



*The President  
and Committee  
of the Association*

*Wish all our Members and their  
Families a Very Happy Christmas  
And a Fine and Prosperous  
New Year*



*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.)**

**Summer 2005-06**

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, Bayswater Hotel, 78-80 Railway Parade, Bayswater, in the Function Room. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 20th of FEBRUARY 2006.

**DISCLAIMER**

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

**From the President**

We have reached the end of another year and the association seems to flourish as ever. But as I have noticed there has been no change at the attendance. It is still the same people trying to keep the organisation together. I often wonder if all the work we put in producing the "Horses Mouth" and what we are trying to tell our members is really sinking in. Every meeting we have seem to bring the same "Die-hards" that are willing to give time to our aims.

So much for my gripe lets get on to better things hoping 2006 will be good

year for the RAEME Association of WA Inc.

We have found a new meeting place and we are very happy with the deal we receive to say the least. We are now getting together at the Bayswater Hotel, the meals are superb and not expensive and I think we are going to very happy there.

Again we saw another RAEME Dinner being cancelled due to the low numbers we received on time, which again was disappointing for the members who organised the whole deal and I think it will be a long time before we have another formal dinner with a Military back

**True Story**

On a plane flying from Seattle to San Francisco, the plane unexpectedly stopped in Sacramento. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. My buddy had noticed him as he walked by and could tell the man was blind because his guide dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of him throughout the entire flight.

He could also tell he had flown on this very flight before, because the pilot approached him and calling him by name said,

"Keith, we're in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind man replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs."

So picture this:

All the people in the gate area came to a complete stand still when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a guide dog! Like most pilots, he was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!!!! This is a true story .... so have a great day and remember — things are not always as they appear.

**This Is For Real**

This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida...

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her voice, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then it dawned on her why...For the same reason she did not understand why there was a football, a frisbee and two 12 packs in the front seat... A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down.

She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

**MORAL OF THE STORY?**

If you're going to have a Senior Moment, make it memorable.

**We Few**

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers

For he today that sheds his blood with me

Shall be my brother. Be he ne'er so vile, this day shall gentle his condition

And gentlemen in England now abed  
 Shall think themselves accursed that they were not here.

And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks

That fought with us upon St. Crispin's day.

Shakespeare, Henry V, IV, iii

in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...\$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?)

7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinderblock and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglass. The whole event was caught on video tape.

8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 a.m., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER!

10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle Street, he got much more

than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

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### **Cathouse Parrot**

A woman went to a pet shop and immediately spotted a large, beautiful parrot.

There was a sign on the cage that said \$50.00. "Why so little?" she asked the pet store owner.

The store owner looked at her and said, "Look, I should tell you first that this bird used to live in a house of prostitution, and sometimes it says some pretty vulgar stuff."

The woman thought about this, but decided she had to have the bird anyway.

She took it home and hung the bird's cage up in her living room and waited for it to say something.

The bird looked around the room, then at her, and said, "New house, new madam."

The woman was a bit shocked at the implication, but then thought "that's really not so bad."

When her two teenage daughters returned from school the bird saw them and said, "New house, new madam, new girls."

The girls and the woman were a bit offended but then began to laugh about the situation, considering how and where the parrot had been raised.

Soon after, the woman's husband Keith came home from work.

The bird looked at him and said, "Hi, Keith."

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ground. Having looked at the Army Messes, I think we will be going to other function venues with more relaxed requirements. If anyone out there would like to have an input for a function, we would love to hear from you.

There are a lot of things in the pipeline with the Federal Corps Committee. We will hear more about that soon.

To all our Corps members who are going to fresher pastures or are being posted back to the other side of Australia, on behalf of our members, I wish you all the very best for the future. For those who are on active service, God Speed, and we look forward to your safe return home.

May I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and peace and happiness for 2006.

John Klein  
Arte et Marte.

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### **Craftsmen Also Died On The Burma Railway**

By COL T.R. Beaton – Corps Historian  
Sixty three years ago on 15 February 1942, Lieutenant General H. Percival surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army Commander in Malaya, General Tomoyuki Yamashita. In surrendering to the "Tiger of Malaya", the British Malayan Command forced into captivity around 80,000 Commonwealth troops, including over 20,000 Australians. The Aussies came from the Australian 8<sup>th</sup> Division, which had valiantly fought down the unfortified West Coast of Malaya, through Jahore Bahru and had then fiercely opposed Japanese landings on Singapore until the surrender.

