

## In Remembrance

Why are they selling poppies Mummy?  
Selling poppies in town today?  
The poppies, child, are flowers of love  
For the men who marched away.  
But why have they chosen a poppy Mummy?  
Why not a beautiful rose?  
Because, my child, men fought and died  
In the fields where the poppies grow.  
But why are the poppies so red Mummy?  
Why are the poppies so red?  
Red is the colour of blood, my child,  
The blood our soldiers shed.  
The heart of the poppy is black Mummy,  
Why does it have to be black?  
Black, my child, is the colour of grief  
For the men who never came back.  
But why, Mummy, are you crying so?  
Your tears are giving you pain.  
My tears are the fears for you, my child.  
For the world is forgetting again.



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

## *The Horse's Mouth*

# *The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)*

## *Winter 2005*

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, Kings Hotel, 517 Hay Street, Perth, in Restaurant annex**. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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

**Colonel Commandant: Colonel Mark MacKenzie**

The RAEME Association Committee

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**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 22nd of AUGUST 2005.

**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.**

Another 12 months have gone by and soon we will be having our Annual General Meeting and to elect a new committee.

I had originally stated not to stand again as President, but my wife raised the question why are you standing down, it has been your baby from the start. I could not answer that to be honest, maybe I was disappointed, but then I have been there from the start, why not carry on. After all I am a RAEME man and always will be, so I am making myself available again.

I have missed 2 meetings lately and this was for a special meeting at Karrakatta and one to see an old friend off into retirement.

I hope that the 2006 will bring more members out of the woodwork to our get togethers, because we are requiring your support.

The Secretary has been East to meet with RAEME boffins, but I will leave the explanation to him.

We still require the input of our members i.e Get togethers, outings etc. Also I found out that the Secretary needs input from members as far as stories

pose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, Nothing, I just helped him cry"

**Red Neck MaMa**

IS THIS REALLY ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA, OR TEXAS???????

A woman walks into the downtown welfare office, trailed by 15 kids...

"WOW," the social worker exclaims, "are they ALL YOURS???"

"Yep they are all mine," the flustered momma sighs, having heard that question a thousand times before. She says, "Sit down Leroy."

All the children rush to find seats.

"Well," says the social worker, "then you must be here to sign up. I'll need all your children's names."

"This one's my oldest - he is Leroy."

"OK, and who's next?"

"Well, this one he is Leroy, also."

The social worker raises an eyebrow but continues. One by one, through the oldest four, all boys, all named Leroy. Then she is introduced to the eldest girl, named Leighroy!

"All right," says the caseworker. "I'm seeing a pattern here. Are they ALL named Leroy?"

Their Momma replied, "Well, yes-it makes it easier. When it is time to get them out of bed and ready for school, I yell, 'Leroy!'

An' when it's time for dinner, I just yell 'Leroy!' an' they all comes arunnin.'

An' if I need to stop the kid who's running into the street, I just yell 'Leroy'

and all of them stop. It's the smartest idea I ever had, namin' them all Leroy."

The social worker thinks this over for a bit, then wrinkles her forehead and says tentatively, "But what if you just want ONE kid to come, and not the whole bunch?"

"I call them by their last names."

**Ways to Keep a Healthy Level of Insanity**

1. At Lunch Time, Sit in Your Parked Car with Sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at Passing Cars. See If They Slow Down.

2. Page Yourself Over The Intercom. Don't Disguise Your Voice.

3. Every Time Someone Asks You to Do Something, Ask If They want "Fries With that?"

4. Put Your Garbage Can On Your Desk And Label It "In."

5. Put Decaf In The Coffee Maker For 3 Weeks. Once everyone has gotten Over their Caffeine Addictions, Switch to Espresso.

6. In the Memo Field Of All Your Checks, Write "For Sexual Favors"

7. Finish All Your sentences with "In Accordance With the Prophecy."

8. As Often As Possible, Skip Rather Than Walk.

9. Ask People What Sex They Are. Laugh Hysterically After They Answer.

10. Specify That Your Drive-through Order Is "To Go."

11. When The Money Comes Out The ATM, Scream "I Won!, I Won!"

12. Go to a Poetry Recital and Ask Why the Poems Don't Rhyme

13. Put Mosquito Netting Around Your Work Area And Play Tropical Sounds All Day.

14. Five Days In Advance, Tell Your Friends You Can't Attend Their Party because You're not in the Mood.

14] “ I’m glad to hear the Chief of Police is a good personal friend of yours. At least you know someone who can post your bail.”

15] “ You! didn’t think we give pretty women tickets? You’re right, we don’t. Sign here”.

### What does Love mean?

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, “What does love mean?” The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

“When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.” - Rebecca- age 8

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.” - Billy - age 4

“Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.” - Karl - age 5

“Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips without making them give you any of theirs.”- Chrissy -age 6

“Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.” - Terri - age 4

“Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.” Danny - age 7

“Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mummy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss” Emily - age 8

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.” - Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

“If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate,” - Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka’s on this planet)

“Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, and then he wears it every-day.” Noelle - age 7

“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.” - Tommy - age 6

“During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn’t scared anymore.”- Cindy - age 8

“My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.” - Clare - age 6

“Love is when Mummy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.”- Elaine-age 5

“Love is when Mummy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.” Chris - age 7

“Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.” Mary Ann - age 4

“I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.” - Lauren - age 4

“When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.” (what an imagination) - Karen - age 7

“Love is when Mummy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn’t think it’s gross.” Mark - age 6

“You really shouldn’t say ‘I love you’ unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.” - Jessica - age 8

And the final one — Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The pur-

etc. but they have to be fit to be published so keep them clean.

Our regular meetings are still held on every first Thursday of the month and we would like as many members or prospective members come to see us at these meetings.

**Vietnam Day is nearly upon us again, so we hope to see as many as possible. Date: 14 Aug 2005 Time 1100hrs Place:Vietnam Memorial, King’s Park.**

Finally, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Don Horsley for becoming our first Life Member. For the work he has done, on our behalf, he certainly deserves the honour.

Well, that’s my bit, please don’t forget the meetings!

John Klein.

### Our First Life Member

It was with a great deal of pleasure that our President, John Klein, announced on ANZAC Day that the Committee had unanimously elected Mr. Don Horsley as the first Life Member of our Association.

Don has been a stalwart for the Corps over the years and has been supportive of the Association “above and beyond the call”. Don’s retirement years has been full of Advocacy work with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, including spending a lot of time with the TIP (Training & Information Program) Committee of Veteran’s Affairs. Working in TIP as an educator for young and upcoming Advocates he became a “Father Confessor” to many of us. His pleasant and jovial manner made many a Veteran feel at ease in the Office at DVA. He also worked with the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association, along with many well known RAEME identities.

Don’s retirement from the world of Ad-

vocacy due to ill health came as a shock to everyone associated with him. Our “happy go lucky” mate with the cheeky grin had suffered a number of mini strokes.

The last stroke was a bit more serious and landed him in Royal Perth Hospital. But, in his usual style, Don came up smelling of roses. That smile has returned and he is getting back to normal.

Because of his efforts on behalf of the Corps and on behalf of the Veteran Community, the Association thought it fitting that Don become our first Life Member.

Don, it is a great pleasure to know that you are our first Life Member. Wear the mantle proudly because we are all proud of the effort you have put in on our behalf.

Reprinted below is Don’s Service Resumé and his career looks like a Who’s Who of RAEME Units.

Congratulations Don. Now you are in blessed retirement we hope to see more of you.

### **SERVICE TO THE RAEME CORPS BY CAPT DON HORSLEY {Retd}**

On the 29th June 1948 I was the first “Recruit Minor” to Join the Citizen Military Forces and allocated to the then AEME Corps, which of course changed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1948 to RAEME.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 1949, after passing the trade test for turning and fitting, I Joined the Australian Regular Army and after completing six months recruit training was allocated to RAEME, as a craftsman and posted to 1 Base Wksps Bandiana.

In 1950, due to the shortage of Veh Mechs I was requested to attend a conversion course changing my trade classification to VM.

