

*Have you ever wondered what the entire poem containing the "ODE" is?
Well here is the entire poem.*

"For the Fallen":

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted:
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end they remain.

Laurence Binyon 1869-1943.



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.)

Autumn 2006

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, Bayswater Hotel, 78-80 Railway Parade, Bayswater, in the Function Room. 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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Volume 9 No. 1

The RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6933

Colonel Commandant:**Colonel Mark MacKenzie**

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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 26th of MAY 2006.

DISCLAIMER

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

From the President.

Again time is rapidly drawing close for our Annual General Meeting, and the prospect of a change in the top echelon seems remote. We are faced with the resignation of both the Secretary and the Treasurer this year and I was hoping that myself could sit back and enjoy the meetings as an ordinary member, but that does not seem to be the case. I am prepared to stay on as your President as long as I am required. We all need to look at the prospect of electing the younger generation to lead the Association into the future. But again

attendance to our meetings are not the greatest and we all should try to get members or prospective members to join us to keep the spirit of the Corps alive. There was also a suggestion made to allow associate members (family members) to join us and perhaps this could be something to be considered.

As for our meeting place we are lucky to have struck a good deal with the Bayswater Hotel, where the service is great and the food is superb and the cost is very reasonable and we even get served in the meeting room. The Asso-

take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.

12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. **The moral:** When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

ABOUT GROWING OLDER...

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

The cuckoo clock

The other night I was invited out for a night with the girls; I promised my husband that I'd be home by midnight. Well, the hours passed and the Margaritas

went down way too easy. Around 3am, a bit loaded, I headed for home.

Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed 3 times. Quickly, realising my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution (even when totally smashed), in order to escape a possible conflict with him.

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in and I told him "around midnight." Much to my relief, he didn't seem browned off at all! Whew!! Got away with that one, I thought.

Then he said, in a wide-eyed innocent voice, "We need a new cuckoo clock."

When I asked him why, he said, "Well, last night our clock cuckooed 3 times, then said, "Oh damn," cuckooed 4 more times, cleared it's throat, cuckooed another 3 times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, and then, still giggling, tripped over the coffee table."

A Living Will

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.

Puzzle Answer

Noble Lancelot said that he would allow HER to make the choice herself.

Upon hearing this, she announced that she would be beautiful all the time because he had respected her enough to let her be in charge of her own life.

Now....what is the moral to this story?

The moral is.....

If you don't let a woman have her own way.... Things are going to get ugly.

proximately 20 miles, and just before crossing the river, the bullet apparently overheated discharged, and struck Poole in the testicles. The vehicle swerved sharply right, exiting the pavement, and striking a tree.

Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident, but will require extensive surgery to repair the damage to his testicles, which will never again operate as intended. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released. "Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his balls off, or we might both be dead," stated Wallis.

"I've been a trooper for 10 years in this part of the world, but this is a first for me. I can't believe that those two would admit how this accident happened," said Snyder. Upon being notified of the wreck, Lavinia (Poole's wife) asked how many frogs the boys had caught and did anyone get them from the truck??? (Though Poole and Wallis did not die as a result of their misadventure as normally required by Darwin Award Official Rules, it can be argued that Poole DID, in fact, effectively remove himself from the gene pool.)

Marine Snipers Quote

Love his work!

December 9, 2005 (CNN)

While interviewing an anonymous US Marine on his sniper skills, a Reuters News agent asked the Marine what he felt when shooting members of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. The soldier shrugged and replied, "Recoil."

Business Sign

A Sign at a Business Establishment Philadelphia, PA:

"WE WOULD RATHER DO BUSINESS WITH 1000 ARAB TERRORISTS THAN WITH A SINGLE JEW"

This sign was prominently displayed in the window of a business in Philadelphia. Most would be outraged at the thought of such an inflammatory statement. One would think that anti-hate groups from all across the country would be marching on this business, and that the National Guard might have to be called to keep the angry crowds back.

But, perhaps in these stressful times, one might be tempted to let the proprietors simply make their statement. We are a society who holds "Freedom of Speech" as perhaps our greatest liberty. And after all, it is just a sign.

You may ask what business would dare post such a sign?

Goldberg's Funeral Home

Wisdom of the Man

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Enjoy the following:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow pat on a hot day.
3. There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman...neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd,

ciation is still going well but we need the input of all that are interested so we can establish and maintain social activities and information services for the benefit of our members which is one principal aim of our Association.

Well, this it from me and we hope you give thought to our boys serving in the difficult areas overseas.

I hope you can make our next meeting, we'd love to see you there and have a natter and a drink after. If you cannot make the meeting please ring the Secretary.

John Klein

RAEME Golf Day

To all those interested RAEME dudes whether retired or serving, a suggestion of a golf day at Yanchep National Park has been proposed for between around the end of April and end of May. So as not to exhaust the old and bold's (once young) it would consist of just nine holes. A start of 0700 hrs (7am to those who have forgotten; or, for QANTAS Pilots - Mickey's little hand is on the seven and his big hand is on the 12) to finish around 0900-0930 hrs for a barbecue in one of the many areas available.

It is a pleasant stroll amongst the kangaroos, ducks and other wildlife, whilst surrounded by bushland and green fairways, spoilt only by the frustrating game of golf. It would be finished by about 1100-1130 hrs leaving the rest of the day for you to either take in the rest of the park or onto other things elsewhere.

This is an opportunity for some camaraderie to be re-ignited within the Corps that has been so much a part of our lives. At present this is not so, unfortunately. It will not happen without your support and as the old saying goes, 'the more the merrier', and I am sure

you have all experienced that. Remember the functions you have been to that were a dud. It was usually a lack of numbers. Then think of the great ones where 'every one was there'. We just need to all give it a go. I am sure it will work if we are willing to 'have a go'.

There will be prizes for such things as closest to the pin, best score card with no detectable cheating, and of course the NAGA (Not a Golfers A**ehole) Award which I'm proud to say, have one on several occasions.

If you are interested, give me a call on H: 9309 2800, W: 9358 1588 or M 0403 311 578 and ask for Garry. Those who respond will be contacted closer to the day.

**Go on, I dare ya.
Gazza**

Where are we going?

The question was asked during the last meeting, "Where are we going? What are we doing?"

These questions were asked because there seems to be an absence of members attending the meetings. History shows that the Association was strongest about a year after we reformed in April of 1998. Everybody had high hopes then that we would attract all the younger members of the Corps and be able to have at least four functions per year to increase the sense of camaraderie between us all. Sadly, this did not happen. In fact, in the past three years we have had to cancel two Corps Birthday Dinners because of lack of numbers.

The Association stands to serve the members of the Corps, both still serving and retired. While the younger members are still ten-foot tall and bullet proof we understand that their catch cry is, "What's in it for me?" The As-

sociation is aimed at the Welfare of all members and we have trained Welfare Officers to do this work. The scenario of Welfare for the younger members is the same as the old n' bold. What if you get hurt whilst on duty? Can you navigate your way through the maze of paperwork required to seek medical services or compensation? Our Welfare Officers are all trained to fill out all the forms for you and to follow you case to its natural conclusion. The youngest member that was represented was just 18 years of age. By his own admission, he would not have succeeded had he applied on his own. After one of our Welfare Officers took his case on, he now has a pension and compensation for the injuries that found his service career over virtually before it began. Our Welfare Officers can assist you with matters from the Department of Veteran's Affairs (for those with overseas Active Service), the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Service, and, the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme. This service to our members is entirely without cost.

What else can the Association offer?

For the older members, not only help as above, but also help to find the right services that you may need to keep your life on track and comfortable. We can even arrange help for you in the garden if you need it. Most of the older members appreciate getting together with other members of the Corps, serving or discharged, just to compare notes. This way they keep up with the system and maintain their interest in the Corps. The younger members can also benefit from the old n' bold. You can gain a terrific amount of knowledge from just talking to each other. We have members from the Corps of REME (British Army) who enjoy talking to those in another military system. From these members, it is very easy to get another outlook on our common problems. All this can happen by just at-

tending a meeting.

In short, the Association can help you, no matter what age, to build on the "Esprit de Corps" that began with your training before you even joined RAEME.

A question that is often asked by members who are in the ARA about what would happen to their membership if they get posted interstate. A delegate from each State goes to Bandiana twice per year and, under the auspices of the Head of Corps, deal with many of the problems that crop up in any of the Associations in Australia. This committee is known as the National Committee and its function is to help the State Associations with all sorts of problems including the one about the ARA and postings. All the State Representatives have agreed that your membership is fully portable from State to State. So if you are posted, the Association will arrange to pass your membership to the gaining Association.