Contrary to common knowledge, prisoners were not initially housed in the renowned Changi Gaol, but instead sent to more than fifteen makeshift POW camps spread throughout Singapore. The infamous Gaol was originally used by the Japanese to hold male and fe-

male ex-pat civilian internees and their children. This situation did not change until the Changi airport was built by POWs in May 1944. Then once all civilian internees had been relocated, all POWs were shifted from Selerang Barracks on the Changi Peninsula to the Gaol, so that Japanese aircrews could be billeted in the vacated Barracks.

Once all POWs were confined after the surrender, the Japanese began a programme to persuade native troops in the Indian, Malayan and Singaporean Armies to defect and fight for the Japanese cause. Under skillful propaganda the Japanese claimed that their just cause was to rid Asia of all Western Imperialism and to make "Asia for Asian". Some 30,000 native troops defected to the Japanese cause, with the majority forming the basis of the Indian National Army, which fought alongside Japanese troops to force the British out of Burma and India. Of the 50,000 remaining Caucasian prisoners, by 1944 all but about 5,000, had been systematically sent on working parties throughout SE Asia and the Pacific as forced labourers to help the Japanese war machine. One of the most notorious projects was the building of a 415 km light railway linking the existing British built state railways in Thailand and Burma. This infamous railway became known as the Burma railway or the "Death Railway", due to the loss of over 110,000 lives during its construction as a result of starvation, deprivation and extreme brutality.

General knowledge of the Burma railway is unfortunately limited to an academy award winning movie directed by David Lean called "The Bridge On The River Kwai". Although a great movie with fine acting and moving music, the movie was actually made from a fictitious story written by French author Pierre Buole in 1952, based on an actual

event, but which has little factual content. Moreover, the movie was shot in Ceylon and the actors blew up a wooden bridge that did not look like any bridge ever built on the railway. In reality the steel spans of the real bridge across the Mae Khlong River (now renamed the Kwai Yai River to conform with this popular movie), were stolen from the Batavia Railway in East Java and is one of only eight steel and concrete bridges out of the total of 688 bridges built by the Japanese railway engineers. The remainder were made from timber, which POWs had to fell, move to the site and haul into position.

As usual, most people when discussing the railway think only about the men from the fighting units, which would have been captured with the Fall of Singapore. Yet there were tradesmen repairing equipment throughout the Orbat for the Australian 8<sup>th</sup> Division. Unit names included those possibly unknown to today's young soldiers, such as LADs, Fd Wksps, Medium Wksp or Base Ordnance Wksp – there were no TSSUs in those days. At the time of the Fall of Singapore, responsibility for the maintenance of Army equipment was primarily an Ordnance responsibility, which had a dual supply and repair role. Other Corps, like RAE, also had their own integral workshop support. The birth of AEME came from the sands of the desert, when it was decided to centralize all repair and maintenance functions into one technical organisation, thereby creating our Corps on 1 December 1942. However for most POWs, that was the last thing on their minds, as they were trying to survive the next three and a half years of captivity and starvation. In fact, most never even knew of the Corps formation until well after their liberation from POW camps throughout Asia and Japan following cessation of hostilities

on 15 Aug 45.

On ANZAC Day 2005, the Commemoration Service held in the beautifully maintained War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi, where 1,362 Australian servicemen are buried, presented a rare opportunity to search for the graves of the eight Australian EME tradesman who have rested there for nearly 60 years. I managed to find three graves. Interestingly, the headstones of the two "Crafties" and one Corporal had all been marked as having belonged to the "**Corps of Elec. & Mech. Engineers**". Knowing that the original graves in 1946 had been marked by a 1m high white wooden cross with just their number, name and initial, this Corps identification confirmed that the placement of the bronze plaque, to replace the cross, occurred before the end of 1948, as RAEME was granted its "Royal" title on 10 Nov 48. The various inscriptions at the bottom of each plaque were wording provided by their respective families, following official notification of their confirmed deaths.