In 1952, on promotion to Cpl, I was posted to I COD and while there was requested to convert an insulated meat truck into a mobile "Iron Lung". This was required to transport a young woman, who had contacted "Polio", from Albury NSW to Melbourne. After weeks of work, the task was completed and I formed part of the team that transported her to Melbourne. I learned later that this was the first time that this task had been undertaken in the world.

In 1954, on promotion to Sgt, I was posted to 1RAR and joined the "Advance party", taking over from 2RAR in Korea. In 1955, on promotion to SSgt, I was posted to Britcom Base Workshops in Japan, in charge of the engine rebuild line.

At the end of 1955 I returned to Australia to be posted back to Bandiana as part of the Equipment Inspection Section. This allowed time for me to attend some of the Corps qualifying courses that were required prior to further promotion.

In 1957 I was posted to Broadmeadows Base Wksp where I gained experience on DUKW's. In the latter part of 1958 became part of the expedition to go to the Antarctic, supplying firstly Macquarie Island. On the second trip in 1959, Wilkes was supplied with the stores required for their 12-month stay. After leaving Wilkes we managed to be the first to land at "Oates Land, not only did we claim the area for Australia by raising the Australian flag, but I made sure that the Corps flag was raised also.

At the end of 1959, on promotion to WO2, I was posted to 105 Inf Wksp [CMF] to give in-house technical training to CMF personal. On the training team were also WO Hodgart, WO Hawker and, including myself, quickly became known as the three horrible "Hs". I must say that this was a most

enjoyable and challenging posting as we had to start from the ground, even to the extent of building our own class rooms and some of the friends I made I am still in contact with today.

In May 1962, on promotion to WO1, I was sent to the UK to assemble two FV432 Amour Personnel Carriers and return with them to join the comparison trials to be conducted, in the north of Australia, with the US M113 Personnel Carrier. Again I must say that although this was most challenging, it also was most interesting and above all we had a great lot of fun.

On completion of the trials I was posted to AHQ, Scales Section and in the beginning of 1965 was given the task of selecting the technical vehicle stores initially required by RAEMIE in Vietnam.

In July 1965, due to the injury of the ASM, I was posted to 1ALSC in Vietnam, and then in 1966, was posted as ASM to 101 Fd Wksp and given the task of preparing the workshop site in preparation of the arrival of the main body in Vietnam.

In 1966, on return to Australia, I was posted to HQ Southern Command and then in 1967 to Melbourne Area Wksp as ASM. At this time I had an International tip truck converted to a recovery vehicle to enable quick recovery tasks of light vehicles from the city area. This was such a success that versions were made by civilian firms and called "Metro Recovery Vehicles". In Dec 1968 I was granted my Commission and due to the lack of officers was appointed workshop officer, being promoted to Capt in 1969.

In 1970 I was posted to AHQ Albert Park Barracks and covered the requirements and design of RAEME Establishments. My major achievement during this posting was the designing and construction of the Watsonia Area Service Station, my only disappointment being that it was not placed under my command

### If the police ever stop you, remember these

SENSE OF HUMOR? Who says cops don't have a sense of humor? The following were taken off of actual police car videos around the country.

1] "Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they are new. They'll stretch out after you wear them for a while".

2] "Take your hands off the car, and I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document".

3] "If you run you will only go to jail tired".

4] "Can you run faster than 1,200 feet per second? In case you didn't know, that is the average speed of a 9 mm bullet fired from my gun".

5] "So you don't know how fast you were going, I guess that means I can write anything I want on the ticket, huh?"

6] "Yes, Sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh...did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"

7] "Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again or I will give you another ticket".

8] "The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"

9] "Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, and eat cotton candy"

10] "Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven"

11] "In God we trust, all others we run through NCIC".

12] "Just how big were those two beers?"

13] "No sir. We don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas but now we are allowed to write as many tickets as we want to".

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THIS ONE....

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).

8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but it wasn't worth the effort.

9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

10. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST....

11. Following a massive naval bombardment 35,000 US and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the firefight. It would have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

cruits - I was on the 0600-0900 hr shift. At 0630 hr, the CPL drove to the Guardhouse and told us that a General would be arriving soon. The CPL rang us at 0800 hr and asked if the General had arrived yet. "No, CPL."

He rang again at 0815 hr, 0830 hr and then again at 0845 hr. Still no sign of the General.

Then at 0855 hr, a gleaming staff car entered the base and stopped at the Gatehouse. The back window was wound down and a large man with a grey moustache looked out. "I'm General Grey" he said to me. Naturally, I saluted him, then said "Well you'd better hurry up, mate, because you're in deep shit. The CPL's been looking for you for the last two hours"

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### **Shortest Fairy Tale Ever**

Once upon a time a guy asked a girl, "Will you marry me?"

She said, "No"

And the guy lived happily ever after.

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### **Jim's Life in the US**

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

### **US Military History!**

From Col. D.G. WinWord, USMC, Ret. and history buff: —

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW2 was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940), the highest ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. . . . So much for allies.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonourable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress).

3. At the time of Pearl Harbor the top

### **Clock Joke**

A man died and went to heaven. As he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him. Curious, he asked, "What are all those clocks?"

St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone on Earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock will move."

"Oh," said the man, "and whose clock is that?"

"That is Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

"Incredible," said the man. "And whose clock is that one?"

St. Peter responded, "That's Edmund Barton's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Ed told only two lies in his entire life."

Looking around, the man asked, "Where is our Prime Minister's clock?"

"Oh! His clock is in Jesus' office at the moment. He's using it as a ceiling fan."

on completion.

I resigned from the service on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1974.

I have continued to serve "The Corps" to the best of my ability as:

[1] member of the WA RAEME Corps Committee;

[2] the RAEME Information Officer in the 1990s; and

[3] an inaugural member in the formation in WA of the RAEME Vietnam Vets Association, the RAEME Association, and, finally, the combining of all RAEME Associations in the state of WA into one association.

In closing I must add that all the success I have had in my adult life I owe to "THE CORPS".

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### **"LONG LIVE RAEME"**

### **National Association**

In mid May, Colonel Mark MacKenzie, our Colonel Commandant and the Association Secretary, John Curtis, went to Bandiana, Vic for a conference with the senior members of the Corps. The aim of this conference was to discuss the possibility of forming a National Association. During the introductions of the various Associations, one thing came very much to the fore, the need for a National Association. Every Association said that they were in favour of the concept of the National Association.

In keeping with the Head of Corps request for a National Database, both WA and Qld demonstrated their own databases, both set up in Microsoft Access. All Associations were asked to have a look at these databases and suggest changes that may enhance them. The object of the exercise was to have a regional database that could provide information in a standard form. The information contained in the program would be aligned with the Head of Corps

Database that was developed some years ago. Many will remember filling out the forms for that database.

The matter of RAEME memorabilia was bought up during the proceedings and each State reported on what they purchase locally for their members. The delegates to the conference agreed that any memorabilia that could be purchased more cheaply in another state would be purchased from that Association at cost price. The intention is to generate some purchasing power leading to reduced costs for the purchasers. It was also agreed that a Corps Shopfront would be set up at Bandiana in order to present to trainees a range of goods that can be purchased. A list of memorabilia for sale would be placed on an Intranet and, possibly Internet, websites.

An agreement was reached to produce an "Activities Calendar" throughout Australia, which would be submitted to the RAEME Craftsman Magazine.

The National Charter for the National Association would be developed at meeting during the Corps Seminar and again six months later (May 2006). The option of teleconferencing was discussed and investigations are being made to possibly involve more members.

Day two of the conference saw the Curator of the Army Museum address the delegates. Major Graham Docksey gave a summary of the layout and the future direction of the Museum. Many vehicles will be moved to a sheltered compound outside the Museum, and there will be a lot more room released for Corps Displays in the Museum. Each State has been asked to make suggestions as to what can best illustrate the Corps in the Museum. Already there are a number of exhibits about the Corps, but we need more. Colonel Terry Beaton has been appointed as

the Corps Historian along with his duties as Colonel Commandant of Victoria. He will look after the development of the RAEME display.

Finally, The Head of Corps formally announced that a new Corps Book was in the planning. This book will not be a dry old history book, but a vibrant "coffee table style" pictorial history book. The plan is to feature pictures and stories from members of the Corps in the book.