Another function of the Association is to supply memorabilia to the Corps members. All our saleable items are held at 13 CSSB WKSP COY. If you give them a call they will put you onto our memorabilia officer who can supply your needs. Alternatively you can contact the Secretary (see Page 2). From time to time we purchase new items from other RAEME Associations for sale to members.

What about the memorabilia from bygone years?

13 CSSB WKSP COY has very kindly allowed the RAEME Association of WA to keep their displays of memorabilia from bygone years in and around the Headquarters building of the Unit. This allows any member who visits the Unit to see the memorabilia already collected. There is also the RAEME Room which houses quite a lot of memorabilia and will have much more in the near future. Pride of place in the Orderly Room is one of the first issues of the Corps History, a Corps Banner Minia-

shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2: [Kalamazoo Gazette]: James Burns, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo, MI, was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police describe as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft."

Nominee No. 3: [Hickory Daily Record]: Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

Nominee No. 4: [UPI, Toronto]: Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously has conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawson, managing partner of the firm Holden Day. Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association.

Nominee No. 5: [The News of the Weird]: Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolina's electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. While sitting on a metal toilet in his cell attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

Nominee No. 6: [The Indianapolis Star]: A cigarette lighter may have triggered a fatal explosion in Dunkirk, IN. A Jay County man, using a cigarette lighter to check the barrel of a muzzleloader, was killed Monday night when the weapon discharged in his face, sheriff's investigators said. Gregory David Pryor, 19, died in his parents' Dunkirk home at about 11:30 PM. Investigators said Pryor was cleaning a 54-calibre muzzle-loader that had not been firing properly. He was using the lighter to look into the barrel when the gunpowder ignited.

Nominee No. 7: [Reuters, Massauga, Ontario]: A man cleaning a bird feeder on the balcony of his condominium apartment in this Toronto suburb slipped and fell 23 stories to his death. Stefan Macko, 55, was standing on a wheeled chair when the accident occurred, said Inspector D'Arcy Honer of the Peel Regional Police. "It appears that the chair moved, and he went over the balcony," Honer said.

Finally, THE WINNER!!!: [Arkansas Democrat Gazette]: Two local men were injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday. Woodruff County deputy Dovey Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday, Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc, and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock, were returning to Des Arc after a frog gigging trip. On an overcast Sunday night, Poole's pickup truck headlights malfunctioned.

The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older-model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the 22-calibre bullet from his pistol fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering-wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet the headlights again began to operate properly, and the two men proceeded on eastbound toward the White River Bridge. After travelling ap-

Jim's Life in the US

Jim is an expert when it comes to things about his own country.

Airplane Conversation

A man boarded an airplane and took his seat. As he settled in, he glanced up and saw an unusually beautiful woman boarding the plane. He soon realised she was heading straight toward his seat.

Lo and behold, she took the seat right beside his.

Eager to strike up a conversation, he blurted out, "Business trip or vacation?"

She turned, smiled, and said, "Business. The annual Sexual Education Convention in Chicago."

He swallowed hard. Here was the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen, sitting next to him, and she was going to a meeting for sex education!

Struggling to maintain his composure, he calmly asked, "What's your business role at this convention?"

"Lecturer," she responded. "I use my experience to debunk some of the popular myths about sexuality."

"Really," he said. "What myths are those?"

"Well," she explained. "One popular myth is that African American men are the most well endowed, when in fact, it's the Native American Indian who is most likely to possess that trait."

"Another popular myth is that French men are the best lovers, when actually it is the men of Jewish descent.

We have, however, found that the best potential lover in all categories is the Southern Redneck."

Suddenly, the woman became a little uncomfortable and blushed. "I'm sorry", she said. "I shouldn't really be discussing this with you. I don't even know your name."

"Tonto," the man said. "Tonto Goldstein, but my friends call me Bubba."

These Are Actual Newspaper Ads!

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER. 8 years old. Hateful little dog. Bites

FREE PUPPIES: 1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES... Part German Shepherd, part stupid dog

FREE GERMAN SHEPHERD 85 lbs. Neutered. Speaks German.

FOUND DIRTY WHITE DOG. Looks like a rat ...been out a while..better be a reward.

COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.. Also 1 gay bull for sale.

NORDIC TRACK \$300 Hardly used, call Chubby

GEORGIA PEACHES, California grown - 89 cents lb.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY! Must sell washer and dryer \$300

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE. WORN ONCE BY MISTAKE. Call Stephanie.

(AND THE BEST ONE)

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000 or best offer. No longer needed, got married last month. Wife knows everything.

Darwin Awards

It's hard to believe, but another year has passed. Once again, it's time for the Darwin Award Nominees. The Darwin's are awarded every year to the persons who died in the most stupid manner, thereby removing themselves from the gene pool. This year's nine nominees are:

Nominee No. 1: [San Jose Mercury News]: An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally

ture (Issue No. 113) and a gift from our member in the United States, Jim Otto. Jim arranged for a 3 Battalion Fife and Drum Corps (US Army) poster with the Signatures of the entire band, to be personalised to the Association and presented just after Christmas. It has pride of place in the Unit Orderly Room for all to see.

The Association publishes a Newsletter four times per year. All members that are financial are sent a copy. Other copies are also sent to serving members via their units.

So you can all see, the Association does have an important function for Corps members in this State. The only thing more to say is, "**Go on, be in it! Join the Association and help us to help you!!!**" It only costs \$15.00 per year and is worth the effort to be a member. Application forms can be obtained from the Secretary.

Vale 58586 WO1 Richard [Dick] Rae PEASE.

Enlisted: Jan 1953

Discharged: April 1975

Dick was an 8th intake Apprentice, Vehicle Mechanic, allocated to the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers [RAEME] and serving the first 3 years at Balcombe Army Apprentice School in Victoria. He served there from Jan 1953 to Dec 1955.

He was then posted to Melbourne Area Workshops, from Dec 1955 to Feb 1962. He completed the 4th year of his apprenticeship here and was detached for short periods of time to 1 Medium Wksps and 3 Base Wksps.

During this posting he managed to complete all his corps qualifying courses at RAEME Training Centre, and was promoted to CPL.

Do not think for a moment that all his time at Melbourne Area Wksps was devoted to his army career. During this

period that not only did he meet, but won the heart and married the love of his life "Alice". Early in 1962 he was posted to Pucka Area Wksps until 1963. On the posting he was promoted to SGT. Due to his out-standing service up to date, he was offered a posting to Papua New Guinea and as it included taking his family, he accepted. So from Nov 1963 until mid 1967, Dick was posted to Papua New Guinea Workshops. After almost four years of out-standing devotion to his duties he was offered, for the first time since joining the Army, a posting back to his home State of Western Australia, and, surprise, surprise, it was accepted. Mid 1967 to Oct 1968 he was posted to 5 BOD WA. Here Dick was given a married quarter to settle his family in as well as being promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2. The posting did not last long for, in Oct 1968 he was asked to go to Vietnam and needless to say, being the soldier he was, he could never refuse to go where his service was required. In Oct 1968 he said his farewells to his family and joined his new unit, 106 Field Workshops. His posting to 106 Field Workshops was from Oct 1968 to Oct 1969. As part of the 106 FD WKSps advance party, Dick set about preparing the area for the arrival of the remainder of the unit.

As in all his previous posting, Dick carried-out his duties in Vietnam to the highest possible standard not only bringing credit to himself, but to his unit and the Corps as a whole. On return to Australia, Dick was posted to 2 Sigs Regiment, Victoria. He arrived at 2 Sigs Regiment in Oct of 1969 and had a relatively short stay when he was again posted in Jan 1970. Firstly, Dick had moved the family back to Victoria and then settled back into the normal every day unit life.

Again his effort was of such a high standard that in Jan 1970 he was again posted, on promotion to Warrant Officer Class 1. This time it was back to

Melbourne Area Wksps as the Artificer Sergeant Major, [ASM]. He held this posting from Jan 1970 to Jun 1973. This was the first time I had worked in the same unit as Dick. It was not long before I came to realise that his reputation was well deserved and he was, in fact, a credit to the Corps. It was a sorry day for the unit when Dick was posted back to WA because of his father's ongoing illness. In Jun 1973 he was posted back to Perth Workshop Company. This post he held until his separation from the Army in Apr 1975. Dick was kept busy as the ASM of the unit. All this while he was settling his family in married quarters and then into the new home they had bought at Mundaring. Dick's life was very busy as he was doing all he could for his parents at the same time. In Apr 1975 he came to the conclusion it was impossible for him to give his best to both his family and the Army. So he decided to take his discharge and it was then that the Army lost one of its most devoted members.