According to the Cemetery Registers, the eight AEME personnel in this cemetery are listed as follows:

**BRADLEY Pte Benjamin Walter - 84 LAD (AEME) died 23 Dec 43, age 33,**

**BROWN Cfn William John - 2/4 Fd Wksps (AEME) died 24 Jul 43, age 42.**

**CURTIN Pte Norman William - 2/4 Fd Wksps (AEME) died 11 Dec 43, age 27**

**HUTCHINSON Pte Harry - 2/10 Ord Fd Wksp (AAOC) died 6 Jan 44, age 30**

**NEALE Pte John Graham – 87 LAD (AEME) died 13 Dec 43, age 27**

**PETERSON Cpl James, Horace – 2/4 Fd Wksps (AEME) died 6 Aug 43, age 31**

as well, but he refused and said, "Because I don't believe you are over 21." The robber said he was, but the clerk still refused to give it to him because he didn't believe him. At this point the robber took his driver's license out of his wallet and gave it to the clerk. The clerk looked it over, and agreed that the man was in fact over 21 and he put the scotch in the bag. The robber then ran from the store with his loot. The cashier promptly called the police and gave the name and address of the robber that he got off the license. They arrested the robber two hours later.

8. A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record shop nervously waving revolvers. The first one shouted, "Nobody move!" When his partner moved, the startled first bandit shot him.

9. Arkansas: Seems this guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. Seems the liquor store window was made of Plexi-Glass. The whole event was caught on videotape.

10. Ann Arbor: The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 12:50 am, flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

### **This Year's DARWIN Awards**

Yes, it's that magical time of the year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honouring the least Evolved among us. This is the purging of the gene pool by natural selection. Here

then, are the winners!

1. When his 38-calibre revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.....

And now, the honourable mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

3. A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash

### Jim's Life in the US

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

#### Top 10 Winners in the 'Not Playing With a Full Deck' Contest...

1. I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control centre. Today, this woman called in very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down, and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants. I told her that she better bring her daughter into the Emergency Room right away.

2. Seems that a year ago, some Boeing employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. When they took it for a float on the river, they were surprised by a Coast Guard helicopter coming towards them. It turned out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator that is activated when the raft is inflated. They are no longer employed there.

3. A true story out of San Francisco: A man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the branch and wrote "this iz a stikk-up. Put all your munny in this bag." While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller window. So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to Wells Fargo Bank. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it and surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbour, told him that she could not accept his stick-up note because it was written on a

Bank of America deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America. Looking somewhat defeated, the man said "OK" and left. The Wells Fargo teller then called the police who arrested the man a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.

4. A motorist was unknowingly caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. He later received in the mail a ticket for \$40 and a photo of his car. Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of \$40. Several days later, he received a letter from the police that contained another picture... of handcuffs.

5. A woman was reporting her car as stolen, and mentioned that there was a car phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone and told the guy that he had read the ad in the newspaper and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet, and the thief was arrested.

6. R.C. Gaitlan, 21, walked up to two patrol officers who were showing their squad car computer equipment to children in a Detroit neighbourhood. When he asked how the system worked, the officer asked him for identification. Gaitlan gave them his drivers license, they entered it into the computer, and moments later they arrested Gaitlan because information on the screen showed Gaitlan was wanted for a two year old armed robbery in St. Louis, Missouri.

7. Guy walked into a little corner store with a shotgun and demanded all the cash from the cash drawer. After the cashier put the cash in a bag, the robber saw a bottle of scotch that he wanted behind the counter on the shelf. He told the cashier to put it in the bag

causing less POW casualties.

#### 100 Hours of Hope begins

WHAT: Exercise Countdown - Walking Towards a Cure, 100hour-charity walk

WHERE: The Carillon, Lake Burley Griffin

WHEN: 0745 for 0800 start, Wednesday 23 November

MAJGEN Michael Clifford, Head Information Capability Management Division, started walkers on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November when Exercise Countdown - Walking Towards a Cure began.

Exercise Countdown started when Warrant Officer (WO) Mick Spring decided he wanted to raise much-needed funds for breast cancer research and support services in the ACT following his wife's battle with breast cancer.

"I wanted to do something positive to say thank you to all those people who helped Donna during her treatment for breast cancer,' Mick said.