Colonel MacKenzie and your Secretary will be returning to Bandiana for the Corps Committee meeting in early October for a follow-up meeting. John will again report to the Horse's Mouth when he returns from that meeting.

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### **Wanted Dead or Alive!!!!**

**As reported in the article about the National Association, the Head of Corps, BRIG David McGahey, requests that any member of the Corps who has photographs they feel may be important to the Corps History, contact their Association. The photographs will be copied digitally and submitted to the SO2 Corps Heritage so that a collection can be built up.**

**Your photographs are extremely important to the Corps and the production of the new Corps Pictorial History Book. Even if you think that your pictures are only local or personal, the Corps has an interest in them. Your personal photo can be the one that provides information on important operations or exercises. (RAEME Assoc of WA members can contact the Secretary and arrange for the photos to be scanned)**

**Along with the photos, the Corps is also searching for anecdotal stories from anyone who thinks they have**

**a story to tell. They can be serious, humorous, sad or happy, technical, operational, recreational (those old R'n'R stories?). They can be about people or places. Every member of the Corps has stories to tell and they are told at reunions. Write them down and send them to the Association Secretary. If you feel you have a problem with writing your story, give them to the Secretary in note form and he will arrange for them to be rewritten to your approval.**

**So come on everybody lets have stories and photos that will show the other states that, in Western Australia, we have people who are interested and interesting.**

John Curtis

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### **Australian Soldiers Laid To Rest In France**

The remains of four Australian soldiers killed during World War One were laid to rest in France on 22 April 2005, the Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy said today.

"These soldiers died in service to their nation and it is fitting that we gather to remember them and formally pay tribute to their bravery and sacrifice," Lieutenant General Leahy said.

"The Australian Defence Force is built on the dedication, courage and actions of those that have gone before us. It is important that we remember their deeds and honour their memory."

"The remains of two of the soldiers are believed to be those of Lieutenant Christopher Henry Duncan Champion and Corporal Ernest Corby. The other two soldiers have not been identified and will be laid to rest as unknown Australian soldiers."

"The Australian Army is grateful to the

4. They have free toothpaste and razors, and free soap and shampoo.

5. They will even treat you like a customer, not a patient. An extra \$5 worth of tips will have the entire staff scrambling to help you.

6. I will get to meet new people every 7 or 14 days.

7. TV broken? Light bulb need changing? Need to have the mattress replaced? No Problem! They will fix everything and apologise for your inconvenience.

8. Clean sheets and towels every day, and you don't even have to ask for them.

9. If you fall in the nursing home and break a hip, you are on Medicare. If you fall and break a hip on the Princess ship, they will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

Now hold on for the best! Do you want to see South America, the Panama Canal, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, or name where you want to go? Princess will have a ship ready to go. So don't look for me in a nursing home, just call shore to ship.

P.S. And don't forget, when you die, they just dump you over the side at no charge.

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### **This is 'Terrible'**

A bloke starts his new job at the zoo and is given three tasks. First is to clear the exotic fish pool of weeds. As he does this a huge fish jumps out and bites him. To show the others who's boss he beats it to death with a spade. Realising his employer won't be best pleased he disposes of the fish by feeding it to the lions, as lions will eat anything. Moving on to the second job of clearing out the Chimp house, he is attacked by the chimps who pelt him with coconuts. He swipes at two Chimps with a spade, killing them both. What can he do? Feed them to the lions, he says to himself, because lions eat anything. He hurls the corpses into

the lion enclosure. He moved on to the last job which is to collect honey from the South American Bees. As soon as he starts he is attacked by the bees. He grabs the spade and smashes the bees to a pulp. By now he knows what to do and throws them into the lion's cage because lions eat anything.

Later that day a new lion arrives at the zoo. He wanders up to another lion and says "What's the food like here?" The lions say "Absolutely brilliant. Today we had fish and chimps with mushy bees."

BOOM BOOM

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### **Two Tourists**

Two tourists were driving through Wales.

At Llanfairpwllgwyngllgogerychwryndrobwlllyantsllyogogoch, they stopped for lunch and one tourist asked the waitress. "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us?"

"Would you please pronounce where we are... very slowly?"

The blonde waitress leaned over and said, "Burr-gurr-Kinnng..."

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### **When a CPL was GOD**

For all the OLD SCHOOL, how true is this!!!!!!

When I was a on my Recruit Course in Kapooka, the CPL was GOD. What he thought about my haircut or how well my bed was made was much more important than the fact that the All-Blacks had won.

During Duties Week, I was put on the Front Gate (with two other Recruits). And we received thinly-veiled threats as to what would happen to us if a vehicle entered the base without being logged-in (or out), and if we failed to salute an Officer (or a lady).

This particular morning - it was March-out Parade Day for other luckier Re-

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before. Change is inevitable.... except from vending machines.

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.

### The Rooster

A farmer goes out one day and buys a brand new stud rooster for his chicken coop.

The new rooster struts over to the old rooster and says, "OK old boy, time for you to retire."

The old rooster replies, "Come on, surely you cannot handle ALL of these chickens. Look what it has done to me. Can't you just let me have the two old hens over in the corner."

The young rooster says, "Beat it: You are washed up and I am taking over."

The old rooster says, "I tell you what, young stud I will race you around the farmhouse. Whoever wins gets the exclusive domain over the entire chicken coop."

The young rooster laughs "You know you don't stand a chance old man. So, just to be fair I will give you a head start."

The old rooster takes off running. About 15 seconds later the young rooster takes off running after him. They round the front porch of the farmhouse and the young rooster has closed the gap. He is already about 5 inches behind the old rooster and gaining fast.

### 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.

The farmer, meanwhile, is sitting in his usual spot on the front porch when he sees the roosters running by He grabs his shotgun and - BOOM - He blows the young rooster to bits.

The farmer sadly shakes his head and says, "Dammit, third gay rooster I bought this month."

**Moral of this story:** Don't mess with the OLD BOYS - age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill.

### Nursing Home Or???????????

Although this sounds like an attractive proposal, I will always remember this quote by Billy Connolly:

"A ship cruise?" It's like being in jail, with the option of drowning".

### **An Alternative Retirement Home**

There will be no nursing home in my future.....

When I get old and feeble, I am going to get on a Princess Cruise Ship. The average cost for a nursing home is \$200 per day. I have checked on reservations at Princess and I can get a long term discount and senior discount price of \$135 per day. That leaves \$65 a day for:

1. Gratuities which will only be \$10 per day.
2. I will have as many as 10 meals a day if I can waddle to the restaurant, or I can have room service (which means I can have breakfast in bed every day of the week).
3. Princess has as many as three swimming pools, a work-out room, free washers and dryers, and shows every night.

French authorities who will assist us in according these soldiers an appropriate final tribute. The locals have also been very helpful and their compassion and respect for our fallen soldiers brings great credit to their country."

The remains will be reinterred at Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, near Merris in France.

In March 2003 a farmer near Merris, France, discovered the skeletal remains of four unknown Australian Imperial Force soldiers buried in a communal grave. Artefacts found with the remains included Australian pennies, Australian Imperial Forces 'Rising Sun' collar badges and a corroded officers 'pip' with a fragment of uniform with the clips for attaching the 'pip' in place. After historical research and forensic investigation in France and Australia, two of the four soldiers are believed to be 637 Lieutenant Christopher Henry Duncan Champion and 5665 Corporal Ernest Corby. The other two soldiers have not been identified.

Corporal Corby's family had been notified of arrangements and at least two family members attended. No next of kin have been identified for Lieutenant Champion.

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, AO will attend the funeral service, which will be conducted by Principal Chaplain Greg Flynn, RC. It is expected that the funeral will be attended by Australian and French dignitaries and local officials.