Don Horsley

Dick passed away at Hollywood Private Hospital at 0600 hours on 07 March 2006. His battle is over and a mighty fight he fought. Dick will be sadly missed by all that knew him. He was the lovable larrikin that nobody would ever forget. Rest in peace, Dick. Your fight is over.

Lest We Forget

Arte Et Marte

Farewell to Dick

A very moving ceremony was held on 13 Mar 2006 at Purslowe Funeral Home for a very popular member of the Association. Dick Pease was one of the most respected members of the Corps and it showed by the number of Corps Members who turned up for the Service.

Our very own Don Horsley conducted

the service with a great deal of sensitivity, even though the service was for one of his long time friends. Richard, Alan and Helen Pease were wonderful in their praise for their father. You could see the closeness and love within the family.

Neville Smith from Parkwood did a sterling job of reading Dick's Service Credentials. These can be read in the eulogy for Dick in this issue. Dick had another life outside the Service, which encompassed Cricket, Golf and Lawn Bowls. Rod Armstrong of the Sportsman Club in Mundaring read his list of accomplishments. Seeing the honour boards in the club and the number of times R. Pease appeared on them bears out the praise that was given him.

Rod Costoloe read the Ode and there was hardly a dry eye in the room, each knowing that a friend had passed on. Rod was followed by Dick's brother Dennis, who read a poem he felt epitomises Dick's philosophy in life, particularly in the last few months. It described Dick to a T.

At the conclusion of the service, all ex-service members were requested to give their own farewell to Dick by placing a poppy on his coffin. Being able to say our own private farewell, even only for a few seconds, made our contribution to Dick seem very special. From there we filed out to the front of the Funeral Home and formed an honour guard with the sportsmen from Mundaring. We were all there for a common purpose and that purpose encompassed a friendly group of people.

Dick was a special person that will never be forgotten for the work he did for the Corps of RAEME.

Get Togethers

Hi John,

To day after Dick's Pease's funeral a common theme went through most of the conversations I heard. This theme

the wet suit, there stood a Drop-dead gorgeous blonde!

The glamorous blonde strode up to the stunned Irishman and said to him, "Tell me, how long has it been since you've had a good cigar"

"Ten years," Replied the amazed Irishman. With that, she reached over and unzipped a waterproof pocket on the left sleeve of her wet suit and pulled out a fresh package of cigars.

He takes one, lights it, and takes a long drag. "Faith and begorrah," said the man, "that is so good I'd almost forgotten how great a smoke can be!"

"And how long has it been since you've had a drop of good Powers Irish Whisky?" asked the blonde.

Trembling, the castaway replied, "Ten years."

Hearing that, the blonde reaches over to her right sleeve, unzips a pocket and removes a flask and hands it to him.

He opened the flask and took a long drink. "Tis nectar of the gods!" stated the Irishman. "Tis truly Fantastic!"

At this point the gorgeous blonde started to slowly unzip the long front of her wet suit, right down the middle. She looked at the trembling man and asked, "And how long has it been since you played around?"

With tears in his eyes, the Irishman fell to his knees and sobbed, Don't tell me that you've got golf clubs in there, too!"

Joe is a Winner

Joe, a widower about 45 years of age, was walking home from work one afternoon and decided to go into the tavern for a beer and a sandwich. While he was waiting to be served his food a beautiful gal about 40-45 came in the door, and sat on a stool near him at the bar.

Joe got up from his chair, walked over to the lady, and politely asked her if she would like to come sit at his table.

In a rather loud voice, she remarked

"No, I won't sleep with you!"

Joe went back to his chair, somewhat embarrassed, and proceeded to eat his sandwich.

When he was about finished, the lady got off the barstool, walked over, sat down beside him, and in a soft voice said, "I am working on my masters degree in counselling. An assignment the teacher gave us was to try to embarrass someone unknown to us, and record their reaction."

Joe thought for a minute, then in a loud voice said "No, I won't give you \$250.00 to sleep with you." - and proceeded to walk out the door amidst the loud laughing and ribald comments of the other tavern guests.

Aren't you proud of Joe?

Two blondes with hammers

Cindy and Diane were doing some carpentry work on a Habitat for Humanity house. Cindy, who was nailing down house siding, would reach into her nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over her shoulder or nail it in.

Diane, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, "Why are you throwing those nails away?" Cindy explained, "When I pull a nail out of my pouch, about half of them have the head on the wrong end and I throw them away.

Diane got completely upset and yelled, "You moron! Those nails aren't defective! They're for the other side of the house!"

Kids sure learn fast these days.....

A teacher asked her class, "What do you want out of life?"

A little girl in the back row raised her hand and said, "All I want out of life is four little animals, just like my Mom always says".

The teacher asked, "Really and what four little animals would that be?"

The little girl said, "A Mink on my back, a Jaguar in the garage, a Tiger in the bed and a Jackass to pay for all of it."

word?" asked Satan.

"Don't doubt it for a minute," returned the old man, in an even tone.

"Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, physical agony forever?"

"Yep," was the calm reply.

"And you're still not afraid?" asked Satan.

"Nope.

"More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, "Well, why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man calmly replied, "Been married to your sister for 45 years."

Pecans In The Cemetery

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence.

One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

"One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy.

Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off.

Just around the bend he met an old

man with a cane, hobbling along.

"Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk."

When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me..."

The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord."

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the kid on the bike.

Irishman

One day an Irishman who had been stranded on a deserted island for over 10 years, saw a speck on the horizon. He thought to himself, "It's certainly not a ship." And, as the speck got closer and closer, he began to rule out the possibilities of a small boat and even a raft.

Suddenly there emerged from the surf a wet-suited black clad figure. Putting aside the scuba gear and the top of

Don't Forget

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

is, "We only see each other at funerals and its getting rather depressing". It seems to me that we do only meet at funerals.

We need to meet more often, other than ANZAC Day, under happier circumstances. I am really enjoying our meetings at the Baysie; good food and the odd drink and a great group to talk to. I have been disappointed that the Annual Corps Dinner has had to be cancelled due to the lack of numbers. I feel sure that those who started to come to the monthly meeting at the Baysie will find out that there is life away from funerals.

I would dearly love to see the Esprit de Corps that we had years ago come back and our meetings take on the

style we used to have, good crowd, lots of laughter and lots of fun. We spent so long depending on each other when we were serving. I find it strange that the camaraderie that was there is somehow missing.

I guess that all I can say is let's get back to having fun and laughter and the good times with good friends before it is too late and we meet at another funeral.

See Ya,

Lawrie

New Memorabilia For The Association

Recently, a piece of memorabilia was sent to the Association. It was in the

Bayswater Hotel

We have finally found a home thanks to the generosity of the management of the Bayswater Hotel in Bayswater. The Baysie, as it is called, is a bright and breezy hotel with excellent facilities.

The Baysie has allowed the Association the use of their Function Room every month for our meetings. This they have done at no charge as the Association is a non-profit veteran's organisation. All members are welcome to come along. Remember that our meetings are on the first Thursday of each month except January.

Dinner, at the Baysie, is from 1800 hours to 2030 hours and is relatively cheap, wholesome food. It is served as a Buffet Style meal and you can have hot dinners or a cold salad style meal. Should you wish to go more up-market you can order from the Al-a-Carte menu. If you wish to have a private function with a buffet style meal the Baysie staff is only too pleased to cater for you.

One thing that is a big plus for the Baysie is the friendly manner which the staff treat all their guests. They are probably the friendliest group of people you would want to meet.

If a function is organised at the Baysie, one real big plus is the very comfortable rooms in the Hotel or in the adjoining Motel. You can go to a function, relax and enjoy yourself and have no fear of having to drive home trying to avoid the "Booze Buses". The tariffs for the rooms in the Hotel or the Motel are very reasonable.

If you drive to the Baysie there is a Carpark at the rear with room for about 100 cars. Alternatively you can get to the Baysie by train. The Hotel is about 100m the north side of the railway line from the Bayswater Railway Station.

Further information can be supplied by the Secretary.

Our catch cry now is "Come to the Baysie and enjoy yourselves."

form of a poster from the 3rd US Infantry Regiment US Army. This famous and very old Battalion is the home of the Fifes and Drums Band of the 3rd US Infantry Regiment US Army. The Fifes and Drums are known as the Old Guard. The Mission of The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is to represent the United States Army at military and civilian ceremonies, parades, funerals and other functions throughout the nation. They also travel around the world to showcase the professionalism of the U.S. Army Soldier/Musicians, and to revive their country's musical heritage.

