



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

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA

Summer 2015 Edition

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“The Role of the RAEME Association (WA) Is to represent the RAEME family by enabling them to connect through a central hub with personal and professional networks both locally and nationally”

What the Prez Sez

Welcome to the Christmas 2015 Prez Sez. To kick off, I want to thank our now ex-President Wez Lynch and ex-Secretary Dan Byles, and their amazing supportive families, for volunteering their time as committee members. We

are a better association because of your generosity. Thank you also to our 2016 Committee members, who have already hit the ground running.

Our growth and influence as an association over the past 3 years has been nothing short of phenomenal. Through the commitment of our members, and support from partners and sponsors, we have now established the foundations to deliver enduring and tangible value to our RAEME WA Family. And just in time in my opinion, given the challenges that our members and families may face in coming years.

Key indicators that our strategy is on the right track are the return of many ex-members to financial status, the influx of new members, and our valuable professional and social networks. Did you know 3 years ago we only had 30 financial members - today we sit at 127.

As you will read later in this edition, our social events are proving more popular than ever before with 70 people attending our RAEME Birthday Informal Dinner at The SAS Association House, where we hosted special guests from Soldier On and our Colonel Commandant. Any business would be proud of that sort of growth and support.

We have received modest but tangible grants from DVA and RAEME Corps Funds each year for the past 3 years, and we have mutually beneficial relationships with many businesses and organisations. These achievements have allowed us to improve the services we offer to you.

But there is more that we can achieve together and I encourage your input to shape our strategy and further improve the benefits of membership. Every President starts the job with a few goals - I would love your input into mine:

1. Ensure our members enjoy being part of RAEME Association of WA.
2. Leverage our networks in industry and government to get you connected.
3. Partner with organisations and businesses to offer you interesting events and useful services.
4. Introduce our association to RAEME brethren in WA who don't know about us - yet.

As you can see from the achievements over past years and my goals for 2016, our new committee has big shoes to fill. A bit daunting? Yes! But I'm confident we have the right team for the job. I look forward to building on our foundations and continuing to improve benefits available to you.

Arte Et Marte
Dale

From the Editor

Well here I am, back into the fold after a few years taking it easy. It has been a busy time since the AGM for your committee and I would like to reinforce the President's sentiments and wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – or for those pagans out there (i.e. Reccemechs) a

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Joyous Saturnalia.

AGM



The new committee started straight off at the AGM, which was held at the Vietnam Vets memorial in Kings Park – quite apt for those members of 101, 102, 106 and all the other Wksp and LADs who served there. Apart from the election of new office bearers we also had a number of speakers from DVA, RSL HQ WA, and the SAS Association. As expected “elections” were not required as mysteriously each vacant position had only one applicant (that of the President being settled quietly behind the Pavilion between Dick and Dale!

Steve Sinclair

On November 12 this year Steve Sinclair notched up 45 years of undetected crime and with it, his second Fed Star. Starting off as a VM in XLH in 1970 (when it was still a full regiment) and cross training as a recce mech on a Diamond T, Steve went on to serve in most of the units of Western Command and later 13 Brigade, ending up his days as a real Spanner as ASM of 26 Water Transport. During this stint he came over to the dark side to command 113 (twice), 109 Sig Sqn, 13 Brigade Recruiting Company, Officer Training Coy at WAUR and even did a stint as 2IC of 13 CSSB. With his father Jim, who sadly passed away last year, the Sinclairs have served RAEME WA continuously since the formation of WA RAEME Pool (ie before the CMF) in 1948. Thanks Steve for all you've done and continue to do

RAEME Birthday I

Our next activity was our RAEME birthday celebration at SAS house. With good food, lots of mates and some delightful liquid refreshments it was an occasion enjoyed by all. Our HONCOL, Colonel David Cocker came over specially and was able to give us all a bit of a brief on the big picture as it applies to the Corps. There is a lot of stuff in the pipeline for us and hopefully the brass will make the calls which will suit the Corps (and of course the Army as a whole as what is good for RAEME is ALWAYS good for the army)



At this point I am reminded of old Colonel Parker (#1 Apprentice #1 intake) whose great claim to fame was to recommend against the Sheridan Light Tank when it was offered to us with the M113 (“the gun was a piece of s#@t”) and ensuring the M113 won the trails against the FV432 (“pommy rubbish with dead tracks and a crap engine”) Let us hope in this day and age RAEME's voice is as loud and taken as seriously



While on the subject of ancient vehicles (and apprentices) Darby and his mates came through and rolled up with a wartime vintage Diamond T wrecker and a 1970's 816 – complete with full CES of course. What was slightly unnerving was not so much the covetous eyes cast in their direction, but the number of still serving Spanners who were qualified on both of them.