### **Biographical details**

#### **Lieutenant C.H.D. Champion**

637 Lieutenant Christopher Henry Duncan Champion was born on 15 September 1892 at Launceston, Tasmania. The son of the Reverend Arthur Hammerton and Mrs Mary Celia Champion, he completed his education at The King's School, Parramatta, New

South Wales. Chris Champion was a farmer at Bungendore; New South Wales at the time of his enlistment as a private soldier on 1 July 1915. He embarked with the 30th Battalion on the troopship Beltana on 9 Nov 1915 for training in Egypt. Chris was promoted to Second Lieutenant, transferred to the 3rd Battalion on 12 March 1916 and embarked for France, arriving in Marseilles on 28 March 1916. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 29 June that year. Lieutenant Champion was wounded at Pozieres on 16 August 1916, and evacuated to England, returning to his unit in December. He was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's Dispatch of 7th November 1917 for 'distinguished and gallant service, devotion to duty and able leadership of his Company' during the period 26 February 1917 to 30 September 1917.

Lieutenant Champion was commanding B Company, 3rd Battalion in the defence of Hazebroucke, defending the area between Strazeele and Merris when he was killed in action just after 7.00 p.m. on 14 April 1918. The 3rd Battalion history records that "Throughout the day he had fought bravely and well, and the quick and effective repelling of the enemy attacks was due in very great measure to his inspiring leadership, coolness and initiative". Lieutenant Champion's actions at Strazeele were mentioned in despatches on 18 April 1918.

#### **Corporal C.E.W. Corby**

5665 Corporal Christopher Ernest (Ernie) William Corby was born on 11 September 1885 at Laggan, the second son of Reuben and Catherine ('Kate') Corby of Tuena, in New South Wales. A shearer by trade, he travelled to Sydney in December 1915, and visited the Sydney Town Hall Recruiting Depot on 30 December. He was enlisted on 17 January 1916 into the 18th

Reinforcements, 3rd Battalion Australian Imperial Forces. Corporal Corby completed training in Australia and embarked on HMAT A55 Kyarra on 3 June 1916, disembarking at Plymouth on 3 August. On 16 September 1916 he proceeded to France, and was taken on strength to the 3rd Battalion in Belgium on 5 October 1916. Ernie Corby was promoted to Lance Corporal on 13 May 1917 and Corporal on 12 October that year. Two weeks later, on 27 October, Corporal Corby proceeded on leave to England, rejoining his unit on 10 November 1917.

In April 1918 the 1st Australian Division was hurriedly deployed to the defence of Hazebroucke. B Company, the 3rd Battalion defended the approaches between Merris and Strazeele. Corporal Ernest Corby was killed in action near 'Gutzer' farm shortly after 10.30 a.m. on the morning of 14 April 1918.

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### Reflections of an OC

by

MAJ Perry Beor

New major's slides on the shoulders and a mid year posting back to 113 as the OC - after seven or so years in the wilderness I wondered how it would go. Any doubt was soon rudely dispelled by the first of the lads I encountered – one of VM's from my old platoon.

"F\*\*\* Boss they promoted you!" (so much for respect for field rank). "Still driving that old bogged out bag of sh\*t brown Commodore?"

"My copper bronze VB Commodore with its 308 red motor represents a pinnacle of Australian automotive achievement. Anyway the brown hides the rust"

"Heh, heh - good to have you back"

That pretty much set the tone for my return home. Lots of old comrades (just a bit greyer and heavier) and a few new faces (alas all too few). In fact when

the CSSB ran its BFA's we soon acquired the nickname of the Walkshop.

Things started on a good note when I was able to tell the lads on my first official parade that we had got out number back – once again 113 was open for business! In true RAEME style we celebrated the fact by breaking out the tricolour and making sure that it was flying whenever we were "in" It really felt like home then.

This was reinforced on the first maintenance weekend when I dropped into old habits and rang through for the pizzas to be ready at knockoff. On mentioning the unit as the delivery address to the local shop:

"Oh is that you LT Beor, do you want your usual order?"

"Yeah..... OK" (after 7 years they still remembered me?)

Sadly enough the usual order, though proving that my taste in pizza hasn't degenerated in that time, was sufficient for the whole company – the last time I rang it through it was only for my platoon!

Before I knew it six months had passed and the new year was upon us and with it – some officers – firstly Jason Williams and Matt Scott, two RAEME prodigal sons returned from a couple of years of exile in Japan and Jesse Newman into his first real chocko role as my 2IC. Jason and Matt were a veritable font of arcane information (a lot of which would be more likely discussed in "The Picture" rather than "Lets Go") and after being out of the green for a few years were keen as. Jesse, after a minor operation to remove FT and insert PT without affecting the ARMY part of his brain went through the workshop like a dose of salts. Even the most "unionist" amongst us agreed that it was about time we got some serious green back into the place

would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!

### **The Beast**

Husband and wife were in the midst of a violent quarrel, and hubby was losing his temper.

"Be careful", he said to his wife "You will bring out the beast in me!"

So what" his wife shot back "Who's afraid of a mouse."

### **Coffee**

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me."

So, she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says "HEBREWS"!!!

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## Life According to Perry

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

### Aphorisms for our time

Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on Society.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Money can't buy happiness. But it sure makes misery easier to live with.

Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a bad check.

Vital papers will demonstrate their vitality by moving from where you left them to where you can't find them.

Always remember to pillage BEFORE you burn.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as warning to others.

Lizzie's Law: You can't fall off the floor.

Paranoid's are people too; they have their own problems. It's easy to

criticise, but if everybody hated you, you'd be paranoid too.

Eagles may soar, but weasels aren't sucked into jet engines.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.



to his wife, "When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife with me"

And so, he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died, she would put all of the money in the casket with him

Well, he died. He was stretched out in the casket; his wife was sitting there in black, and her friend was sitting next to her.

When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a minute!"

She had a box with her; she came over with the box and put it in the casket.

Then, the undertakers locked the casket down, and rolled it away.

So, her friend said, "Girl, I know you weren't fool enough to put all that money in there with your husband"

The loyal wife replied, "Listen, I am a Christian, I can't go back on my word. I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him"

"You mean to tell me you put that money in the casket with him!!!!"

"I sure did", said the wife "I got it all together, put it into my account and wrote him a cheque. If he can cash it, he can spend it"

### **Women Are Smarter Than Men**

Due to inherit a fortune when his sickly, widower father died, Charles decided he needed a woman to enjoy it with. Going to a singles' bar, he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away.

"I'm just an ordinary man", he said, walking up to her, "but in just a week or two, my father will die and I'll inherit 20 million dollars."

The woman went home with Charles, and the next day she became his stepmother

### **Women's Revenge**

"Cash, check, or charge" I asked, after folding the items the woman wished to purchase.

As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

"So, do you always carry your TV remote" I asked.

"No", she replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the most legal evil thing I could do to him.

### **Understanding Women (A Man's Perspective)**

I know I am not going to understand women. I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax, pour it onto your upper thigh, rip the hair out by the root, and still be afraid of a spider.

### **Wife vs Husband**

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep", the wife replied, "in-laws."

### **Words**

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day 30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men."

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

### **Stupid and Beautiful**

A man said to his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time."

The wife responded, "Allow me to explain - God made me beautiful so you

Soon into the year we received a brand new 2LT in the shape of Ryan Stewart. The lads did the right thing and when they poured him into a taxi at 0230 after his first Tuesday night parade, he was heard to mumble – "This is a Great Corps"

In true RAEME style the HQ building then rapidly assumed the look of a down market wreckers yard with the average age of the cars out front being greater than our new 2LT's!

Halfway through the year the Tpt Coy asked us whether we could spend a weekend at their depot in Helena Valley to bring all their gear up to speed. Hummm, Helena Valley – a 40 min drive from Karrakatta and Bn HQ – in isolation there is opportunity.....

I managed to pull a few strings and while getting the lads NVG qualified that night decided to have a bit of fun and took the convoy, on blackout, along a disused railway line in a nearby National Park. Do you know that railway bridges are only 200mm wider than the track of a Mog? That got the pukka factor going. Things got even better was when I sent them down a nearby tunnel. NVG doesn't work too well when there is no ambient light and windscreens aren't good for TI.