"We are currently aiming to raise at least \$30,000 for The Cancer Council ACT and are well on the way there, but we still need as many people as possible to come and support us.'

"Participation was open to all and for only \$2 we could all get some exercise and help support The Cancer Council ACT."

The walk commenced at 0800 Wednesday and finished 1200, Sunday. There were more than 500 walkers registered to take part.

**Ed's Note:** What Mick and his colleagues have done is really worthy of a great deal of praise. The members of the committee suggest that members of the Association who would to let Mick know that his efforts are appreciated can send donations to him

**PURCELL Cfn Matthew - 2/4 Fd Wksp (AEME) died 2 Jul 43, age 31**

**WHARTON S/Sgt Kenneth – Base Ord Wksp (AAOC) died 9 Apr 44, age 29**

Of the three graves photographed, each enlisted in a separate state. Brown was from VIC (VX40679), Peterson was from SA (SX11322) and Purcell was from NSW (NX36170). By comparison with the death of those from the Infantry Battalions, our AEME men were far older in age. Also apart from the four who had died from 2/4 Fd Wksp, the percentage loss of life was much lower than the Infantry Battalions. Whether this was due to lower percentages of AEME on the railway or due to a better ability to survive, will never be known. In addition, as the Japanese used POWs to operate their railway workshops, sawmills and blacksmith shops, it is highly probable that these deaths resulted from Allied bombing raids on marshalling yards and workshop facilities, rather than through disease and malnutrition. It is therefore sad to think that these eight men and their REME counterparts, shown in the photograph taken of the Memorial Wall, were probably killed by so-called "friendly fire". The reason why the REME names appear engraved on a sandstone wall and not with individual bronze plaques is because their remains were never found or positively identified. Which therefore gives credence to the theory that they may have died due to Allied raids, because the American "carpet bombing" often resulted in large loss of life in the POW camps located near to targets. In Nong Pladuk POW camp, adjacent to the marshalling yards, 79 Dutch POWs were killed in one raid by US B-24 Liberators flying from China. Fortunately the RAF, using mixed crews of British, Australian, NZ and Canadian airman flying Liberators from India, attacked targets from lower altitudes

for the **Walking Towards a Cure, 100 hour Charity Walk C/- WO1 Mick SPRING, R1-1-A070, Russell Offices, CANBERRA ACT 2600.**

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### **ARMYGEDDON Unleashed**

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Peter Leahy, today unleashed Army's newest vehicle at the Summernats 19 launch.

Called 'ARMYGEDDON', this is one amazing vehicle. Its unique capabilities will attract the attention of those who really know about Street Machines.

"Summernats is a fantastic event to launch this vehicle and the opportunities available in the Army for those interested in technical trades," LTGEN Leahy said.

"This vehicle can do what others can only dream about - driving any wheel, or wheels, while holding the others still."

"This is an outstanding piece of machinery. Anyone can do a normal burn-out, only this vehicle can do these incredible combinations.'

"The maintenance and operation of the Army Street Machine will provide opportunities for trainees to gain experience in a technical project that complements their formal Army training.'

"I am very proud to say it's one of the Army's newest, and coolest, recruiting tools."

The vehicle is based on a 6x6 Landrover with extensive high performance modification to the engine and drive train. The cabin has been modified and painted in a distinctive pattern while the tray is entirely custom built by Initial Trade Trainees.

"The Army is widely recognised as providing excellent skills, training and

6

nationally recognised qualifications across a broad range of careers. I believe this project will raise the profile of some of the technical trades available as well as promoting the Army as a varied and interesting career to a key target market - young people," LTGEN Leahy said.

Its easy to find information on a career in the Army - either visit the [www.defencejobs.gov.au](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au) web site or contact 13 19 01.

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### **A Mate's Quest - To Find Those Missing In Action In Vietnam**

Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence De-Anne Kelly recently acknowledged the efforts of Mr Jim Bourke and supporters of the Operation Aussies Home organisation in trying to locate the remains of Australian Defence Force personnel declared 'missing in action' in Vietnam.

"The Government is committed to resolving 'missing in action' cases and has a proud record in recovering missing Australian Defence Force personnel. Recent recoveries in Germany and Papua are testament to this," Mrs Kelly said.