As an official representative of the U.S. Army, the Corps averages nearly 2,000 performances annually. The Corps has entertained millions of people in major parades, pageants and historical celebrations throughout the United States; and has served America as a goodwill ambassador as far away as Europe, Australia and Canada. Major sporting events the Corps has performed at include NCAA bowl games, NBA games, NFL games including Super Bowl XVI, the Kentucky Derby, the Indianapolis 500, and the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid NY.

The poster was sent to us by our member in the US, Jim Otto. We thank Jim and his family for getting the poster for us. We also thank the entire Fife and Drum Corps for their generosity. The poster has been personally signed by each member of the Corps and was specially notated as a presentation to the Royal Australian Mechanical and Electrical Engineers of Western Australia.

The poster has been framed and now has pride of place on the wall in the Orderly Room at 13 CSSB WKSP COY, our beloved 113 FD WKSP. If you ever get to 113, make a point of going into the Orderly Room and having a look at the poster.

RAEME Room Memorabilia

Many of you may not be aware that we have a memorabilia repository at 13 CSSB WKSP COY. This room is specifically to hold any memorabilia of the Corps that has been donated to the Association.

Should anyone have a memorabilia that they would like to donate or permanently lend to the Association you can be assured that it will be looked after in the RAEME Room. Any Photographs that are donated will be framed if they are large and kept in acid free albums if small. The larger photo will be displayed on office walls around the Workshop. These photographs will also be scanned and an information file written on each one. They will be then burnt to a CD-ROM and passed to Colonel Terry Beaton, the Corps Historian, and to Major Graham Anderson, the Corps Heritage Officer. If these two gentlemen think that the photograph is important to the Corps History, a copy will be passed to Major Graham Docksey, the curator of the Army Museum, Bandiana.

It is the aim of the Association to build up and preserve our history for future Corps Members. Pass your history on so that future members of the Corps can enjoy it.

Medals Found

I've now returned 176 medals and this is a brief summary of the what I've managed to find in the 6 months since you so kindly published the last list.

Stand To - 1 medal; RSL News - 2 medals; and Camradaire - 1 medal

Of the 15 sets of medals recently sent to me by the RSL WA State Branch I've located five families and returned the medals.

The MM and Bar Forwarded to me by the RSL VIC State Branch has been re-

Nobody bothered to check the oil.

We just didn't know we were getting low.

The reason for that is purely geographical.....

Our oil is located in Bass Strait and off the coast of Western Australia....

Our dipsticks are located in Canberra.

Ed's Note: Another by Anonymouse. Would someone please find him for the lynch mob????

Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

Why parents drink

The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees had not phoned in sick one day. Having an urgent problem with one of the main computers, he dialled the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper.

"Hello."

"Is your daddy home?" he asked.

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

May I talk with him?"

The child whispered, "No."

Surprised and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, "Is your Mommy there?"

"Yes."

"May I talk with her?"

Again the small voice whispered, "No."

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, "Is anybody else there?"

"Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman"

Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak with the policeman?"

"No, he's busy", whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?"

"Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the Fireman," came the whispered answer.

Growing more worried as he heard what sounded like a helicopter through the

earpiece on the phone, the boss asked, "What is that noise?"

"A helicopter" answered the whispering voice.

"What is going on there?" demanded the boss, now truly apprehensive.

Again, whispering, the child answered, "The search team just landed the helicopter."

Alarmed, concerned and a little frustrated the boss asked, "What are they searching for?"

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle: "me."

The devil & the old man.

Just minutes before the church services started the towns people were sitting in their pews and talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate.

Soon everyone had exited the church except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence.

So Satan walked up to the old man and said, "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied, "Yep, sure do."

"Aren't you afraid of me?" Satan asked.

"Nope, sure ain't" said the man.

"Don't you realise I can kill you with a



* THE NEW APPRENTICES, ER; SORRY, CRAFTSMAN HAVE ARRIVED SIR !! *

Blast from the past. From the original Perth Workshop Company "The Horse's Mouth". The OC was our recently retired Honorary Colonel. But who were the Apprentices - err - Craftsmen?

"What disease would I get for ten lousy bucks?" exclaimed the homeless man.

"Well," said the man, "I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty, and I probably smell pretty disgusting."

The man replied, "That's okay. I just want her to see what a man looks like who has given up beer, gambling, golf, and sex."

Naughty Old Man...

An older, white haired man walked into a jewellery store one Friday evening with a beautiful young gal at his side. He told the jeweller he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

The jeweller looked through his stock and brought out a \$5,000 ring and showed it to him. The old man said "I don't think you understand I want

something very special."

At that statement, the jeweller went to his special stock and brought another ring over. "Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000" the jeweller said. The young lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement. The old man seeing this said, "We'll take it."

The jeweller asked how payment would be made and the old man stated, by cheque. "I know you need to make sure my cheque is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds and I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon," he said. Monday morning, a very teed-off jeweller phoned the old man. "There's no money in that account."

"I know", said the old man, "but can you imagine what a fantastic weekend I've had?"

The Oil Crisis In Australia

A lot of people can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in our country.

Well, there's a very simple answer.

turned.

I'm not sure if you all have my most recent address. My contact details are now:

Lieutenant Colonel Glyn Llanwarne
105 Kapooka Dve
KAPOOKA NSW 3661
(02) 6971 1447
0414 649 079

Thank you all for your continued assistance.

(Courtesy Listening Post RSL WA)

New Tanks For Australian Army Roll Off Production Line In United States

The first five of the Australian Army's new Abrams tanks have rolled off the production line in the United States today.

Army has ordered 59 of the rebuilt tanks officially designated the Abrams M1A1, Abrams Integrated Management (AIM).

A ceremony marking the occasion was held in Lima, Ohio, at the Joint Services Manufacturing Centre and was attended by Australian Defence Organisation representatives.

This is the first major delivery under Australia's Foreign Military Sales program with the United States. These tanks will now be transported to Fort Hood, Texas, in preparation for the training of Australian tank soldiers and maintainers as they convert to the new vehicle.

The Abrams M1A1 AIM tanks will replace the current Leopard AS1 tank and will provide the Army with increased firepower, mobility and survivability for soldiers on the battlefield.

This tank will form a key component of the 'Hardened and Networked' Army announced by the Government last year.

Funding for these tanks has been provided as part of the Government's com-

mitment to spending \$28 1/2 billion on defence capability over the 10-year period to 2010.

This funding builds on the 2000 White Paper commitment to increase Defence funding by three per cent annually until 2010/11.

The Abrams ensures that if we have to deploy our forces on close combat operations they will have the combat weight they need to achieve their mission without undue risk.

All tanks procured under this project have been rebuilt under the Abrams Integrated Management program.

The AIM program applies modifications and technology improvements to the M1A1 tank to ensure that it will serve to 2020 and beyond.

The comprehensive rebuild process means the tanks have embedded diagnostics and digitalisation plus a range of armour, firepower, automotive and engine improvements.

The modification process for the Australian tanks began in June 2005 when the 59 Australian-selected M1A1 tanks were transferred to the Anniston Army Depot, Alabama, where they were stripped to their component parts. The upgrade and technology enhancement process takes place at the Joint Services Manufacturing Centre, Lima, Ohio.

The delivery of these new capabilities is proceeding to schedule and demonstrates the close cooperation occurring between Defence Materiel Organisation and Army.

The Abrams will be introduced into Army training schools in Australia in late 2006. It will be fielded in Darwin by mid-2007.

New heavy airlift capability for the Royal Australian Air Force

The Australian Government will acquire up to four new Boeing C-17

Globemaster III aircraft and associated equipment to provide the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with a heavy air-lift capability.

The Government has selected the C-17 by for its ability to meet the needs of the ADF over the next 30 years.

This is the only aircraft currently in production which has a proven capability to meet ADF operational commitments, in Australia, the region and globally. The C-17 has four times the carrying capacity of the RAAF C-130 Hercules.

The C-17 aircraft has the load capacity and range that will allow the ADF to rapidly deploy troops, combat vehicles, heavy equipment and helicopters. This includes the M1A1 Abrams Tank, as well as Black Hawk, Sea Hawk, and Chinook helicopters. Each C-17 has the capacity to transport five Bushmaster Infantry Vehicles, or three Tiger helicopters.

The fleet of up to four aircraft will give Australia a new Responsive Global AirLift (RGA) capability, significantly enhancing the ADF's ability to support national and international operations, and major disaster rescue and relief efforts.

As the C-17 aircraft is currently in production, it is possible for the first aircraft to be delivered later this year with the balance of the fleet to be delivered by mid 2008. This will give the ADF the Responsive Global Airlift operating capability it needs within a short time-frame.