The truckies were totally bamboozled and ended up relying on driving at a snails pace on blackout lights. The workshop lads, working off the premise that going slowly only cuts into later drinking time (and after watching too many reruns of Kelly's Heroes) resorted to a variety of solutions ranging from sticking their head out of the window while driving, to having an observer out the roof hatch giving directions, to the recce mechs who merely ran their fingers along the wall of the tunnel while driving at some ridiculous speed. The CO and RSM, on the other hand, who rolled up for this activity (they must've

realised I would try something) resorted to the simple expedient of running the roo bar along the wall and seeing by sparks or placing one wheel on the wall and one on the floor. The prize for the biggest surprise of the night was given to the lone cyclist who was travelling up the line thinking it safer than the highway only to be confronted with a convoy of blacked out military vehicles coming the other way. Last seen heading into the bush.

Later that year I almost managed to pull off another coup when a couple of us got a trip to Rottnest Island to investigate the possibility of a weekend deployment fixing up the WWII gun emplacements and other RAEME type tasks. It was shaping up as the best lurk ever till the rules on DACC tasks got changed on us and it all became too hard

2004 started with the big push on RRF – to the exclusion of everything else. OK, good idea but who is going to drive them around and fix their vehicles and weapons? Once again an idea thought up by Grunts with no idea of logistics. At least the CO did have us prepare some options for RRF CSST's - it would be nice to think they made their way up past Bde. Still we tried.

We did manage a bit of fun later in the year though when we again bludged off the Truckies in Helena Valley and did an IMT weekend out there. On the way I showed off my local knowledge and nastier side by sending the convoy – including wrecker and towed crock down the local zig zag railway - now a road but still one lane wide, in cuttings and complete with hairpin bends. As its main use now is for young blokes going for a bit of back seat bossanova in the Hyundai, imagine the shock when a military convoy pushed past them. I daresay a few lads struck out that night, which was probably not helped by the

recce mechs knocking on their roofs asking for a light as they want past.

Once at Helena Valley though, Jess and the lads again cooked up a cracker of an exercise. None of this two bored diggers playing enemy with a Steyr on auto behind a bush - we had multiple enemy parties with F89's, drive by shootings, hot obstacle crossings, water crossings, and even a hostage situation - I was shackled to the Clarke mast mounts on the back of the FFR being tortured. Took the boys an awful long time to free me though - Hummm I wonder.... The CP ran in usual RAEME style - continuously manned with a continuous card game.

Our final activity of the year was to have been a short wander along the Bibblemun track followed by a BBQ. Of course once I mentioned 15km everyone thought CFA with the associated limitations - c'mon guys its RAEME you are talking about here! As the BBQ was the main purpose of the exercise we quickly modified the course and it was sweet. Para cooked up a storm and even the padre rolled up (he had been a mine manager in a previous life and enjoyed taking time off sky piloting with us). To assure the CO that everything was above board (as if it wouldn't be) the Padre issued us all copies of the Army Prayer book and we arranged a photo of him blessing us all with prayer books in hand. The lads were mightily peeved that all this God bothering went to nought when both the CO and RSM recked the photos were doctored.

On packing up to go home a few of the lads inquired whether a refreshment stop at the local pub might be possible.

"TEMPTING, but sorry no"

"OK", they said, "we'll have ice creams instead".

"Ha Ha."

Imagine my surprise when the convoy stopped at the next Mr Whippy and I got the look. Even I'm not that thick, so sure enough Major Beor goes up to the bloke in the van and says,

"Single cones all round".

How will I ever be able to face my grunt mates again - bloody ice creams!

In retrospect though the highpoint of my time was strangely enough out of green. Those of you who have been to Kings Park in Perth would have seen the plaques at the base of each tree along the main roads commemorating fallen WA soldiers. While walking on a forgotten back road behind the Tennis Club I came across a few more - which included two Craftsmen - the only two commemorated in the Park. CFN McKenna and Jones were captured at Singapore and died on Sandukan in late 1945. As foundation members of the Corps I felt they warranted some recognition so on ANZAC eve, RAEME past and present all met up under torchlight to hold a brief but extremely moving remembrance ceremony for our Corps brothers. The padre doubled up as bugler playing the last post and when I ordered the roll keeper to record McKenna and Jones on the workshop roll for ANZAC day and mark them down as present you could have heard a pin drop.

What made it doubly poignant was that the sons of McKenna and Jones, both of which had never known their fathers, had somehow (and I still do not know how) heard about what we were doing and rolled up. The gratitude and wonder on their faces when they saw how much we revered their fathers as fallen Corps comrades will stay with me for the rest of my life.

It did also seem that our two CFN took a bit of an interest in the proceedings

mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter," Michael replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or...I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Michael continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man'. I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Michael. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes, I replied.'

The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity'."

Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

Michael lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude... I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

Attitude, after all, is everything.

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### **Good Excuse**

The only way I can follow this is with a 'wire diagram'.

This is a translation of a letter which claims to be copy of a letter sent by a young Croatian man to the Croatian Secretary of Defense to avoid military service. An extraordinary piece of reasoning, worthy of attention of anyone interested in logic and related matters.

Dear Minister of Defense,

Please allow me to explain my situation in a hope that you will be able to

resolve my case.

I am expecting to get the call to serve in the Croatian Army. I am 23 and I married a 47 year old widow who has a 26 year old daughter. Her daughter subsequently married my father. By marrying my wife's daughter, my father became my son-in-law. In the same time, my wife is a mother-in-law of my father, and her daughter is now also my step-mother.

In September my wife and I had a son. Clearly this child is a brother of my father's wife, and thus a brother-in-law of my father. In the same time, my son is also my uncle because he is a brother of my step-mother.

In October my father's wife had a son as well. This child is now also my brother because he is a son of my father. But I am the step-father of my wife's daughter and also a brother of her son whose father is also my father. Thus, my father's son is also my step-grand son because he is a son of my wife's daughter. Consequently, I am a brother of my own step-grandson, so I am also my own step-grandfather.

However, according to the law, not more than two consecutive generations of fathers and sons (grand-father, father, son) can be called for military duty simultaneously, so I should be relieved from the military duty.

Thank you for your understanding.

The reply of the Croatian Ministry of Defense was sent only two weeks later, and it read: The applicant is permanently relieved from the military duty due to possible mental problems and mental instability caused by the chaotic situation within his family.

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### **Women & Men**

**Never try to outsmart a woman!**

Here was a man who had worked all his life, had saved all of his money, and was a real miser when it came to his money. Just before he died, he said

licemen were murdered by a mob. He became ill within days, suffering from kidney problems, pains in the joints and headaches.

Despite being medically evacuated to the UK after only 11 days, it took eight months for Craddock, from Hattersley, near Manchester, to see an Army doctor. "The examination took about 20 minutes and they told me that there was nothing wrong with me," he said.

But the 33-year-old, who now suffers from a stutter, violent mood swings and flashbacks, has since been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder by three different doctors. "I can be fine one minute, but go ballistic the next," said Craddock, who has been unable to return to his job with a window company.

Asked what he hoped legal action would achieve, Craddock, who has been prescribed antidepressants, painkillers and sedatives to control his behaviour, replied: "I want the Army to be held accountable. I wouldn't accept treatment from them now anyway but, people need to know that soldiers have suffered because of their service in Iraq."

### **A Very Uplifting Story**

Michael is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a natural motivator.

If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Michael and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Michael replied, "Each morning I wake

up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or ... you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood."

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or...I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it.

Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or... I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is,"! Michael said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life."

I reflected on what Michael said. Soon hereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower.

After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

I saw Michael about six months after the accident.

When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

"The first thing that went through my

### **Army Museum's Future Secured**

Following a four and a half year campaign to convince the Federal Government not to sell the historic Artillery Barracks in Fremantle, a resolution was negotiated in July 2004. This signed agreement was between the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, then Fran Bailey, and consists of a licence for the museum to remain at the Barracks for 25 years with two renewable options extending the overall period to a total of 50 years.

The licence area consists of the main barracks building and all the ancillary smaller buildings that surround the parade ground. This area will remain in government (Defence) ownership and the remaining portions of the site are to be sold. We were not able to have the entire heritage site saved but are pleased that the licence area is to be retained as the home of the Army Museum. The State Government is now likely to purchase the 10 married quarters that front Queen Victoria St for use by Homeswest. The deal includes \$600,000 to remove the asbestos from the site and a further \$600,000 over 3 years to bring the Artillery Barracks to Building Code of Australia standards.

