



The word from the
Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA

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What the Prez Sez

Welcome to the ANZAC Day edition of the Horses Mouth. We have a lot going on in this one.

Firstly, the details of the March and get together afterwards (got some great raffle prizes this year). Also, of the RAEME Vigil, our uniquely RAEME commemoration on ANZAC Eve. Following that are some articles on the late Don Horsley, a life member who recently passed away, Alan McKechnie, the first OC of 113 when it was reformed post war and life after Army – John Stevens and how he has done well after leaving the green.

We finish up with some details of our efforts to get national recognition of some of the “official” RAEME modifications in the collection at the Army Museum, Do not forget about the Night at the Museum – details at the end of the newsletter.

Enough from me, see you at the March! (or for a few quieties afterwards).

From the Secretary

The committee is working on a consolidated RAEME Association membership list and would like to collect some information on past members. If anyone has information on the following Members please send it to the secretary email address:

Mr Brian Aitkins

Mr Dale Henry

Mr Peter Epps

Mr Fred Doust

ANZAC Day - March

We re still awaiting details but assuming it will be the same as previous years – we will be positioned behind Pay Corps in G line outside 41 St. Georges Tce (opposite St Martin’s tower - 50m back from Barrack St) stepping off at 0900. Look for the Banner!

If this changes we will let you know

ANZAC Day - Catchup

All RAEME Association of WA members and families are invited to attend the after march function in the Rubix Bar and Restaurant at the IBIS Hotel, 334 Murray St.

Please note a special license will be obtained (subject to approval) to open at 1100 h.

Cost: As per last few years - Free for members (Fees can be paid on the day) and \$20 for guests

Food will be available.

After missing out last year, make the effort to come along this year - and make sure you contact all your mates and get them there.

The raffle prizes have got a bit bigger this year courtesy of **Chris Irwin of Custom Metal Features**





RAEME Vigil

The RAEME Vigil will be held as usual at the Sandukan memorial in Kings Park on ANZAC Eve.

We will meet up in the car park at the back of the tennis club at 1900 and move forward from there, under the direction of our Piper – Rob Reeves.

Remember this is our "RAEME" event commemorating the foundation members of the Corps who were captured at Singapore and perished on Sandukan. The 4 x Craftsmen and 1 x Corporal are the only members of the Corps commemorated with plaques at Kings Park and it is our duty to remember them

RAEME Get Together

Stino and Kerry are planning this year's event during the September long weekend and are trying to arrange with the Pinjarra RSL on the Friday night. more to follow once it gets closer to the time

Dining In

This is still on the cards, but it is waiting completion of the facilities at ANZAC House before we can start any real planning.

Vale Don Horsley

32070 Donald Douglas HORSLEY 14 January 1929 – 18 February 2021

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Life Member Don Horsley. Don was legendary within the corps of RAEME throughout Australia and was renowned for his skills as a tradesman and his ability to communicate with those around him and later in life, helping veterans and families in need of assistance as a Pensions/Welfare Officer and a trainer within the DVA PIP program.

Don enlisted in the Australia Regular Army on the 25 February 1949 after serving for eight months in the Citizens Military Forces (CMF). He was discharged with the rank of Captain on 29 March 1974.

During his 25 years of full-time service, Don became proficient in the following skills: Fitter, General; Vehicle Mechanic; Artificer (Vehicle); Quartermaster; Trade Testing Officer and Electrical Engineer.

Don served in many postings within Australia throughout his illustrious career, he also saw service overseas in Japan and Korea March 1954 - September 1955; AHQ Antarctic Expedition November 1958 - April 1959; United Kingdom June 1962 - August 1962; Vietnam August 1965 - August 1966.

Don was RAEME through and through and it was said that when he bled it was blue, yellow and red. He was so well respected within the corps that he was commonly referred to as "The Horses Head".

Don was a simple man, laid back, was a bit of a larrikin and had a great sense of humour. He remained that way until his passing.

He remained a true mate to those who knew him right up 'til the end.

RAEME Re-treads

As part of a new initiative this year The Horse's Mouth will be exploring some of the Businesses and Jobs our brethren are now involved in post Army. The aim of this is further

connect those of us still out there and highlight the capabilities and drive still present in our civilian lives.

This issue we would like to highlight **Josh Stevens & Pure Mechanical**.

Josh is the Owner Operator of **Pure Mechanical**, having opened for business soon after leaving The Green here in Perth. He has through hard work and an impeccable mechanical understanding of all things driven, developed, and grown his business to encompass two Workshops one in Tom Price and one in Paraburdoo.

Pure Mechanical offer a number of services ranging from:

- Mechanical Repair & Servicing
- Air con Repair & Re-gas
- Tyres & Windscreens
- Mine Site Inspections
- Tilt Tray Towing &
- Mobile Electrical Field Repair

Always up for a Beer and a Laugh, Josh is the eternal larrikin. But don't let that fool you, he is hard working, reliable and extremely knowledgeable.

So, if you're Up North, On Site or just completing a Whirlwind Tour and in need of mechanical expertise, without equal or compromise. Drop in and see Josh and his team and I know you will be well looked after.