More photos from the event can be found on our website...

<http://www.wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/130-raeme-birthday-2015-celebration>

RAEME Birthday 2

The actual 1st December was celebrated down at 113 with an afternoon of “interesting and diverting” celebratory activities. Bubble soccer (wearing a 2m inflated donut as protection while trying to knuckle the opposition ...er... kick the ball) was the first activity of the day with TST SASR winning 5:4. This was followed by a run through the Cadets inflatable obstacle course – won by CFN “X” in an impressive 47 seconds – though Ray Wharton and Richard de Jong completed the course in a similar record time once an age handicap was added in.



From there we all moved down to 113 (for those who haven't been to Karrakatta since the 90's - the old 22 Construction workshop). A display of some “proper vehicles with real engines” by the HSV owners club was met with lots of ooohs and aaahs from the RAEME types while the reappearance of the 816 and the Diamond T with a Bushmaster and a current wrecker drew similar from the HSV owners.



The day was topped off by a display of “applied traction modified driving” in a figure 8 formation (as donuts had been specifically banned by Bde HQ) in an arena at the front of 113. A VK group A SS, a VC

brock SS and a VF HSV GTS started the show only to be surpassed by "FEAR", which has a custom built drag motor detuned to produce around 1000hp at the wheels. It has a 385 cubic inch old school chev with a 871 little field supercharger, running methanol. With a blower of truly impressive proportions and giving the course some serious herbs, the driving demonstration was quite remarkable. Unfortunately it was somewhat obscured by the smoke from a set of tyres which inexplicably wore out during the demo – heh heh. (Don't make them like the used to)

The occasion was finished off by a BBQ and the Bde Comd paying a visit and promoting Shaun Fenn to Major on the spot – with five other RAEME majors on hand as witnesses.



113 Handover Parade



The year was topped off last Tuesday when Jesse Newman handed over command of 113 to Shaun Fenn. A bit of polish was put on the occasion with some fancy sword drill between Jesse and Shaun but with the handing over the sword another chapter started in the long history of 113 and its antecedents – which according to some reckoning may actually be the oldest RAEME type unit in the Army – being a direct descendent of the AIF's 2 Medium Workshop which was formed from the British 26th Mobile Workshop in 1918.

Four ex 113 OCs were lined up on a flank and as Jesse moved to join their ranks there was a distinct dash of the end of Star Wars Episode VI – with Steve as Yoda of course. Shaun is blessed by having seven ex 113 OC's serving with him in WA, covering nine separate command postings, able to watch over him and provide considerable "helpful" advice. Unfortunately Shaun is too well mannered and polite at present

to tell us all to "F%^K O#F – its my workshop", that will hopefully change.

It is going to be amusing at 13 Bde HQ next year with half a dozen RAEME majors up there. While we joke that a group of three RAEME majors together constitutes a mutiny, it is inappropriate in this case as we now think we actually outnumber the grunts! The Tricolour may make an appearance.....

What is more important than all of this however was having CFN Alex Ravine on hand at the parade to accept not only the WA Craftsman of the Year award but also the National Award - which CAPT Ben Oakes and Dale Whelan presented on behalf of the National Committee – and in the presence of the 1997 winner Grant Stinson, shortly to become ASM of 113. Well done Alex



Trip Tales

RAEME Types always tend to find things on their travels which fascinate them (i.e. *Gee's what I'd give to be let loose in here with a 3/8th spanner*) usually much to the chagrin of our non-Spanner companions.