Currently the asbestos remediation program is underway - so the museum is closed for March and reopens on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. Some of the Building Code works have also commenced and this consists of changing the door handles to allow fast exit during an emergency and the fitting of illuminated exit signs. Future works "I improve handicapped access and facilities. Money to restore the historic Artillery Barracks will need to be sourced over time from heritage funding as this becomes available. The Army Museum has accepted responsibility to complete the internal paint-

in true RAEME or should I say AEME fashion. We had lined up the boozier for a few quieties after the ceremony as a Yank carrier was in town and all the pubs would have been full of Septics. On the way out to the barracks that evening I got a call telling me that Bde had just knocked back our function – despite approving it weeks previously. As I drove to Karrakatta I was at a loss what we could do. An alcohol fogged memory of my youth surfaced about being thrown out of a little pub near to the site. I turned off to it on a whim and found that not only was it still there, with no Yanks, but they were about to close for the night. They agreed to stay open especially for us and a good time was had by all – probably including two spectral CFN.

Alas all good things must come to an end and at last it was time for my final parade. Jess came good with a HUGE tricolour (courtesy of Timor) and as I handed the workshop over to my successor (with an appropriately RAEME modified sabre salute) I reflected upon my time as OC. I asked myself, "Did I do well?" All I could truly say is that I did the best I could. To paraphrase Homer, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants"

Special thanks must go to my 2IC Jess Newman – someone who is so competent that he scares me (and most other people); my officers, Jason Williams, Matt Scott and Ryan Stewart, my ARA staff, JJ Van Der Donk, who was always there to provide copious commonsense and Cath Daniel (does she ever stop working?) my ASM's Peter Dutton and Ric Wale, without which there wouldn't be a workshop and finally the rest of the mob at 113 for giving me the best two and a half years of my Army life.

**ED's Note:** Stick around Perry! You're one of the best officers we've had. "Work hard and play hard" is a great motto.

ing and fitout of the buildings used for museum purposes. Defence will continue to maintain the buildings and support the museum

We at the Army Museum extend our gratitude to the Unit and Ex Service associations for their constant support throughout the campaign and are Pleased to be able to repay that commitment through an expanded Army Museum at Artillery Barracks.

When works are completed the museum will be open between 11 am and 4pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays and during school holidays. Group tours may be booked outside of normal hours by phoning 9335 2077.

Paul Bridges  
Deputy Curator  
Army Museum of Western Australia

### **Veterans' MATES**

Frank\* a 68 year old Korean veteran, was not feeling himself recently. Thanks to a Men's Health Peer Educator (MHPE) and a new program called Veterans' MATES, he's back on track Here's how Frank tells it.

"Until recently, I was feeling really out of sorts. My doctor had me on about 10 or 12 different pills and potions everyday - some for my blood pressure, some for my leg ulcers and some for my diabetes. I was also taking vitamins, aspirin and a few other medicines from the pharmacy and supermarket. I must admit, I was having trouble remembering what each medicine was for and when to take them. More than once, I forgot whether I had taken all the pills I was supposed to, and took them again, just to make sure."

Frank spoke to his mate Jack over lunch at the club one day, about how unwell he was feeling and how he was having trouble with all his pills. As an

MHPE volunteer, Jack had heard about a great new program called Veterans' MATES and suggested that Frank go and talk to his doctor about how it could help him.

"He reckoned it could help me learn how to use my medicines safely. I took Jack's advice and my doctor was great - he really listened to me and said he would help," Frank said.

"My doctor arranged for a specially trained pharmacist, to visit me to do a home medicines review. We talked about the medicines I was taking and she looked at all the medicines I had at home. I didn't even realise that I was still taking tablets that my doctor had said I no longer needed!"

The pharmacist said a couple of the medicines from the supermarket were not supposed to be taken with Frank's prescribed medicines. This could have been making Frank feel crook. The pharmacist arranged to have the unwanted and out-of-date medicines disposed of safely.

"She also helped me organise my medicines so I won't have any more trouble remembering when to take them," said Frank.

I really feel better since getting help through Veterans' MATES. I'm more confident about the medicines I'm taking and I check with my pharmacist and doctor before taking any new medicines," said Frank.

A big thanks to Jack, the MHPE volunteer, and a big thanks to Veterans' MATES.

The Veterans' MATES program will assist veterans, war widows and their carers to manage their medicines. In January this year, DVA sent a letter to veterans and war widows who might benefit from a home medicines review, like Frank.

**Getting information on Veterans' MATES**

years after the first Gulf War."

Rusling, a combat medic who served with the Parachute Regiment in the 1991 Gulf conflict, said his association had received more than 160 inquiries from soldiers who have become ill since serving in the war.

He added: "Instead of receiving treatment, some soldiers have been run ragged until they've eventually agreed to leave prematurely."

Opposition politicians, meanwhile, have called for an investigation into the soldiers' claims of wrongful dismissal.

Gerald Howarth, the shadow minister for defence, said: "Wherever there is doubt, soldiers, sailors or airmen should be given the benefit of the doubt, but it often seems that the MoD is keen to put up hurdles rather than see how they can help those who have served their country."

He added: "I would be concerned if individual soldiers are being pressurised into signing off because it's felt that they are a burden and the powers that be want them off the books."

Angus Robertson, the SNP's defence spokesman, said: "This is the latest in a series of cases which raises serious doubts about the duty of care standards of the MoD."

An MoD spokeswoman said it had yet to receive legal papers from the soldiers concerned, but she added: "All cases will be considered on their individual merits. The MoD pays compensation where there is a legal liability to do so."

### **ABANDONED TO HIS FATE**

WHEN Graham Craddock left his wife and two children to serve in Iraq in May 2003 he could not have imagined how badly things would turn out.

The Territorial Army soldier was a driver for the Royal Logistics Corps, delivering water to camps in and around Majar al-Kabir where six Royal Military Po-

McGhee said several of his clients, whose ages ranged from 20 to 35 at the time of the conflict, were diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after fighting battles in Iraq.

Other soldiers involved in the legal action, including reservists, blame the multiple vaccinations they received in the build-up to war for chronic stomach problems, rashes, swelling, fevers, depression and anxiety.

McGhee intends to begin legal proceedings against the MoD within six to nine months, having received legal aid to fight the first two cases. However, he expects to receive more inquiries from servicemen who have suffered ill health since the conflict.

He said: "We expect hundreds to come forward. The symptoms are similar to those suffered by soldiers returning from the Falklands because Iraq was a war where there was fighting at close quarters." But Cameron Fyfe, a human rights lawyer with the Glasgow-based Ross Harper solicitors firm, warned that the MoD would be "notoriously difficult" to defeat in court.

He said: "The army are one of the few employers that you cannot claim unfair dismissal against. For an action to succeed, lawyers would have to show that there was a lack of duty of care or that the soldiers' illnesses were caused by the army's negligence."

Veterans Agency, an executive branch of the MoD, shows that 263 Iraq veterans applied for disablement pensions in the two years following the war. Although 148 of those applications have been approved, soldiers' rights campaigners claim the army is sacking soldiers to avoid paying out.

Shaun Rusling, vice-chairman of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, told Scotland on Sunday: "These lads have been treated terribly. So far, five times as many people have applied for a war pension as did two

Call the three national credit reporting organisations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone handed it in. It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact when your wallet etc has been stolen:

Visa Card Australia 1800 621 199  
 Visa Card International 1800 450 346  
 Lost Travellers' Cheques 1800 127 477  
 MasterCard Australia (02) 9466 3700  
 MasterCard International 1800 120 113  
 ANZ FREECALL 1800 033 844  
 BankWest 131 718  
 Citibank 132 484  
 Tamworth Coles/Myer Source 2340 1300 306 397  
 Commonwealth 132 221  
 CUSCAL- MyCard 1300 135 538  
 GE Capital 1300 369 904  
 Members Equity 1300 654 998  
 National 132 265  
 St George 1800 028 208  
 Sydney Virgin 2000 1800 080 000  
 Westpac 1800 230 144  
 Woolworths Ezy Banking 137 288  
 Bankcard Australia (02) 9281 6633  
 Medicare 132 011

Centrelink Fraud 137 230  
 Seniors Card 1300 364 758  
 Passport 131 232

Estelle Baker  
 Trust Officer

And some of us think that we have it rough!!!!

