Members:**

Don Horsley	Clare Curtis
Kaye Cooper	Garry Whykes



**Assist Secretary/Membership Officer:** Perry Beor  
 Mobile: 0477 700 828  
 Email: [secretary@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Social:** Phil Pitchers  
 Home: 93781586  
 Mobile: 0403 34 2105

**Web Master:** Alex Smithers  
 Mobile: 0408 625 553  
 Email: [webmaster@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:webmaster@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Property:** Peter Sills-Ohlsen  
 Email: [property@wa.raeme.org.au](mailto:property@wa.raeme.org.au)

**Colonel Commandant Western Region:**  
 Colonel David Cocker

## What the Prez Sez

I write to all members of the association to address a number issue that is of concern to the committee.

Firstly, in recent times some members have registered verbal complaints about aspects of the functions that the committee has arrange. The committee welcomes feed-back and we try to arrange functions that suit the majority of its membership. However the complaints have been directed at committee members while they are enjoying a cold beverage during the activity.

Please if you have issues that you would like to bring to the committee's attention please put them in writing and send them to one of the committee email addresses or you are welcome to attend a committee meeting to air your issue directly.

Secondly I apologise to the membership as it has been pointed out that our response to incoming correspondence could be improved. To address this issue the committee is to produce procedures that provide for a standard approach to responding to the incoming correspondence.

Finally, I seek your input in helping the committee attract you to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held 27th October at the Train Museum. 136 Railway Parade Bassendean, commencing at 11:00 am. Further details are below but we have exclusive use of the museum and will be having a sausage sizzle for lunch.

At this AGM the association is seeking a new President and other members for the committee. If you have some interest in helping out please let us know beforehand or at the meeting.

Dick Fenton, President RAEME WA

## *From the Editor*

Welcome to the pre AGM Horses Mouth.

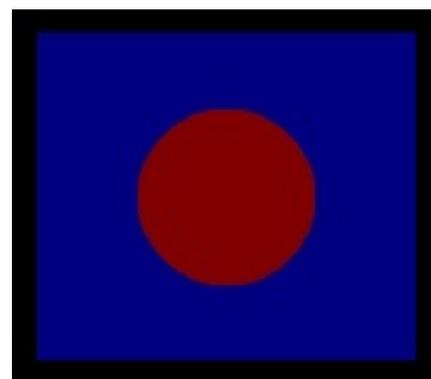
Firstly next time you have a quiety (and that is not a suggestion from the committee) please remember to raise your glass in honour of 113 who celebrated her 70th birthday (and no rude comments about the number of us who look like we have been there since day 1) last week. She was reformed from the Karrakatta EME Pool on 1 Oct 1948 as 2 Medium Workshop and despite various name changes (113 Inf Wksp, 5 EME Svces Unit etc.) and a couple of changes of location (Artillery Barracks) has been going continuously ever since

Her parents:

**113 Independent Wksp** was first formed in QLD in 1942 and thence went to Port Moresby, Morotai and finally ended up in the Solomons until the end of the war

**2 Medium Workshop** has an even longer history. In WWI on the Western Front, Australian tradesmen were originally transferred into British units but in late 1918 the British officers and CFN were removed and these became full Australian units under the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF. In our case the British 17 Mobile Ordnance Workshop became the Australian 2 Mobile Workshop (Medium)

So 113 can probably legitimately claim to be 100 this birthday and with its own colour patch:



# *Social Event & AGM*

The AGM will be held at the the Train Museum, 136 Railway Parade Bassendean. in the Australind Buffet car - platform 2, carriage 3 commencing at 1100. We have exclusive use of the museum, so bring the kids (or grandkids) and let them either:

- a) pretend to be train drivers;
- b) pretend to be resistance fighters sabotaging the trains; or
- c) playing the Murder on the Orient Express.

For those who haven't been there, there are over 30 locomotives and carriages to wander through.

There will be light refreshments available and a sausage sizzle The Association will be fully subsidising all entry tickets and will have RAEME memorabilia on sale.

For the AGM the following positions are open:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Webmaster
- Regional Representative
- Membership Officer
- Assistant Secretary / Editor Horse's Mouth
- Welfare Officer
- Committee Members

## **2018 RAEME (WA) ASSOCIATION AGM**



**RAILWAY MUSEUM BASSENDEAN**

**1100 SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER**

**FREE EXCLUSIVE ENTRY (KIDS/GRANDKIDS INCLUDED)**

For planning purposes, can you please register for the event at

<http://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/eventsmenu/event/322-association-social-event-and-agm> so we can arrange the refreshments!