Acquisition of the C-17 will also provide significant opportunity for our aerospace industry with Boeing proposing an Australian Industry Capability program valued at \$345m over the life of the aircraft.

Army Museum of WA- Volunteers

2006 is going to be a busy and challenging year for the Army Museum.

We have secured a 50-year Licence Agreement with the Commonwealth and with the relocation of WAUR in the near future, the museum has a **critical** need for guides and gallery attendants to support our expansion and replace those present members who are retiring after long and loyal service.

This is a great opportunity for RAEME Assn members to pass on to future generations the military heritage of our state. Based at the Fremantle Artillery Barracks, the WA Army Museum has achieved national recognition as a premier military museum. Museum volunteers enjoy OJT, a congenial environment and good fellowship as well as the satisfaction that comes from interaction with the youth of the nation, via school tours and the general public.

Our primary needs are for weekend gallery attendants and weekday guides for school tours. Opportunities also exist in other areas of the museum.

If you can spare us **one-day a week**, or even **one-day a month**, we would be pleased to see you. We **need** to replace our WW-2 members with those from a younger generation.

Contacts: Army Museum 9335 2077 (Weds & Thurs only)
Email: info@armymuseum.wa.com.au
Website: www.armymuseum.wa.com.au

Kevin Bovill 93392623
Email: kbovill@inet.net.au

Norm Wells 0417 945 157

Also please keep us in mind for group tours on arrangement or just a place to bring the grand kids during school holidays

Yours sincerely,

AMWA Foundation

TPI Entitlements

The following is an open letter received by the Association via email. It seemed that there was no reply from the, then, Minister for Veteran's Affairs.

Many people advised him to consult the old witch, for only she would have the answer.

But the price would be high; as the witch was famous throughout the kingdom for the exorbitant prices she charged.

The last day of the year arrived and Arthur had no choice but to talk to the witch. She agreed to answer the question, but he would have to agree to her price first.

The old witch wanted to marry Sir Lancelot, the most noble of the Knights of the Round Table and Arthur's closest friend!

Young Arthur was horrified. She was hunchbacked and hideous, had only one tooth, smelled like sewage, made obscene noises, etc. He had never encountered such a repugnant creature in all his life.

He refused to force his friend to marry her and endure such a terrible burden; but Lancelot, learning of the proposal, spoke with Arthur.

He said nothing was too big of a sacrifice compared to Arthur's life and the preservation of the Round Table.

Hence, a wedding was proclaimed and the witch answered Arthur's question thus:

What a woman really wants, she answered....is to be in charge of her own life.

Everyone in the kingdom instantly knew that the witch had uttered a great truth and that Arthur's life would be spared.

And so it was, the neighbouring monarch granted Arthur his freedom and Lancelot and the witch had a wonderful wedding.

The honeymoon hour approached and Lancelot, steeling himself for a horrific experience, entered the bedroom. But, what a sight awaited him. The most beautiful woman he had ever seen lay before him on the bed. The astounded

Lancelot asked what had happened

The beauty replied that since he had been so kind to her when she appeared as a witch, she would henceforth, be her horrible deformed self only half the time and the beautiful maiden the other half.

Which would he prefer? Beautiful during the day....or night?

Lancelot pondered the predicament. During the day, a beautiful woman to show off to his friends, but at night, in the privacy of his castle, an old witch? Or, would he prefer having a hideous witch during the day, but by night, a beautiful woman for him to enjoy wondrous intimate moments?

What would YOU do?

What Lancelot chose is on Page 31. BUT....make YOUR choice before you look at the solution. OKAY?

Look what happens.....

A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner.

The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead?"

"No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.

"Will you use it to gamble instead of buying food?" the man asked.

"No, I don't gamble," the homeless man said. "I need everything I can get just to stay alive."

"Will you spend this on green fees at a golf course instead of food?" the man asked.

"Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't played golf in 20 years!"

"Will you spend the money on a woman in the red light district instead of food?" the man asked.

be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl rite n styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

Curtains

She tells the salesman, "I would like to buy a pair of pink curtains." The salesman assures her that they have a large selection of pink curtains. He shows her several patterns, but the blond seems to be having a hard time choosing. Finally she selects a lovely pink floral print. The salesman then asks what size curtains she needs.

The blond promptly replies, "fifteen inches." "Fifteen inches???" asked the salesman. "That sounds very small, what room are they for?" The blond tells him that they aren't for a room, they are for her computer monitor. The surprised salesman replies, "but Miss, computers do not need curtains!" The blond says, "Helllllooooooo!! I've got Windoooooows.

First class blonde

A plane is on its way to Melbourne when a blonde in Economy Class gets up and moves to the First Class section and sits down. The flight attendant watches her do this and asks to see her ticket. She then tells the blonde passenger that she paid for Economy and that she will have to go and sit in the back. The blonde replies "I'm blonde, I'm beautiful, I'm going to Melbourne and I'm staying right here!" The flight attendant goes into the cockpit and tells the pilot and co-pilot that there is some blonde bimbo sitting in First Class that belongs in Economy and won't move back to her seat. The co-pilot goes back to the blonde and

tries to explain that because she only paid for Economy she is only entitled to an economy place and she will have to leave and return to her original seat. The blonde replies, "I'm blonde, I'm beautiful, I'm going to Melbourne and I'm staying right here!" Exasperated the co-pilot tells the pilot that it was no use and that he probably should have the police waiting when they land to arrest this blonde woman that won't listen to reason. The pilot says, "You say she's blonde? I'll handle this, I'm married to a blonde, and I speak blonde!" He goes back to the blonde, whispers in her ear, and she says "Oh, I'm sorry - I had no idea," gets up and moves back to her seat in the economy section. The flight attendant and co-pilot are amazed and asked him what he said to make her move without any fuss. The Pilot replied: "I told her First Class isn't going to Melbourne".

King Arthur and the Witch

Young King Arthur was ambushed and imprisoned by the monarch of a neighbouring kingdom. The monarch could have killed him but was moved by Arthur's youth and ideals. So, the monarch offered him his freedom, as long as he could answer a very difficult question. Arthur would have a year to figure out the answer and, if after a year, he still had no answer, he would be put to death.

The question?....What do women really want? Such a question would perplex even the most knowledgeable man, and to young Arthur, it seemed an impossible query. But, since it was better than death, he accepted the monarch's proposition to have an answer by year's end.

He returned to his kingdom and began to poll everyone: the princess, the priests, the wise men and even the court jester. He spoke with everyone, but no one could give him a satisfactory answer.

Government To Improve Army's Firepower

The Government has provided first pass approval for the replacement of Army's current 105mm and 155mm artillery pieces with new, more capable, artillery systems under a project known as LAND 17.

Defence will now develop the project which invests in artillery systems with longer range, improved precision, and better crew protection.

Options for replacing the current towed artillery pieces include a mix of protected self-propelled artillery systems, and lightweight towed artillery systems.

As an additional benefit, the project will also examine advanced high precision munitions and a networked command and fire control system.

LAND 17 will give the Army a very potent and accurate land-based firepower capability.

The project is another example of the Government's ongoing commitment to providing the ADF with enhanced firepower to meet current and emerging threats in complex war fighting environments.

The implementation of LAND 17 supports the Government's strategy for a Hardened and Networked Army (HNA).

LAND 17 will make the combined arms groups being developed under HNA more capable and versatile, by providing them with improved firepower, extended range, greater mobility and accuracy.

The capability is an important contributor to the requirements set out in the Defence 2000 White Paper; by providing sustained investment in land force capabilities; and by supporting the ADF's capacity to sustain a brigade deployed on operations for extended periods whilst maintaining at least a battalion group available for deploy

TPI Entitlements

Giddy De-Anne Kelly MP via Bruce Billston MP

Thank you De-Anne for your response dated 20 JAN 06 in regard to TPI Entitlements! As you have indeed indicated in many previous correspondence 60% of the TPI rate is indexed twice yearly against the CPI and therein lies the exact problem! Every other Veteran entitlement, Age Pension, Polititian's Superannuation, Private Superannuation, State PS superannuation are **ALL indexed against CPI or MTAWE whichever is the higher!**

Indeed Federal Politicians Superannuation is indexed against AWOTE not MTAWE, and which is normally some 2% or more better off again than the MTAWE! Please explain that one?