### Iraq Veterans Sue Over War Trauma

**ARTHUR MACMILLAN**  
**amacmillan@scotlandonsunday.com**

THIRTY Iraq War veterans are taking legal action against the British Army, claiming they were thrown out of the ranks after ruining their mental and physical health in the battle to oust Saddam Hussein.

Two years after the conflict began, the former soldiers accuse the army of neglect for failing to help with the physical and psychological trauma they suffered, and then dismissing them from the service.

The veterans - who include two Scots - are demanding compensation from the Ministry of Defence in the first legal action of its kind to stem from the 2003 conflict.

The case is a severe embarrassment for the military, following years of argument and negative publicity over Gulf War syndrome and allegations that troops were poorly equipped for the Iraq War.

Mark McGhee, a human rights lawyer with Manchester-based solicitors Linder-Myers, is handling the soldiers' claims. He told Scotland on Sunday: "We are actively preparing for civil proceedings against the army because they have not done what they should have for these individuals.

"Some of the servicemen were told their services were no longer required and others were granted premature voluntary release. These men needed medical care and psychiatric help but they were instead booted out of the army."

is easy - just call the Veterans' MATES Helpline on I300 556 906 for the cost of a local call. You can also see your doctor or pharmacist to find out more.

\*Name changed for privacy reasons.

### Review of Korean War Medal Entitlements

The Australian Government has set up an independent review into the level of recognition of service following the armistice in Korea in 1953.

An estimated 5000 Australians served in Korea following the armistice until August 1957.

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, De-Anne Kelly, said a review panel had been established to investigate the appropriateness of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 with clasp "Korea" and the Returned from Active Service Badge for this period of service in Korea.

Rear Admiral Ian Crawford, AO, RAN (Retd), a former Korean War veteran, and former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Garry Nehl will jointly chair the review.

Korean War veterans from this period have been concerned about their level of recognition for some time and it is appropriate that this service be given the fullest consideration.

The independent review panel will consult with relevant veterans' organisations, including Korean War veterans, and report its findings to the Government.

The Korean War, fought between June 1950 and July 1953, is recognised by the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 - Korea and the British Korea Medal.

The United Nations Service Medal was awarded for service from 1953 until 1954. Service after armistice currently

attracts the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 - Korea.

### New Medal Snub for Our REME Members

Tony Blair's government was last week accused of snubbing thousands of Armed Forces Veteran's by banning them from receiving medals honouring their bravery in one of Britain's forgotten wars.

Furious servicemen who fought in the jungles of Malaysia and Borneo have been told they are not allowed to accept the special commemorative from the Malaysian government.

They include the "Virgin Soldiers" - national servicemen made famous in a book by Leslie Thomas which was turned into a film. The snub comes after Mr. Blair refused to award medals to the Second World War Arctic convoy heroes - who will now receive a simple badge.

In that case the Ministry of Defence said it would have to fork out £ 14 million to issue the new Medal. But it win cost-the Government nothing more than the price of postage to allow the Veterans of the campaigns in The Far East to receive their gongs - so they have come up with a different excuse.

Responding to a question from a Tory Peer in the House of Lords, Baroness Symons said " Her Majesties Government's rules on the acceptance and wearing of foreign awards preclude the acceptance and wearing of medals for events in the distant past or more than five years previously".

She added that the rules did not allow for foreign awards to be accepted if a British Medal had been given.

But last week veterans organisations branded the claim as "absolute nonsense". Artic Convoys were allowed to accept commemorative medals from

Russia which were first awarded in 1995 – 50 years after the end of the Second World War.

The French Government awarded the Legion of Honour to servicemen who fought in the First World War. And our Armed Forces were allowed to accept medals offered by the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia after the Gulf War in 1991

Alex Shooter – who served as a Lieutenant in the Ulster Rifles during the Borneo Confrontation said: “This Government is treating its Veterans with a complete lack of respect.

“Old soldiers wear medals with huge pride. It means a great deal to them”.

### Medal Blow for Vets

Veterans of the Arctic convoys who ferried supplies to Russia during the Second World War were outraged last week after being told they would not get a medal.

Tony Blair announced the veterans would be awarded a special Arctic emblem commemorating their struggle against mountainous seas and German U-boats. Commander Eddle Grenfell, 85, who heads a lobby for a campaign medal, said. “We are going to keep up our fight.” They have long complained that the Arctic campaign was the only one of the war not to have its medal.

### Graham Edwards Angry Over Medal Delay.

COWAN MHR Graeme Edwards has accused federal authorities of letting down many military veterans.

He said the government had not kept a promise that veterans would receive a new Defence Medal in time for Anzac Day.

“I don’t know whether it was government dithering or just ministerial incompetence,” he said.

“Whatever the cause, the fact is that recognition delayed is recognition denied.”

Mr Edwards said thousands of ex-servicemen and women had been promised the new medal were still waiting.

“In July last year the then minister assisting Defence Minister, Mal Brough, said the government was on track to call applications from eligible serving and ex-servicemen and women by the end of the year,” he said.

‘These personnel were promised that the Defence Medal would be available to them for Anzac Day.

“It’s a promise that even the government should have kept, given the important anniversaries commemorated this year. Defence personnel have been robbed by the government of an opportunity to march wearing a new medal”

Defence Minister Robert Hill could not be contacted for comment.

### Heavy Tank Transporters for Defence

A \$16 million contract has been awarded to an Australian manufacturer to provide 14 Heavy Tank Transporters and associated commercial repair and maintenance support, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced recently.

Defence has awarded the vehicle contract to MAN Military Vehicles Systems (Australia).

The tank transporters will allow the new M1A1 Abram tanks and M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicles to be transported on Australian roads.

More than half of the contract value will be going directly to Australian industry.

as a platoon commander with that unit. Post war service initially with war trials in Rabaul led to ARA service in BCOF Japan with 3 Bn RAR . He went on to serve at KAPYONG and MARYANG SAN as a Captain OC Charlie Coy. He left the ARA in the mid-fifties and had a long time connection with Aussie Olympic Cycling.

Graham Edwards & I served on his committee when he was Pres Korea & SE Asia Forces Assoc WA in the early 70’s. He was a very good and proud man with a huge presence

It was my privilege to have shared his company.

Norm

### Attorney’s Advice - No Charge (for a change)

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company.

1. The next time you order cheques have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your chequebook, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.

2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put “PHOTO ID REQUIRED”.

3. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the “For” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won’t have access to it.

4. Put your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead

of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Centrelink Number printed on your cheques. You can add it if it is necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

5. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each licence, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when travelling either here or abroad. We’ve all heard horror stories about fraud that’s committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have first-hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly mobile phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Dell computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information on-line, and more.

But here’s some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

3. But here’s what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.)

### **Major Investment In Special Forces Capability**

Australia's Special Forces will benefit from a major investment in new leading edge capability and technology, Defence Minister Robert Hill said recently.

Project Redfin, with an intended expenditure of between \$350 million and \$450 million, aims to provide new capabilities to give the Special Forces a technology edge over emerging threats.

Project Redfin was outlined whilst unveiling of the Defence's latest combat device to be issued to soldiers in Iraq - a device that allows soldiers to shoot around corners.

The new viewing device will be attached on top of rifles to allow soldiers to look through the device to detect and engage targets from a position of cover.

The new devices will be deployed to Iraq over the next few weeks providing an important technology that will improve the protection of our troops.

The new device, developed by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) in South Australia and produced by BAE Systems, is part of the Howard Government's election commitment to improve the fighting capability and safety of the Army's regular infantry battalions in combat operations.

Senator Hill will today visit the Special Forces Regiment at Swanbourne Barracks in Western Australia to discuss the Regiment's capability needs and priorities. Today's discussions will help shape the proposal on the capability requirements that will be considered by Cabinet this year as part of Project Redfin.