Well in this segment, I am open to various RAEME type trip tales which I will gratefully reprint – for both the enjoyment of the brethren (who will hopefully appreciate it) or to give them trip ideas for their next jaunt. Anyway to kick off here is one from me

Pappelwick Pump Station



Nottingham – a place which conjures up images of Robin Hood, the Sheriff, Sherwood Forrest, or the oldest pub in England (Ye Old Trip to Jerusalem selling fine wines and ales since 1189). But what it also has one of the finest preserved steam pumping stations in the world today - Pappelwick

With the explosive growth of Nottingham during the Industrial Revolution, the need for large amounts of clean fresh water became acute. Luckily Nottingham sits over an aquifer of Bunter sandstone and this water can be found only 60m below the surface.

To tap this water in 1881 Marriott Ogle Tarbottom constructed the pumping station at Pappelwick. For a cost of £55,000 two Watt & Co Beam type, low pressure double acting rotative and condensing house engines were installed which each pumped 6.8MI per day.

These engines, which run at 11.5 rpm and the six boilers which fed them are still operational and even though they were replaced by electric submersible pumps in 1969, steam on a regular basis. Watching a the piston rods raising out of the 1200mm wide pistons, moving a 8m beam and spinning a 24 tonne flywheel was a unique experience and I was only dragged away by the combined efforts of a very irate wife and four children



The engine house itself and surrounding buildings were built in gothic revival style and are simply breathtaking, especially the cast iron decoration within the station and the stained glass windows which were installed by the builder out of money left over when his works came in under budget! Even the cooling pond, rather than being a simple rectangular pit is a curved ornamental lake with its own fountain

The site is now a museum and has a number of other historic engines, such as a steam driven colliery winding engine from a nearby colliery and a triple expansion engine which originally supplied hydraulic power to an ironworks, all of which still steam!

WEBSITE

To see more articles that are published between editions of the Horse's Mouth and news about upcoming events, please visit: www.wa.raeme.org.au

All About Christmas

We are long bombarded, in the lead up to Christmas, with media messages that the "Silly Season" is a time of joy, happiness, delicious food and social events where we enjoy the company of loved ones and many friends.

Well, this may be the case for some but, for others, it can be a time of intense loneliness; chaos and pressure due to all the obligatory activities (cooking, socialising, 'perfect' present buying etc) and the stress caused by family conflict/arguments or not meeting others' expectations.

Click on the link below to read more.

<http://wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/133-all-about-christmas>

TnT Giving Tree

Trudy Grow (wife of RAEME member Damian Grow) and her friend, Tara, manage the "TnT Giving Tree on Facebook". The role of TnT Giving Tree is to collect donations from community members then they distribute hampers, food/clothing packs, toys etc. to needy families. So far they have distributed a couple of dozen family Christmas packs this year, and the group runs all year round.

The group is very proud of the difference they make to other people's lives, particularly at this time of year. Damian contacted the Committee to advise that TnT Giving Tree is happy to donate to a needy family for Christmas. So, if anyone knows of a RAEME family who could benefit from some assistance please let me know.



Vale

Lest we forget.....

Full details are on the RAEME Website: <http://www.wa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-alt>

Name: Higgins, Alex RTD Rank: LTCOL Date Deceased: 17 Dec 15	Name: Noone, William (Bill) George Henry Rank: WO2 Date Deceased: 20 Jan 14	Name: McManus, Arthur Rank: MAJ Date Deceased: 02 Nov 15
Name: James, W.B. 'Digger' Rank: MAJGEN Date Deceased: 16 Oct 15	Name: Rushby, Noel (Blue) Date Deceased: Oct 15	Name: Westfall, Bradley Date Deceased: 27 Aug 15

Scotty

With the visit of Bill Shatner to Perth last month, it is probably appropriate to look back on another Star Trek favourite - James Doohan, who played LTCOMD Montgomery Scott of Star Fleet. While James Doohan, the man, is worthy of considerable respect (having amongst other things taken six rounds and lost a finger at JUNO on D-Day as a CAPT in the Royal Canadian Artillery) it is Scotty who we want to look in a bit more detail.

Scotty is considered worldwide to represent to the stereotype of the Engineer. We in the Corps know that the rest of the world is wrong – Scotty is without a doubt an ASM

Some of you may question this, after all he clearly holds an officer's rank. There are a number of quite compelling reasons why this is the case.