I should explain to you that the CPI IS. **NOT** a good indicator of inflation nor cost of living indicator for those on fixed incomes! Indeed two separate Senate enquiries and the ABS have said so on three differing occasions and which your Government has completely ignored!. As a unique example for the period **1989 until 2002** the cumulative % increase in CPI, Age Pension, MTAWE, AWOTE and MP's salaries are as follows:

CPI	38%	
MTAWE	51	
AGE Pension		58%
AWOTE	77%	
MP's Pension		74%

Which indexation method would you prefer to be on? Why are Defence personnel and retired Public Servants treated so shabbily and discriminatory in relation to indexation when compared to the rest of the retired community of Australia? The PM has stated often that ALL Australians should in our current prosperity and well being!
Bernie McGurgan (Maj-Rtd)
195 Redland Bay Rd
CAPALABA QLD 4157
Home: 07/3390 3121

ment elsewhere.

Defence has been working closely with industry and the Department plans to release an open Request for Tender later this year, to identify companies that can provide artillery systems with the level of capability sought.

The new system would be brought into service over the period 2011-2013 at a total cost of between \$450 million and \$600 million.

Once in service, the new artillery pieces will be used to re-equip units based in Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane and the Combined Arms Training Centre in Puckapunyal, Victoria.

Australian Defence Medal and Other Matters

The following email was sent to DPE Honours and Awards to find out what the latest state of play was with the ADM and the PJM. It would appear as though the Government is dragging their feet over the recognition of voluntary service.

To: DPE Honours and Awards
Subject: Australian Defence Medal

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Secretary of the RAEME Association of WA Inc., I have been asked to contact Honours and Awards with a series of questions.

We have quite a number of people who have served in 2 or all 3 Armed Forces. In the preparation of the documentation requesting the medal, could you please answer the following questions.

1. Are those who served in 2 or 3 services during their military career eligible for the issue of more than one medal?
2. Are there clasps for the succeeding 6 year periods?
3. What are the rules for the ADM for

Service-women who have married during service and were required to discharge prior to marriage?

4. When will the medals be issued?
5. With the issue of the Malaysian PJM, what is the expected date of issue for those who are eligible and who have applied?
6. What is the procedure for applying for the Returned from Active Service Badge?
7. What is the procedure for applying for the Infantry Combat Badge and the new Army Combat Badge?

Thank you for your help. I am sure that my members will be happy with your reply.

John Curtis
Secretary
RAEME Assoc of WA Inc

This is the reply that was received from DPE.

Good Afternoon Mr Curtis.

Thank you for your e-mail.

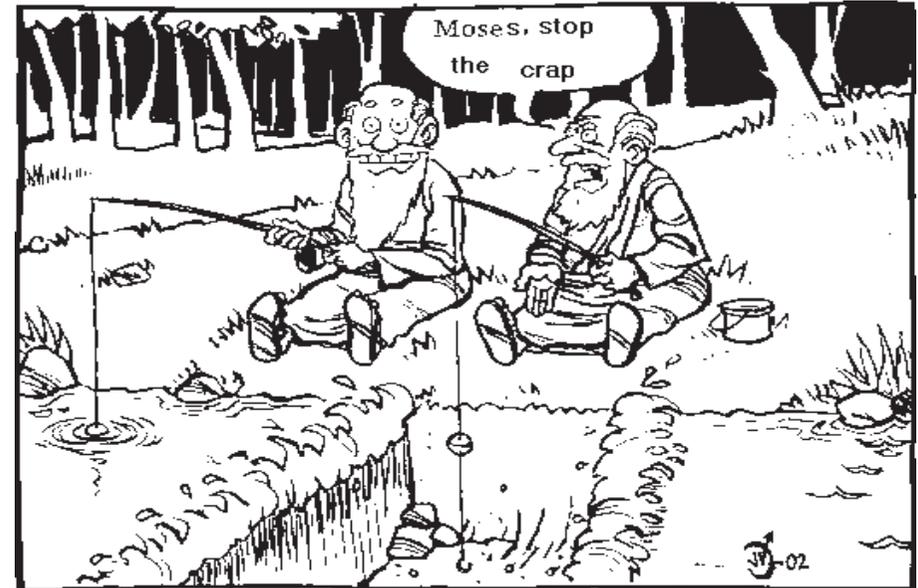
The answer to your questions are as follows.

Q 1. 2. 3.4. The establishment of the Australian Defence Medal is still at a developmental stage.

Detailed eligibility criteria is still being developed and has not yet been approved by the Prime Minister or the Governor General. These criteria need to be finalised prior to formal approval of the medal's regulations and design by Her Majesty The Queen. Accordingly, DHA cannot release any details as to the draft eligibility criteria.

Full details of eligibility and the medal's design will be widely promulgated once approved by The Queen. Until this occurs, DHA also is not in a position to accept applications.

Q 5. It is the responsibility of the Malaysian Government for the issue of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. The De-



to a curve. John saw the lights of a pub down the road so, gathering strength, jumped out of the car and ran to it. Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and asked for two shots of tequila. He then started telling everybody about the horrible experience he went through.

A silence enveloped everybody when they realised he was crying and....wasn't drunk.

About 15 minutes later, two guys walked into the same pub. They were also wet and out of breath. Looking around and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other, "Look, Bruce. Here's the idiot that got in the car while we were pushing it."

Euro-English

The European Union (EU) has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the EU rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as

"Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the civil servants jump with joy.

The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should clear up confusion, and keyboards can have one less letter.

There will be growing public enthusiasm in the second year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, public acceptance of the new spelling can be expected to reach the stage where more complicated changes are possible.

Governments will encourage the removal of double letters which have always been a deterrent to accurate spelling.

Also, all will agree that the horrible mess of the silent "e" in the language is disgraceful and it should go away.

By the 4th year people will be receptive to steps such as replacing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During the fifth year, the unnecessary "o" can

dier walked the length of the train, looking for an empty seat, but the only seat unoccupied was directly across from a well dressed middle aged lady and was occupied by her little dog.

So the young weary soldier asked, "Please may I sit in that seat?"

The woman just looked down her nose at him, sniffed and said, "You soldiers are such rude people. Can you not see my little Fifi is using that seat?"

So the soldier walked away, determined to find a place to rest, but after another trip down to the end of the train and back, found himself again facing the woman with the dog in the opposite seat.

Again he asked, "Please can I sit there? I'm very tired."

But the woman just wrinkled her nose and snorted, "Not only are you rude, you are also quite arrogant!"

So the soldier leaned against the swaying wall of the train and again asked if he could please sit down.

But the woman said, "Not only are you soldiers rude and arrogant, you're also very inconsiderate."

But the soldier did not reply as he reached over, picked up the little dog and tossed it out the window of the train.

Then he sat down in the empty seat.

The woman was totally lost for words at the soldier's actions, but a gentleman sitting across the aisle piped up and said, "You know, you Soldiers do seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You are rude, arrogant and now sir, you've thrown the wrong bitch out of the bloody window!"

Seems appropriate

An Australian, a Kiwi and South African are in a bar one night having a beer.

All of a sudden the South African drinks

his beer; throws his glass in the air; pulls out a gun and shoots the glass to pieces.

"In Seth Efrika, our glasses are so cheap that we don't need to drink from the same one twice," he says.

The Kiwi, obviously impressed by this; drinks his beer; throws his glass into the air; pulls out his gun and shoots the glass to pieces.

"Wull mate, in Niw Zulland we have so much sand to make the glasses that we don't need to drink out the same glass either," he says.

The Australian, cool as a Koala, picks up his beer and drinks it, throws his glass in the air, pulls out his gun and shoots the South African and Kiwi.

He turns to the astonished barman and says, "In Australia, we have so many bloody South Africans and Kiwis that we don't need to drink with the same ones twice"

A True Australian Ghost Story

This story happened a while ago in Brisbane, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true.

John Bradford, a Sydney University student, was on the side of the road hitch hiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a storm. The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him.

Suddenly he saw a car slowly coming towards him and stopped. John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got in the car and closed the door, just to realise there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't on! The car started moving slowly. John looked at the road and saw a curve approaching. Scared, he started to pray, begging for his life. Then, just before he hit the curve, a hand appeared through the window and turned the wheel.

John, paralysed with terror, watched how the hand appeared every time they came

partment of Defence is only assessing for the medal. Once assessed by this office a schedule is forwarded to the Malaysian Government for issuing of the medal.

Q6. This medal is automatically issued with awarding of AASM.

Q7. Please contact MAJ Ray Curtis
02-6265-9610
0404-822406

Should you require any further information please contact the Directorate of Honours and Awards on 1800 111321 or e-mail.

Regards,

Lydia Masters

LYDIA MASTERS

Directorate of Honours & Awards

dpe.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au

Veteran's Badge for the British Forces

Hi John,

I have just found out from my Hadrians Old Boys site that a Veteran's Badge has been commissioned (May 2004) to be worn as a lapel badge on civvy's. It is awarded to ex servicemen and women, who have fought in conflicts since the second world war. It was originally for those people who fought in both world wars, it's purpose is so that the wider public can recognise veteran's.