## *Vietnam Day*

RAEME was well represented as usual with 25-30 attendees, including 5 members who served in the same unit at the same time in Vietnam! A fine time was had by all!



## *13 CSSB Sundowner*

The CSSB has invited all members of the Loggy Corps Associations to a Sundowner at the Army Museum on Saturday November 10 from 1700-2030 There will be an opportunity to visit the museum in the first half of the evening and there drinks and light snacks in the Mess afterwards

RSVP Capt Iain Dainty by 30 Oct at [iain.dainty1@defence.gov.au](mailto:iain.dainty1@defence.gov.au) The flyer is attached

Full event details can be found here

<http://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/eventsmenu/event/321-13-cssb-sundowner>

## *RAEME Birthday*

The Western Australian RAEME 76<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of December and is being arranged by 113. At this stage we are looking at SASR House. If this is not available due to refurbishment we will go for Mt Eliza House or Irwin Barracks. We should have more information by the AGM

# *WA RAEME Western Front Tour*

## *2019*

Following a couple of enquiries made at ANZAC Day the Committee is looking at the possibility of a RAEME Centric tour of the southern UK and the Western Front. The intent is that we will visit more technology related sites and museums which the usual "battlefield type" (i.e. grunt) tours do not go. Nevertheless there will be detailed tour of the main Australian "sights" on the Western Front.

The proposal is for the tour to take no more than 14 days and will be run by a professional company based in Perth which does bespoke tours of the Australian battlefields (Tobruk, Western Front, New Guinea etc). Listed below are some of the possible inclusions in the tour. **Please note all this cannot be fitted into 14 days.** if you are interested please let us know and we can progress further. We will need 6-8 pers to make it viable

### **London**

- Tower of London and Ceremony of the Keys
- Imperial War Museum
- HMS Belfast (WWII Cruiser)
- Cabinet War Rooms
- Changing of the Guard
- Science Museum
- Australian War Memorial
- Army Museum Chelsea

### **Portsmouth**

- Royal Naval Dockyard Portsmouth (all-inclusive ticket for HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, HMS Mary Rose and HMS M33 - monitor who supported us at Suvla Bay, harbour tour and optional trip to Submarine museum and gunpowder works),
- Royal Armouries Collection Fort Nelson
- Portchester Castle (Norman keep in Roman walls)

### **Bovington Area**

- Beaulieu National Motor Museum (6 x land speed record holders, Top Gear museum, OSS Museum)
- The Tank Museum

### **REME HQ**

- Fovant Badges,
- REME Museum

### **Other UK Options:**

- RAF Museum Hendon,
- Royal Naval Museum Greenwich,
- Imperial War Museum Ex RAF Duxford - air (primarily) and ground museum

### **Normandy**

- Batterie Todt (15" Coastal defence battery and sole surviving complete 11" German K5 railway gun)
- La Coupole (underground V2 preparation and launch facility),
- V3 Guns Mimoyecques (pulse guns designed to fire on London)

### **Western Front - Somme**

- Poziers
- Villers Brettoneaux
- Hamel
- Mouquet Farm

#### **Western Front - Ypres/Fromelles**

- Fromelles
- Hill 60
- Polygon Wood
- Messines Ridge
- Menin Gate

## *Apprentice get-together in Albany*

*8 - 11 November 2018*

*This is open to all ex-Apprentices, Partners and Affiliates - not just those living in WA. Activities include:*

- *Dinner at the Albany RSL on Thur 8 Nov*
- *Free time to tour the ANZAC Interpretative Centre*
- *Free night, Fri 9 Nov for Intake/Trade get-together*
- *Camp-fire Dinner on Sat 10 Nov (on 1 of our members private property)*
- *Attend Remembrance Day ceremony on Sun 11 Nov.*

*For further information contact :*

*Bob Coventry  
WA Rep  
0467 609 993*

## *???Did You Know???*

### **Atomic Annie**

The was the only nuclear artillery shell ever actually fired in the U.S. nuclear weapons test program was on May 25, 1953 at the Nevada Test Site. Fired as part of Operation Upshot-Knothole and codenamed Shot GRABLE, a 280 mm (11 inch) shell with a gun-type fission warhead was fired 10,000 m (6.2 miles) and detonated 160 m (525 ft) above the ground with an estimated yield of 15 kilotons.