"The ADF is also very mindful of not raising the hopes of the missing servicemen's next of kin and their comrades and will only search when there is sufficient evidence available. Further investigations will only be undertaken with the full support of the families as their welfare and wishes are of paramount importance and must be respected at all times.

"Mr Bourke of the Operation Aussies Home organisation has met with me and has kept me informed during his team's visit to Vietnam. The team met with Australian and United States officials, including former soldiers who were involved in the military actions,

27

to the fire department that brings them out intact."

But the roaring flames held the fire-fighters off.

Soon more fire departments had to be called in as the situation became desperate. As the firemen arrived, the president shouted out that the offer was now \$100,000 to the fire department who could bring out the company's secret files.

From the distance, a lone siren was heard as another fire truck came into sight. It was the nearby Irish rural township volunteer fire company composed mainly of Irishmen over the age of 65. To everyone's amazement, that little run-down fire engine roared right past all the newer sleek engines that were parked outside the plant. Without even slowing down it drove straight into the middle of the inferno.

Outside, the other firemen watched as the Irish old timers jumped off right in the middle of the fire fought it back on all sides. It was a performance and effort never seen before.

Within a short time, the Irish old timers had extinguished the fire and had saved the secret formulas.

The grateful chemical company president announced that for such a superhuman feat he was upping the reward to \$200,000, and walked over to personally thank each of the brave fire fighters.

The local TV news reporter rushed in to capture the event on film, asking their chief, "What are you going to do with all that money?"

"Well," said Shamus O' Foggerty, the 70-year-old fire chief, "Da first ting we gonna do is fix da brakes on dat darned truck!"

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### **Little Johnny**

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started

her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks you're stupid, stand up!" After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Little Johnny?" "No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Giving up?"

The math teacher saw that little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, "Johnny! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?" Little Johnny quickly replied, "NBC, CBS, HBO and the Cartoon Network!"

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person "Yes," said the policeman. The detectives want very badly to capture him." Little Johnny asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool.! Johnny

her the word, 'comfortable'?"

The brunette explains, "My sister's a blonde. The word's big. She'll read it slowly...out loud... (**"com-for-da-bul"**)."

### How To Get Leave

I urgently needed a few days off work, but I knew the Boss would not allow me to take a leave. I thought that maybe if I acted "CRAZY" then he would tell me to take a few days off.

So I hung upside down on the ceiling and made funny noises. My co-worker (who's blonde) asked me what I was doing?

I told her that I was pretending to be a light bulb so that the Boss would think I was "CRAZY" and give me a few days off.

A few minutes later the Boss came into the office and asked! "What are you doing?"

I told him I was a light bulb, he said! "You are clearly stressed out, go home and recuperate for a couple of days".

I jumped down and walked out of the office. When my co-worker (the blonde) followed me, the Boss asked her!

"And where do you think you're going?" She said! "I'm going home too, I can't work in the dark!"

### Twins - Blonde joke

My wife, who is blonde, came running up to me in the driveway, the other day, just jumping for joy! I didn't know why she was jumping for joy but I thought, what the heck and I started jumping

up and down along with her. When she said, "Honey, I have some really great news for you!"

I said, "Great. Tell me what you're so happy about."

She stopped jumping and was breathing heavily from all the jumping up and down, when she told me that she was pregnant!

I was ecstatic! We had been trying for a while, so I grabbed her and kissed her on the lips and told her, "That's great! I couldn't be happier!"

Then, she said "Oh, honey. There's more."

I asked, "What do you mean 'more'?"

She said, "Well, we are not having just! one baby. We are going to have TWINS!"

Amazed at how she could know so soon after getting pregnant, I Asked her how she knew.

She said, "Well, that was the easy part. I went to K-Mart and bought the twin-pack home pregnancy test kit and both tests came out positive!"

### The Fire Truck

One dark night outside a small town in Wisconsin, a fire started inside the local chemical plant and in a blink of an eye it exploded into massive flames. The alarm went out to all the fire departments for miles around.

When the volunteer fire fighters appeared on the scene, the chemical company president rushed to the fire chief and said, "All our secret formulas are in the vault in the centre of the plant. They must be saved. I will give \$50,000

### 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.

about the possible location of the Australian servicemen's remains.