To apply for the badge you need to contact : **Richard Godfrey, MOD, 7th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB.** Expect to wait 4-6 weeks for a reply. Information I presume MOD require is name/rank/service number and service history.

Regards John Wade

ADF 'Ready' to Support the Commonwealth Games

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is

providing approximately 2,600 people, along with a range of equipment, to support both security and non-security aspects of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games being held in Melbourne from March 15 to 26.

"This is an activity that Defence is very proud to be involved with," said Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston. "We want to ensure that Australia stages a safe, secure and successful event for the athletes and public to enjoy."

Defence tasks will include specialist ceremonial and general support, as well as assisting the Victoria Police search venues, operate vehicle checkpoints, respond to bomb threats and clear waterways.

Defence's commitment will include Blackhawk helicopters and a detachment of F/A 18 Hornet fighters, specialised search teams, special forces, and ships from the Royal Australian Navy. The ships and aircraft will be able to divert aircraft and intercept vessels at sea to counter specific threats should they arise.

The ADF will also provide personnel to assist venue managers in coordinating communications at Commonwealth Games venues and precincts.

Air Chief Marshal Houston emphasised the ADF's supporting role during the Games: "I want to stress that the Victorian Government, and Victoria Police in particular, are responsible for security at the Games. The ADF's job is to provide specialised support to the Victorian Police, as well as support to the Attorney-General's Department under the Commonwealth's standing arrangements for counter-terrorism if that is required".

Once again, Reservists from the Navy, Army and Air Force will play key roles in the ADF's supporting task force by providing an additional layer to complement other ADF domestic security ca-

pabilities. "I am pleased to see Reserves taking a full part in this operation," ACM Houston said.

"Some of these troops are part of the Reserve Response Forces that were established two years ago as part of the Government's commitment to securing Australia against the threat of terrorism. Their contribution to the Melbourne Games will include assisting the Victorian Police with tasks such as searching venues and operating vehicle checkpoints, showing just how versatile Australia's Reserve forces are."

Air Chief Marshal Houston also congratulated the newly-appointed commander of the ADF's joint task force for the Games, Brigadier Andrew Smith. "Brigadier Smith is very experienced in this type of operation, having played an important role in the ADF's support to the Sydney Olympics. I wish him, and all of his troops, the very best for this operation."

Army Battalion To Relocate To Adelaide

Army's 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) will relocate from Sydney to Adelaide as part of the Hardened and Networked Army strategy, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced recently.

"The Government has agreed in principle to relocate 3 RAR from its current base at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney to the Edinburgh Defence precinct in Adelaide," Senator Hill said.

"Approximately 1200 personnel from 3 RAR and supporting elements will be relocated to form a new Mechanised Battlegroup.

"Whilst 3 RAR will form the core of the Battlegroup, 'A' Field Battery in Sydney and some personnel from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment and 1 Combat Service Support Battalion in Darwin will also be relocated. There

will be no net loss in the numbers of personnel in Darwin, as other units will expand as part of the Hardened and Networked Army strategy.

"The Adelaide Mechanised Battlegroup will be established from 2011 with personnel relocating in that year once the construction of the necessary facilities has been completed."

The decision to relocate to Adelaide follows an examination of basing options undertaken by Defence. It determined that on the basis of the capability benefits of access to transport, training facilities and deep maintenance support, Adelaide was the best option.

It also provided respite postings and an attractive location for Defence personnel and their families.

Senator Hill said Adelaide has good access to the Cultana Training Area and other training areas in the Centre and North of Australia via the new Darwin to Adelaide rail link. Importantly, this training can be easily combined with other mechanised elements from the 1st Brigade in Darwin, further lifting the Army's capability.

"Having mechanised battalions in both Northern and Southern Australia will allow rotations from tropical conditions during a soldier's service. It will also allow a greater range of locations for soldiers to be posted to around Australia.

"The movement of personnel to Adelaide will be undertaken as part of the normal cycle of postings so as to provide minimal disruption to soldiers and their families."

As part of the Hardened and Networked Army strategy 3 RAR will also be re-roled from a parachute battalion to generate a second mechanised battlegroup.

The battalion will receive M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers and Bushmaster Infantry Mobility vehicles, and will be structured identical to 5/7

tary. The information was also printed in the Horse's Mouth. As a result of the card being passed on, two old friends who hadn't seen each other for many years are now corresponding regularly.

From hence forth we will have a bulletin board in the Horse's Mouth, Any person who would like to find an old friend need only contact the editor (details page 2) and put in a request. We, in turn will publish the request and pass it to the Editor of the RAEME Craftsman as well as the editors opposite number in the other States.

So all it takes is a note to the editor and the system will do the rest.

Get writing Folks

John

Veterans Struggle to Combat Depression

By Matthew Bennis
February 12, 2006

The death of a war veteran who killed himself after he was turned away by a veterans' hospital has inspired his fellow diggers to set up their own counselling line.

The move comes as details of a new study leaked to The Sun-Herald showed that the suicide rate among war veterans was four times higher than in the rest of the population.

Former soldier Bill Edwards started the helpline after attending the funeral of a fellow Vietnam veteran who killed himself after being told there were no beds at a Department of Veterans' Affairs hospital in Queensland.

"There were about 100 of us sitting at his funeral and my wife said to me, 'Isn't it sad that we are all here for him today and he didn't know to contact us'," Mr Edwards said.

He resolved to set up a contact list of former soldiers, so that other veterans would have someone to call at their time

of greatest need.

Veterans were also angry that specialised telephone counselling was not available 24 hours a day.

"Unfortunately the DVA [Department of Veterans' Affairs] counselling number switches over to a helpline for the general public at night and it is not adequate," Mr Edwards said.

Vietnam veteran Ross Horne, NSW secretary of the Royal Australian Regiment, said: "People are killing themselves because they are not getting the proper help.

"I have been refused help by the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service. It is not only the veterans who are suffering but their families as well."

Vietnam Veterans Federation national president Tim McCombe said the new study showed the suicide rate among former soldiers was now 200 per cent higher than in the rest of the population. And he said the suicide that inspired the diggers to set up their own helpline was "an outrage".

A spokesman for the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirmed the after-hours counselling service for veterans and their families was provided by trained staff at Salvo Care and was paid for by the Australian Government.

"Veterans Line has been a highly successful service and the Department is satisfied with the support being provided to veterans calling after hours."

A Soldier's Tale.....

A young soldier who was serving in World War 2 had just returned from several weeks of intense action on the front line.

On arriving at Southampton Docks, he disembarked the troop ship he had sailed on and boarded a busy London train bound for a few days leave.

As the train was very crowded, the sol-

ber, occupied a fire position under extreme ACM fire with the intent to suppress the ACM. This action enabled the Australian element to regain the initiative and was pivotal in preventing loss of life on the south eastern sector of the contact site. It also enabled further elements to move into positions to prevent an ACM advance and to facilitate the withdrawal of the Australian patrol from the engagement area.

Sergeant "Y's" actions of gallantry and disregard for his own safety in order to reinforce the main force element and his ability to recover a machine gun in order to suppress the ACM, while under fire in extremely hazardous circumstances, displayed courage of the highest order and is keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO 'Z' TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

For Gallantry, as a Patrol Commander, while under intense Anti-Coalition Militia (ACM) fire and showing total disregard for his own safety he attempted on three occasions to recover a critically wounded Afghanistan National Army soldier.

During the conduct of an Operation in southern Afghanistan an Australian patrol was engaged by a numerically superior ACM element. In the lead up to this engagement WO2 "Z" was tasked, by the on-scene commander, to conduct a foot patrol to clear and secure a potentially dangerous obstacle in order to facilitate the safe passage of the Australian patrol. Whilst conducting this task WO2 "Z" commenced to secure the south-eastern sector of the obstacle choke point. In doing so, WO2 "Z" and an Afghanistan National Army soldier, were engaged by ACM at close range. This engagement resulted in the critical wounding of the ANA soldier. The decisive reaction of WO2 "Z" contributed to the early initiation of the

ACM ambush which in turn prevented the remainder of the Australian element from entering the ambush killing ground.

The Australian patrol then became engaged in a sustained fire fight with the ACM for several hours. During this time WO2 "Z" made three attempts to recover the critically wounded ANA soldier whilst still under extremely heavy fire from numerous enemy positions. Unfortunately, the critically wounded ANA soldier died of his wounds before he could be recovered. WO2 "Z's" actions of gallantry and disregard for his own safety in attempting to rescue his fallen comrade in extremely hazardous circumstances displayed courage of the highest order and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Can We Help?