113's (2 Med Wksp's) First OC

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Francis Clark McKechnie (WX3425)

LTCOL McKechnie was born on December 31, 1901 in St Peters SA. An Engineer by profession, he joined the militia in 35 Fortress Coy (RAE) on 3 Dec 1938, receiving his Commission as a Lieutenant on 13 Dec of the same year.

At the outbreak of war, he was called up for full time duty and in Mar 1940 he was appointed Engineer Services - HQ Western Command and promoted to Temporary Captain, later that year taking over 66 Light Aid Detachment.

In Nov 1940 he was posted to 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, only to be posted again a month later to 2/4th Army Field Workshop.

He left for the Middle East on 25 Sep 1941 and went to the 2/1st Army Field Workshop. Promoted to Major on 15 Jan 1942 he was transferred to the 2nd Advanced Ordnance Workshop and a month later he was appointed Senior Officer Mechanical Engineering (SORE) at HQ AIF (ME) Base Area, only to return to 2 Adv Ord Wksp in May.

With the withdrawal of AIF units back to Australia, Major McKechnie returned to Australia on 29 Jan 1943, where on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel he took up the appointment as CO of 2/4 Tank Workshop Company (WA) later transferring to the 2/2nd Tank Wksp Coy

(NSW) and 2/2nd Base Wksp in Jan 1944. Later that year he appointed Chief Inspector AEME Maintenance Division, M G.O. Branch. A posting to the staff of DMGO (M) LHQ -NSW on in Nov 1944 led to two inspection tours of New Guinea in Dec/Jan and May/Jul 1945.

Following the end of the War, LTCOL McKechnie was transferred to the Reserve Service List (retired) in Jul 1945. With the formation of the CMF, he was appointed EME (Major) CMF on 1 Apr 1948 and in Sep 1948, was made CO Western Command RAEME Training Depot and OC 2 Medium Workshop. His final retirement occurred on 4Jul 1952 when he transferred to the Reserve of officers (RAEME) 5 MD

???Did You Know???

We are currently working with the Heritage Committee of Engineers Australia and the Army History Unit about getting National Engineering Heritage recognition of the collection at the Army Museum.

The collection, while reflecting the history of the Australian Army in a Western Australia context, includes many items of military technology developed by Australian engineers and is one of the most complete and well documented collections of its type.

Amongst its exhibits are

- Examples of all Australian small arms from colonial times to the present day which traces the development of firearms from flint locks to percussion caps, lever action, bolt action and semi-automatic rifles including all those produced by the Lithgow Armaments factory.
- Examples of the 2 pounder and 25 pounder guns produced Examples of the 2 pounder and 25 pounder guns produced under licence by GMH.
- One of only 50 Universal (Bren Gun) Carriers built at the Midland Railway workshop in WA.
- The Australian designed and built Wiles mobile cooker which provided a mobile field steam cooking facility through both World Wars.
- The Australian designed and built gun stabilisation systems for the Centurion and later Leopard Tank.
- The Australian designed and built modification of the American M113 to accept the British Scorpion turret in the Fire Support vehicle.
- The Australian designed and built Light Wrecker using a Holmes recovery rig on an International Harvester chassis.
- The Australian designed and built modification of the British Landover Series 2 to accept the American 106mm Recoilless rifle.
- The West Australian designed and built modifications to the Mercedes Unimog to become an SAS “mothership”.
- The Australian Perentie Project which made several modifications to the British Landover 110, including an entirely different engine.
- The Australian designed and built Landover Defender based 6x6 Long Range Patrol Vehicle (LRPV).



The West Australian designed and built modifications to the Mercedes Unimog to become an SAS "mothership".



The Australian designed and built Light Wrecker using a Holmes recovery rig on an International Harvester chassis.



The Australian designed and built gun stabilisation systems for the Centurion and Leopard Tank



The Australian designed and built modification of the American M113 to accept the British Scorpion turret in the Fire Support vehicle.



The Australian designed and built modification of the British Landover Series 2 to accept the American 106mm Recoilless rifle.



One of only 50 Universal (Bren Gun) Carriers built at the Midland Railway workshop in WA.



2 pounder gun produced under licence by GMH.



25 pounder gun produced under licence by GMH.



The Australian designed and built Wiles mobile cooker which provided a mobile field steam cooking facility through both World Wars.



The Australian Perentie Project which made a number of modifications to the British Landover 110, including an entirely different engine and galvanised chassis.

Australian Army Museum of WA presents

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Friday 16 April 2021 and Saturday 17 April 2021
Artillery Barracks, Burt St, Fremantle
6pm - 10pm

For the first time the Army Museum of Western Australia will be open at night to the public. As well as visiting the galleries you will see...

VOLUNTEERS IN PERIOD UNIFORM | MILITARY VEHICLES PAST AND PRESENT
WW2 MOVIE TONE NEWSREELS | NEW VICTORIA CROSS GALLERY
FLAG LOWERING CEREMONY | REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

FEATURING THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND PERTH

Tickets available through www.trybooking.com

Adults \$15 | Family (2 + 3) \$35

Concession \$10 | Children 6 - 17 \$10

Booking fees apply



Check the website www.armymuseumwa.com.au or
call 9430 2535 for further details.