"While the passage of time has made the task in finding the remains of those missing more difficult, Mr Bourke's team will shortly present the findings of their investigations. The report will then be considered by Defence to determine the best way forward.

"Mr Bourke and his team should be commended for their unstinting efforts in trying to bring closure to these missing in action cases."

Mrs Kelly said that there were six Australians that remain listed as missing in action or missing presumed dead in

Vietnam. Of the six, four are Army members and two are Air Force.

### Sick List

We have a couple of our members who have had rather a rough time lately.

#### **John Power**

First we have John Power. John broke his heel bone in three places a little while ago and is still on crutches. When asked how he did it, he said, "Wasn't Easy!!!!" John still found time to do some courses with DVA and the TIP Training scheme. He has finished his Pension Officer's Course and has only one remaining course to do and he will have his name on page two of

### Bayswater Hotel

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information can be supplied by the Secretary.

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

the Horse's Mouth as our DVA Advocate. How he managed to go through the training courses with TIP and be on crutches at the same time shows the measure of the man. John is keen to step into the breach and we wish him well in the work he will be undertaking in the not to distant future. We also wish him "Happy Healing" (pardon the pun).

### **Denise McWhinnie**

The next person on our sick list is none other than our stalwart member Denise McWhinnie. Denise asked me to tell her story as a warning to our members. So here goes. Denise was one of the happiest people you would want to meet as all who knew her would agree. Then one day she dropped her electric toothbrush. Now that doesn't appear to be too much of a problem and most of us would say "Oh! Bother" or words to that effect. Unfortunately, Denise's toothbrush fell pointy end first and stuck into her left foot. Pretty unusual thing to happen and a fairly rare accident. However, not only did it stick into her foot, but severed one of the main nerves that controls foot movement.

What followed was four years of intense and debilitating pain, and wearing a big steel boot to try and relieve the pain. The culmination of the pain resulted, a few weeks ago, with Denise having to have her left leg amputated below her knee. Now this is surgery that we wouldn't wish on anybody. Before the surgery, Denise was suffering quite extreme pain and it showed even though she didn't speak about. Her and her husband, Mal, also a member, treated it as their own private hell. Top marks to both, they maintained their outside interests, even though they may have preferred to stay at home.

Clare and I had lunch with Denise before she went into hospital and it was quite obvious to us the level of pain she

had. We next saw her the day after her surgery and what a change in her. She no longer had the pain and she looked much fresher and happier. In fact, it was the old Denise back, quick to smile and laugh again. Her thoroughly warped sense of humour has returned. When we next visited her (and broke her out of the ward and escaped to the Coffee Shop) we saw that she had drawn a face on the bandaging on her leg and called it "Sally". Later she remarked that her grand daughter suggested that her new leg should be called Amber (after her grand daughter). So there we are now, Sally will meet Amber in the very near future.

Seriously Denise, its great to see you back with your quick wit and happy smile. Now all we have to do is bust you out of Hospital permanently and get you back to our monthly meetings. We all know that you and Mal have had a very trying time, but our very best wishes go to you both and we will see the new Denise in the very near future.

### **Trevor Forward**

My cousin, the well known "Short Stuff", came to grief about 4 weeks ago. He was driving down the road to work when another driver came out from a side street and turned right in front of him resulting in a head on crash. Trevor cannot remember anything of the accident except that he was informed by the police that he was not in the wrong. All he can remember is that he woke up in Royal Perth Hospital full of tubes and other "hangy-ons". He suffered five broken ribs and a cracked right Clavicle along with a large number of bruises. It appears as if he threw his arm up in front of his face and the collision drove his arm and spectacles back into his eyes. He is just starting to regain his sight. He is now at home recovering and will be quite some time before he starts out on his paper delivery again. His de-

## **Life According to Perry**

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

### **Golf & Old Age**

80 year old man went to the doctor for a checkup and the doctor was amazed at what good shape the guy was in.

The doctor asked, "To what do you attribute your good health?"

The old timer said, "I'm a golfer & that's why I'm in such good shape. I'm up well before daylight & out golfing up and down the fairways.

The doctor said, "Well, I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your dad when he died?"