The shell was 1384 mm (4.5 ft) long and weighed 365 kg (805 lb). It was fired from a special, very large artillery piece, nicknamed "Atomic Annie", built by the Artillery Test Unit of Fort Sill, Oklahoma and was based on the German K5 Railway gun. The warhead was designated the

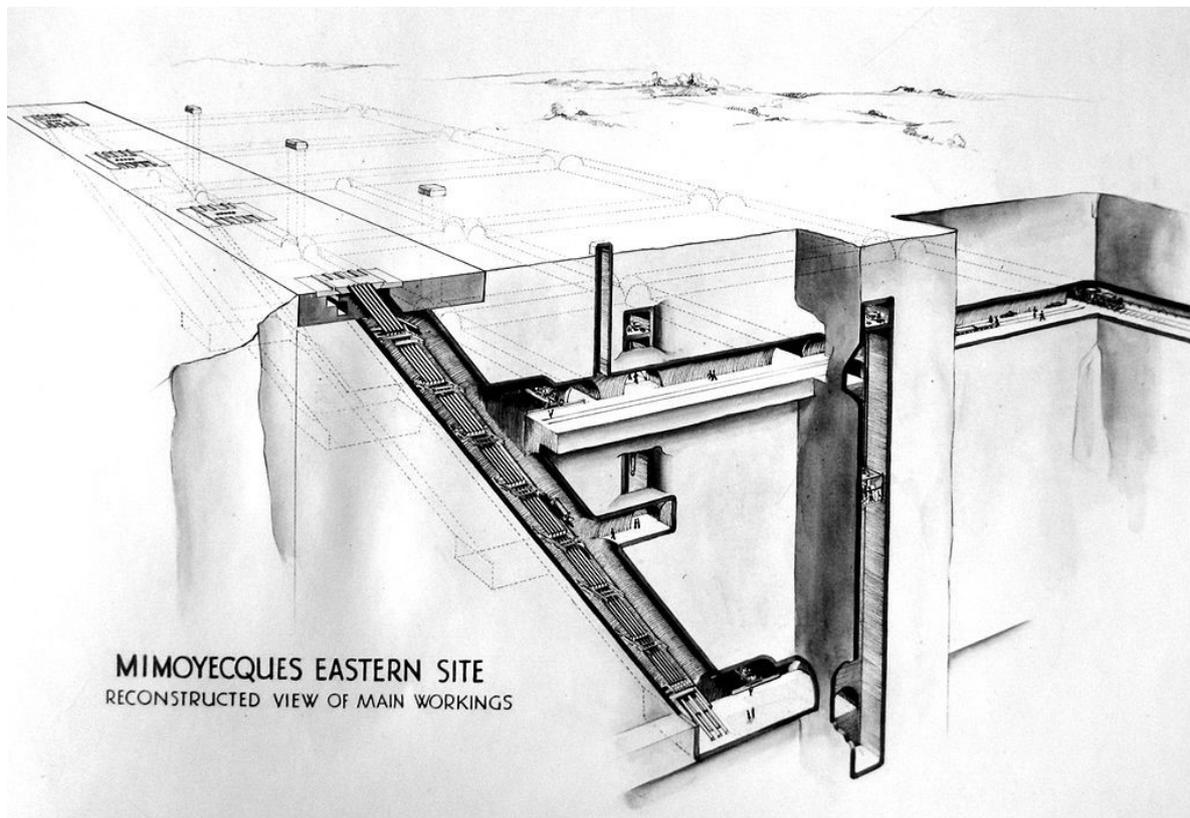
W9 nuclear warhead and 80 were produced in 1952 to 1953 for the T-124 shell. It was retired in 1957.



## V3 Guns

The V3 gun was a German World War II supergun working on the multi-charge principle whereby secondary propellant charges are fired to add velocity to a projectile.

Construction began in September 1943 and consisted of five drifts which were to hold a stacked cluster of five gun tubes, for a total of 25 guns. The entire battery would be able to fire up to 10 shots a minute, capable in theory of hitting London with 600 projectiles every hour. Each drift was oriented on a bearing of  $299^\circ$ , to the nearest degree – a direct line on Westminster Bridge. Although the elevation and direction of the guns could not be changed, it would have been possible to alter the range by varying the amount of propellant used in each shot. This would have brought much of London within range.