- Even though Scotty has an officer's rank, there appear to be no NCOs in Starfleet. He does however wear the red shirt of the "workers"(operations). In fact everyone who actually does real work or gets killed in Star Trek wears a red shirt.
- RAEME also appears to be the only Corps where the officers are smart enough to know that they should leave the real work to ORs despite the best efforts of RMC to convince them otherwise (but then again how many brains do you need to blow a whistle, say "All right lads, over the top", climb out of a trench and be blown to pieces by massed machine guns)
- Scotty has been known to have a few quieties on occasion as seen in "The Trouble with Tribbles" and "By Any Other Name". In "Other Name" he even manages to set up a huge drinking bout with an alien entity on the dubious grounds of saving the galaxy! In "Tibbles" he is also seen drinking with his crew (all in red shirts) and keeping up with them.
- In "Tribbles" and also in "The Day of the Dove" Scotty shows that he both enjoys a good blue and is very very good at it.
- While he takes command easily, as seen in "The Empath" and "Taste of Armageddon", he relinquishes it just as easily to get back to his real job as he states in "Relics".
- He has an innate distrust of advanced computers, first seen in "Ultimate Computer" and while sometimes not able to use them efficiently, like when he started talking to the mouse in "Voyage Home" always manages to get them working somehow.
- He also routinely inflates the expected repair times he tells his boss in order to maintain his reputation of being a miracle worker as seen in "Wrath of Khan", "The Undiscovered Country" and to which he finally comes clean in "Relics".
- Finally and most tellingly, despite being middle aged he manages to pull the nubile young subbie in "The Lights of Zetar", only to have her dump him when a better posting comes along.

Scotty is an ASM

So we've established that, the question now is what ECN? The RAEMEation types are going to hate me for this but I think that as we have to look to our traditional trades rather than theirs due to the range of activities Scotty has had to contend with. After all, while pilots are a strange breed they are considerably more human than grunts or tankies, some of which you must agree are definitely not on the same planet.

Recce Mech

Apart from the engine room, it is in the Transporter Room that we most often meet Scotty. While the truckies may object, the operation of the transporter falls under ECN 229 being the "recovery" of signals to reconstitute objects in the beam chamber, where Scotty is the expert (though he does almost get his boss lost in interphase in "Tholian Web"). In any case in "Immunity Syndrome" Scotty is responsible for the Tractor beam which is definitely a towrag function.

As an aside, James Doohan actually invented the Klingon language, which if you insert a certain four letter word (beginning with an "F") after every second word does sound remarkably like Recce Mech. This obviously dates back to his dropshort days listening to his tiffy and towrag conversing when extracting 25 pounders from bogs. You also have to admit that a number of recce mechs have definite Klingon characteristics - both in behaviour and looks - especially towards the end of a dining in night or after one of those brasso and bootpolish sundowners Recce Mechs are renown for.

Greaser

Scotty loves his engines, is always winging about the Captain thrashing them (she canna take anymore Cap'n) gets very very dark when someone insults them or their performance (Tribbles) and skites about their power and reliability (Star Trek 1) and can even feel when they are not performing up to spec (That Which Survives).

He is also very adept at tacking on performance enhancing mods (the Romulan cloaking device in "The Enterprise Incident")

Gun Plumber/Rod Burner

He obviously knows his weapons - from Claymore, (Day of the Dove) to phaser and photon torpedo. In fact he is even able to use a phaser to fuel a shuttle craft (Galileo Seven) and turn a piece of dilithium crystal jewellery into a functioning fuel source (Elaan of Troyius)

Boffin

In both "A Piece of the Action" and "Bread and Circuses", Scotty is able to achieve the Boffin's dream and cuts off the power to an entire planet. Unlike most Boffins he is then able to restore it quickly.

What type of ASM?

This is where things get confusing. Scotty can turn his hand to so many things that it is difficult to choose whether he is an Art Mech (ECN008) or an Art Elec (ECN007). In the Series 3 and the movies however it is clearly established that Scotty is the Chief Engineer on the Enterprise. Problem solved, he is the boss ASM - ECN016 Art Gnd.

Farewell Scotty, may you voyage on forever in the ether of space and continue to provide us with an example of how a proper ASM should act in the 23rd Century.