The old timer said, "Who said my dad's dead?"

The doctor said, "You mean you're 80 years old and your dad's still alive? How old is he?"

The old timer said, "He's 100 yrs old and, in fact, he golfed with me this morning...and that's why he's still alive... he's a golfer."

The doctor said, "Well, that's great, but I'm sure There's more to it. How about your dad's dad? How old was he when he died?"

The old timer said, "Who said my grandpa's dead?"

The doctor said, "You mean you're 80 years old and your grand-father's still living! How old is he?"

The old timer said, "He's 118 years old."

The doctor was getting frustrated at this point and said, "I guess he went golfing with you this morning too?"

The old timer said, "No..... Grandpa couldn't go this morning because he got married."

The doctor said in amazement, "Got married! Why would a 118-year-old guy want to get married?"

The old timer said, "Who said he wanted to?"

### **Two Sisters**

This deserves a ten out of ten. It, however, was sent in by Anonymouse, the one that the lynch mob is still looking for.

Two sisters, one blonde and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble.

In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch they need to purchase a bull so that they can breed their own stock. Upon leaving to check out a good prospect, the brunette tells her sister, "Now, when I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home."

The brunette arrives at the man's ranch, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it.

After paying him the \$599 asking price, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news.

She walks into the telegraph office, and says, "I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home."

The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, then adds, "It's just 99 cents a word."

Well, after paying for the bull, the brunette has only \$1 left, meaning she'll only be able to send her sister a one-word message. After thinking for a few minutes, she nods, and says, "I want you to send her the word...'comfortable'."

The telegraph operator shakes his head. "How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send



those!"

"I really am terribly sorry", says the young assistant..... I've just realised I was playing you the bee side."

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### **Mary Poppins**

Mary Poppins was travelling home, but due to worsening weather, she decided to stop at a hotel for the night. She approached the receptionist and asked for a room for the night.

"Certainly madam," he replied courteously.

"Is the restaurant open still?" inquired Mary.

"Sorry, no," came the reply, "but room service is available all night.

Would you care to select something from this menu?"

Mary smiled and took the menu and perused it. "Hmm, I would like cauliflower cheese please," said Mary.

"Certainly, madam," he replied.

"And can I have breakfast in bed?" asked Mary politely.

The receptionist nodded and smiled.

"In that case, I would love a couple of poached eggs, please," Mary mused.

After confirming the order, Mary signed in and went up to her room for the night.

The night passed uneventfully and the next morning Mary came down early to check out. The same guy was still on the desk.

"Morning madam...sleep well?"

"Yes, thank you," Mary replied.

"Food to your liking?"

"Well, I have to say the cauliflower cheese was exceptional, I don't think I have had better. Shame about the eggs, though....they really weren't that nice at all," replied Mary truthfully.

"Oh...well, perhaps you could contrib-

ute these thoughts to our Guest Comments Book. We are always looking to improve our service and would value your opinion," said the receptionist.

"OK, I will...thanks!" replied Mary...who checked out, then scribbled a comment into the book. Waving, she left to continue her journey.

Curious, the receptionist picked up the book to see the comment Mary had written.

"Supercauliflowercheese-buteggs were quite atrocious"

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### **Gotta Love Medicare!**

The phone rang. The lady of the house answered, "Yes?"

"Mrs. Ward, please."

"Speaking."

"Mrs. Ward, this is Dr. Jones at the Medical Testing Laboratory. When your doctor sent your husband's samples to the lab, the samples from another Mr. Ward were sent as well and we are now uncertain which one is your husband's. Frankly, either way, the news..." he hesitated, "it is either bad or terrible."

"What do you mean?" Mrs. Ward asked.

"Well, one Mr. Ward tested positive for Alzheimer's and the other for AIDS. We can't tell which is your husband's."

"That's terrible! Can we do the test over?" questioned Mrs. Ward.

"Normally, yes. But Medicare won't pay for these expensive tests more than once."

"Well, what am I supposed to do now?"

"The people at Medicare recommend that you drop your husband off in the middle of town. If he finds his way home, don't have sex with him."

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livery van was a complete "write-off". Shorty is very lucky to have a close family that have taken over the reins and are looking after his business for him.