Paul Johnstone, PO Box 6737, Upper Mt Gravett, QLD; Phone 0421 782 405; email alpha_1@bigpond.com, seeks information on anyone that served in South Vietnam with the late SGT Peter "Pud" Hunter, RAEME 1st ARMD REGT. He is compiling a history of service for Pud.

ANZAC Day 2006

For the info of Vietnam Vets, the R&SL State President, has advised that in commemoration the 40th anniversary of Long Tan, Vietnam Veterans will be invited to lead the Perth ANZAC Day march.

Further details will be released by R&SL State Branch as planning is developed.

Regards.
Don

Getting Results

Recently the Secretary of the Association received a card to be passed on to one of our members. This person saw an article in the RAEME Craftsman that was written by our Association Secre-

RAR in Darwin which has performed with distinction in Baghdad and Al Muthanna province in Iraq. The Army's parachute capability will then be maintained by the 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), which has an integral parachute capability.

Army Celebrates 105 Years Of Service To The Nation

The Australian Army today celebrated its 105th birthday with services and celebrations around the country.

"Each year, on this day, we take the time to reflect on the achievements of all Australian soldiers - their courage, dedication to duty and the sacrifices made in the service to this nation," Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy said.

"We also pause to reflect on the work that remains to be done both here and overseas.

"Right now, soldiers are working in tough environments in the Middle East, in the Solomon Islands, in Afghanistan and here at home. They do so in the same spirit with which their forebears met the challenges of their generations.

"Every soldier is a leader, every soldier is an expert in close combat, every soldier is physically tough and every soldier is mentally prepared.

"These are the qualities of the Army today and of the last 105 years. Just as their forefathers saw in every day an opportunity to learn and in every threat an opportunity, so do the Diggers of today.

"From Beersheba, through Kokoda to the sands of Al Muthanna - the long thread of selfless service and sacrifice has continued and remains a constant theme for the Army in an otherwise changing and complex world.

"The Nation can be proud of its Army, as the Army is proud of its Nation. We

look forward to the next 105 years with the same hope and commitment that we have shown for the last 105 years."

Start Of \$3 Billion Investment In Trucks And Trailers To 'Harden' The Army

The first major phase of a \$3 billion investment in Army's fleet of field vehicles has been released as a part of the Government's Hardening and Networking the Army strategy, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced today.

Senator Hill said three separate Requests for Tender (RFT) have been released today to replace a vital fleet of Army trucks, four-wheel drives, trailers and modules for Army's high readiness units.

The investment is part of Project Overlander - the largest land project in the Defence Capability Plan worth a total of \$3 billion.

This current phase is worth up to \$600 million and includes replacing the existing high readiness fleet of about 1400 heavy and light vehicles, 1300 trailers and 1200 specialist modules. The next phase will replace the rest of Army's vehicles, trailers and modules across Australia.

Project Overlander is a key part of the Government's Hardening and Networking the Army strategy that will be released in detail on Thursday in conjunction with the Defence Update 2005.

As part of the initial project phase, a range of vehicles will be purchased for Army's high readiness units, such as 3 Brigade, 5 Aviation Regiment, 10 Force Support Battalion located in Townsville and Sydney as well as RAAF units at Amberley.

Field vehicles and trailers are the backbone of the ADF's land war fighting support, sustainment and deployment capability. The roles of this fleet are to transport personnel, combat supplies and, when necessary, evacuate casu-

alties.

These vehicles and trailers also serve as platforms and prime movers for weapons systems as well as command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance and electronic warfare capabilities.

The tender for the medium and heavy vehicles and modules has been released to a shortlist of nine companies announced in March and an open tender has been released for the light range of vehicles and modules. Favourable consideration will be given to those companies who will assemble the vehicles in Australia.

The request for tender for the trailer segment will be restricted to Australian-based manufacturers, plus those vehicle suppliers capable of supplying a proprietary trailer. The request for tender is tailored to encourage the production of trailers in Australia.

Our current fleet is ageing and is becoming more costly to maintain and upgrade. The vehicles will range from lightweight four-wheel drives to heavy trucks and prime movers with interchangeable modules to increase operational flexibility.

This will be a significant opportunity for Australian industry to generate and sustain critical industry skills and infrastructure.

Project Overlander is fulfilling a key commitment in the Government's 2000 Defence White Paper and will ensure our soldiers are properly protected and well equipped to do their job," Senator Hill said.

The RFT for all three fleet segments will close in May 2006 with detailed proposals presented to Government in 2007. The target date for delivery of the first of the vehicles is December 2009.

Each RFT will also require offers to be

made on support of the fleet, and will seek an agreement to guarantee the whole of life acquisition and logistic support of the new fleet, potentially for the next 30 years.

Afghan Veterans Welcomed Home - Soldiers' Gallantry Honoured

The Governor-General and the Prime Minister have officially welcomed home members of the Afghanistan Special Forces Task Group in a ceremony at Perth's Campbell Barracks recently.

His Excellency Major General Michael Jefferey and Mr Howard joined the Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston and Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy in welcoming Western Australia-based members of the Afghanistan Special Forces Task Group (SFTG).

The Western Australia-based soldiers, predominantly from the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), formed part of the 190-strong Special Forces Task Group (SFTG) operating in Southern Afghanistan since late last year to promote security and stability.

During the ceremony the Governor-General and Prime Minister praised the professionalism and courage of the SFTG members who operated in an extremely demanding environment against a resourceful, capable and tenacious adversary.

Their mission was to assist Coalition forces destroy Taliban and Al Qaeda resistance to Afghanistan's democratically elected government. The SFTG has been engaged in dangerous work that is vital to Afghanistan's stability and a major contribution to fighting terrorism.

The dangers faced by the SFTG were highlighted by the presentation of two gallantry awards to SFTG members by the Governor General. A Sergeant and a Warrant Officer Class Two were both awarded the Medal for Gallantry for

their outstanding actions, leadership and bravery during a long and difficult engagements with anti-coalition militia elements early in the SFTG's tour.

The Medal for Gallantry is the third highest award for gallantry in the Australian Honours and Awards system.

The SFTG is comprised of soldiers from SASR, 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), Incident Response Regiment, 1 Commando Regiment and the Special Operations Combat Services Support Company. Specialist staff from the wider Australian Defence Force filled other roles within the Task Group. The SFTG conducted a rotation earlier this year and its operations in Afghanistan will conclude in September 2006.

Saturday, 4 March 2006

Chief of the Army Lieutenant-General Peter Leahy, AO and Special Operations Commander - Australia Major-General Mike Hindmarsh welcomed home East-coast-based members of the Afghanistan Special Forces Task Group in a ceremony at Holsworthy Barracks today.

The soldiers, predominantly from the Fourth Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), formed part of the 190-personnel strong Special Forces Task Group (SFTG) operating in Southern Afghanistan since late last year.

During the ceremony Lieutenant-General Leahy praised the professionalism and courage of the SFTG members who operated in an extremely demanding environment against a resourceful, capable and tenacious adversary.

"On several operations, force packages of Special Air Services Regiment, 4 Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) and Incident Response Regiment elements worked closely together to achieve maximum tactical and psychological effect against the anti-coalition militia," Lieutenant-General Leahy

said.

"The task group approach was highly successful and is a hallmark for future operations not just for Special Operations Command, but the whole Army."

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

SERGEANT "Y"

TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

For Gallantry, as a Patrol Commander, while under intense Anti-Coalition Militia (ACM) fire and showing total disregard for his own safety he manoeuvred forward to recover a machine gun in order to protect the left flank and to neutralise enemy fire positions.

During the conduct of an Operation in southern Afghanistan, an Australian force was engaged by a numerically superior ACM element. In the lead up to the engagement Sergeant "Y" was tasked, by the on-scene commander, to conduct a foot patrol to clear and secure a potentially dangerous obstacle in order to facilitate the safe passage of the Australian patrol. Whilst conducting this task Sergeant "Y" commenced to clear and secure the south-western sector of a village and obstacle choke point.

An engagement on the south-eastern sector of the village and subsequent contact resulted in the south-western clearing patrol being separated from the remainder of call-sign. Sergeant "Y" placed himself in an extremely hazardous situation whilst under heavy fire to gain situational awareness and command of his patrol in order to linkup with the main-force element. On linking up with the main-force element Sergeant "Y", whilst under fire, retrieved a machine gun from a tactical vehicle in order to move to a position to put effective fire onto ACM positions. This action turned the balance on the left flank, enabling the entire Australian element to regain the initiative. Sergeant "Y", with assistance from another patrol mem-