## Land 400 Phase 3 - M113 APC Replacement

The multi-billion dollar project to replace Army's M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers has taken another step forward with the formal release of the Request for Tender for LAND 400 Phase 3 – Mounted Close Combat Capability.

Minister for Defence Senator the Hon Marise Payne said the project will see Army's capability significantly enhanced with a fleet of up to 450 modern Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 17 Manoeuvre Support Vehicles.



Army M113AS4 APC.

“This will be the largest investment in Army’s capability ever undertaken and will provide our troops with a modern close combat capability,” Minister Payne said.

“The vehicles will be equipped with high levels of protection, firepower and mobility that will enable sustained operations, varying from peacekeeping to close combat.”



Potential M113 replacement contenders, the Rheinmetall Lynx (Pictured Above) and the BAE Systems CV90 MKIV (Pictured below).



Defence is placing greater emphasis on a coordinated and programmatic approach to Army’s biggest project ever.

A new Armoured Vehicle Division will be created to consolidate large programs like LAND 400, LAND 907 – Main Battle Tank Replacement and LAND 8160 – Enhanced Gap Crossing Capability into a programmatic 'mega project'.

When fully delivered, the LAND 400 Program will allow Army to successfully sustain mounted close combat operations against emerging and future threats as part of a joint force.

## **RAEME Corps History**

### **Rwanda Operation Tamar 1993-1996**

RAEME members were deployed on OP TAMAR - United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). The operation was 12 months in duration broken into two six month deployments.

Rotation 1 consisted of a medical company, an infantry company group - A Coy from 2/4 RAR, four Armoured Personnel Carriers from B Sqn 3 / 4 Cav, and a logistic support company from various Townsville units, and a combat engineer team from 3 CER. Rotation 2 was supported by B Coy 2 RAR.



Pictured Above Left : Photo is of Fitters track ARN 18903 also a Somalia veteran Call Sign 28A Photo taken by Cpl Jason Logue B Sqn 3/4 cav. In the background is the workshop tent with a Land Rover 6x6 Ambulance in for repairs CPL Condon is under the hood and CFN Lynch checking the batteries.

Pictured Above Right: Mar 1995 Corporal Bill O'Meara RAEME Armament Fitter servicing a .50 cal. Machine Gun.

OP TAMAR was the Australian Medical Support force to UN troops deployed to RWANDA during UNAMIR II. It was deployed to support the UN forces in Rwanda who were trying to restore peace after a vicious civil war that included large scale ethnic cleansing.

The workshop was established from Technical Support Platoons and Troops from 3 Brigade including 2/4 RAR, 3 CER, 3 BASB and B Sqn 3 / 4 Cav Regt backed by equipment and stores from 3 BASB and B Sqn 3 / 4 Cav including a fitters track, a GMV and an ERV.

**RAEME Involvement.**

The advance party took control of the hospital in the capital city Kigali, it was surrounded by RPA (Rwandan Patriotic Army) bases and not defensible if attacked. On arrival at the hospital, the destruction and slaughter was evident. A week was spent cleaning and repairing the hospital. The RAEME Team worked to get two old and disused generators running and provided safe power to the hospital buildings and operating theatre.

Over the following weeks several generators were repaired and rewiring jobs to community sites and NGO (Non Government Organisations) hospitals, in particular was the Medecins Sans Frontieres hospital. The resourcefulness of the RAEME team had them scrounging parts to keep the generator going allowing the doctors to operate for the first time with reliable power, which saved many lives.



Pictured Above: March 1995 Lance Corporal Chris Pederick RAEME VM carrying out an APC service

The main workshop arrived and consisted of 11 personnel and commenced setting up the workshop in the central parade ground of the officer training school ground, which would be home for the next six months. The vehicle workshop / GE was a 20 x 40 tent with power provided by the Lincoln generator / welder, the RPS and EME Ops were situated in adjacent buildings. Tropical downpours meant stopping work and finding somewhere dry.

FRT's would often be deployed to outlying areas in support of the medical teams, with infantry support usually in Land Rover 6x6 or Unimog trucks. The danger and uncertainty was magnified by no communications, no fire support, no air medical evacuation, Vietnam era body armour and support staff were only issued 60 rounds of ammunition. The main muscle was the three gun car APCs and the Fitters Track, which were banned from driving on public roads shortly after arriving, as they were wrecking the roads.

This article has been adapted from information supplied for the Corps History Book by WO2 Wes Lynch and Images supplied from Defence.