As part of the Special Forces equipment package, a number of specific technology options will be investigated by Government covering the wide range

### **Press Release**

#### **VUNG TAU "R & C" CENTRE OPEN AGAIN.**

The 'Australian Veteran's Vietnam Reconstruction Group Inc.' **The AVVRG**, in arrangement with Mike McCullum announces the re-establishment of an R & C Centre in Vung Tau.

The R & C Centre is located within the Song Hotel Hotel and manager Mike McCullum is dedicated to providing to an ever increasing number of visiting Veterans, family and friends, a value for money, hassle free stay in Vung Tau, a base from which to explore the province.

The hotel boasts excellent and very reasonable accommodation, inexpensive dining, an Irish Pub to sing the night away, an all important ATM facility in the foyer. Additional facilities include an adjacent large new swimming pool and tennis court.

The R & C Centre/ Song Hong Hotel is located within the Lam Son District of Vung Tau and is only a \$1.50 taxi from the hydrofoil ferry terminal which runs almost hourly from Saigon (cost approx \$12pp).

Located nearby are many bars and restaurants and excellent shopping is a very short stroll away, as is the harbour, the old 'Front Beach'.

The newly renovated and unrecognisable Grand is located not too far away and the site of the Badcoe Club on the Back Beach is now in ruin with no remnants left of the old facility.

The AVVRG Office, located at the Centre, can arrange tours and the various Permits required to visit Long Tan, Nui Dat and other 1ATF areas of interest, including the 'under renovation' Long Phuoc Tunnels, which will surprise most visitors due to their close proximity to Nui Dat. The office can also provide info and give advice and

assistance concerning tours to other areas of Vietnam.

Importantly, the AVVRG can provide moral support and medical direction to visitors should the need arise.

Mud maps of the old TAOR are also available for a small donation to assist the many charitable projects currently underway in the old Phuc Thuy Province by the AVVRG.

More information is available from the R & C website at :

[www.rest-vungtau.com](http://www.rest-vungtau.com)

or the AVVRG on:

[www.avvrg.au104.org](http://www.avvrg.au104.org)

or contact AVVRG Vung Tau direct on [pauljmurphy@bigpond.com](mailto:pauljmurphy@bigpond.com)

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#### **Vale: Peter Grygiel**

10 August 1947 – 7 April 2005

Cancer took Peter and approximately 80 people attended the funeral on the 11th April 2005. This was held at a crematorium in Karrakatta. His son Peter gave the Eulogy. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded and I being the only representative from 102 FD WKSP said the ODE.

Peter had two tours of SVN the first was June 1967 to April 1968 with 102 FD WKSP. His second tour was in April 1970 to Dec 1970 with HO AFV.

He is survived by his wife Elsie, eight children and fourteen grandchildren.

Chris Pickering.

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#### **Passing Of A Legend**

The hero of MARYANG SAN Korea tough man and legendry leader MAJ Jack GERKE DSO AM PUC JP passed away at his home in Riverton (PERTH) WA after a long period of embarrassing frailty at the age of 89.

A champion cyclist he enlisted and sailed with the 2/16th and served in Syria before surviving the KOKODA TRACK

of Special Forces roles, including special reconnaissance, offensive operations, special recovery, support operations, counter terrorism and response to chemical, biological and radiation incidents.

The funding will cover the replacement of some existing capabilities and systems, additional combat equipment, communications, new special operations vehicles and improved air and maritime mobility capabilities.

The new capabilities that will be purchased are expected to be announced next year with the new equipment expected to enter service from 2007.

This investment marks another step in a series of capability developments for our Special Forces.

National security is the first priority of the Howard Government. Project Redfin will further boost Australia's national security capabilities to strengthen our defences at home and will provide greater protection to personnel deployed on overseas operations.

New capabilities will enable our Special Forces to continue to be flexible, mobile and adaptable to provide specialist military responses to threats that impact on Australia's security.

Australia's Special Forces have demonstrated their effectiveness during the Sydney Olympics and recent operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.

Our Special Forces are among the best in the world and this is due not only to their skills but also their supplies and equipment. This new capability commitment will ensure they continue to operate to the best of their ability with the best possible equipment."

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### **Major Employer signs up to support Defence Reservists**

Employers who support Defence Reservists and are committed to releas-

ing them for training and operations can now 'sign up' on-line through a new website service.

Mitsubishi Motors Australia, based in Adelaide, is the first organisation to sign the new Statement of Support. Monarch Industrial Products, a small business based in Queensland, also signed recently.

The Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC), the organisation that provides a link between the Australian Defence Force, employers and the community from which Reservists are drawn, has devised the on-line Statement of Support.

A meeting of the Council was held recently in Sydney, where matters relating to employer support of the Australian Defence Force Reserve. Council membership includes major employer groups, ex-serviceman's organisations, the Indigenous Business Council, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Ethnic Community Councils of Australia and the Women's Council of Australia.

The on-line form asks employers to confirm that their organisation encourages and supports employee participation in the Reserves.

It also ensures that every level of its management is aware of the supportive policy and that the organisation provides Defence leave with or without pay if the employee is required to undertake Defence service.

After confirming the organisation's leave policies and level of support for Reservists, the DRSC will promote signatories on its website in recognition of their policies.

Chairman of the DRSC committee in South Australia Peter Summers said his committee was negotiating with a further 22 employers and was hoping they would soon confirm their support for the Reserves.

A partnership between the Reservist

and their employer is our goal," Mr Summers said.

As we assist with developing those partnerships, employers are now understanding that the skills Reservists gain during their Reserve training are returned to the business and that can convert to dollars on the bottom line.

DRSC committees in the other states and territories are also working on encouraging large and small organisations to sign the statements.

Under the Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001, employers have a range of obligations towards the Reservists they employ.

The employers may also be entitled to claim \$948 a week for releasing their Reservists, under the Employer Support Payment Scheme. Employers have collected almost \$40 million since the scheme began in 2001.

Employers can read about the DRSC and sign a Statement of Support at [www.defence.gov.au/drsc](http://www.defence.gov.au/drsc). If they do not have access to the Internet, they can call their local DRSC office on 1800 803 485.

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### **New R & C Centre Vung Tau**

Here is a message that our Vietnam Veterans may like to note. It was sent to the RAE Assoc of WA's President Mick Ryan. He asked if we would pass it on to the "Other Engineers".

Hi Mick,

In addition to being a member of MIVAC, I am also a foundation member to The Australian Veterans Vietnam Re-Construction Group (AVVRG) of which you may or may not have heard about. After involvement with the first couple of projects, I have not been active with them for a few years but ended up back on the Management Committee recently and am getting stuck into that organisation's activities in the old Phouc Tuy province. I am heading back

up to Vietnam in May to assist with a number of projects that are underway. In particular I will spend a good deal of time at the orphanage we built about 10 years ago and have supported, it needs a bit of upgrading. While in VN I will head over the border to Cambodia from time to time and hopefully do a couple more projects with MIVAC.

The reason I am writing know is not to blow my bags but to inform about another AVVRG initiative that aims to assist the many vets who are now visiting Vietnam. I guess many of the troops are now retiring and want to have another look at their old stomping ground. I have been back a few times and it can be a bloody hassle dealing with the local wheelers and dealers. Often and increasingly so Vets request assistance from AVVRG. We have had the idea for some time to establish a facility that caters for the visiting Vietnam Vets and families. Getting a good deal with the right hotel/facility was the trick.

Paul Murphy (ex 2RAR) the President of AVVRG is now living in Vungers, and we have established an office there to manage the aid projects that we are conducting there. Paul has done a deal with an Aussie run Hotel (not the Ettamogah) to provide a facility that caters for the visiting Vietnam vets. I have attached a bit of a spiel and wonder if you could spread it around the sapper network.

I might add that the only benefit AVVRG gets from this is any donations that vets may like to give if they are happy with the service and for a copy of a mud map of the Dat and other 1ATF areas of interest. All donations will be used to maintain the orphanage and or put to other projects that we may undertake.

Cheers  
Mike Roberts