Get Well, Trevor, we will be seeing you around the traps very soon, I feel sure.

### **The Beor Family**

This is not exactly a sick call. But it still involved a Hospital (St John of God's, Subiaco, to be precise). The Association would like to congratulate Michelle and Perry BEOR for the birth of Georgina Rose BEOR. Georgina was 50 cms long and 3.78 kg at birth. In the old money, 19.7 inches and 8 lb 5 ozs. She was born at 1927 hours on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2005. We are all sure that Peter will be looking after his little sister for the next 20 or so years. With Michelle and Perry as parents she will have a wonderful life.

John Curtis

**Eds Note:** If you know someone out there who is not in the best of health, let us know. Maybe we can do something that eases their problem for them.

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### **Australia To Bolster United Nations Monitoring Program In Korea**

The Australian Defence Force will provide additional help to the United Nations in its efforts to build confidence between North and South Korea.

An ADF Army Warrant Officer has been appointed to be the first Australian in the international team monitoring the border crossings between the north and the south. The confidence building process is seen as a prerequisite to an ultimate peace agreement.

Although Australia had supported the Armistice for the last 52 years it remained as important as ever that we continue to work towards the reduction of tension and ultimately peace and

security on the Korean Peninsula.

The Warrant Officer will be attached to the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) and will work out of Camp Bonifas, within the De-Militarised Zone. Australia currently has two other ADF members who contribute to the United Nations Command and the Armistice Commission.

The Warrant Officer will be tasked with monitoring the movement of stores, equipment and supplies through Transport Corridor West, which is the western link to the major new industrial zone Kaeyson that is currently under construction just north of the border.

He will be part of a team that authorises the increasing exchange of materials and goods between the north and south that is growing each month and will also authorise people to move through the De-Militarised Zone and cross the border. The team also investigates and resolves any dispute during the trading process.

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### **Official History project**

John,

See below about the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and Post-Cold War Operations Official History project being undertaken by Professor David Horner and the AWM. David had contacted me about my time with the UN Mine Clearance Training Team in Pakistan/Afghanistan; his current area of focus. He is keen to speak with other Sappers, and those few RAInf, who were part of the UNMCTT missions.

Please circulate amongst your mailing list.

Those who would like to contribute should contact the AWM, or David directly. I gather that David will act as the conduit for all missions mentioned below, but the UNMCTT is key interest right now.

Cheers,  
Mick Lavers

### **Official History project**

In February 2004 the Federal Cabinet agreed that the Australian War Memorial should proceed with an Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and Post-Cold War Operations and appointed me as the Official Historian (and general editor). The approved scope of the Official History was to be all multi-national operations and post-Cold War operations in which Australia has participated since 1947, excluding the recent operations in East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq (2003). The Cabinet agreed that all relevant Government records, including Cabinet records, subject to appropriate security clearances, be made available to the Official Historian and members of his team. Further, the Cabinet agreed that the history would not be subject to censorship and direction of any kind, although the Government reserved the right to prevent the use of information of the kinds set out in section 33(1) of the Archives Act 1983.

The official history consists of a four-volume series as follows:

I. Australia's contributions to peacekeeping missions that began between 1947 and 1987. These will include missions in Indonesia, Korea, Kashmir, the Middle East, Congo, Cyprus, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and Uganda. (To be written by Dr Peter Londey)

II. Australia's contributions to peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations that (with the exception of Cambodia) began between 1988 and 1991. These will include operations in Namibia, Iran, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Western Sahara, the Persian Gulf, Kuwait and Iraq. (To be written by Professor David Horner)

III. Australia's contributions to peace

keeping and peace enforcement operations that began from 1992 onwards (except for Cambodia that began in 1991), but not including those in close proximity to Australia. These will include operations in Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Haiti, Guatemala, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. (To be written by Dr John Connor)

IV. Australia's contributions to peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations in its immediate neighbourhood since the mid 1990s. These will include operations in Bougainville, the Solomon Islands and East Timor (if approved later). (Author yet to be appointed) This is a joint project of the Australian War Memorial and the Australian National University, with additional funding from the Australian Department of Defence. Further funds have been provided by a grant of \$1 million from the Australian Research Council. Details of the project and profiles of me and my staff can be found on the AWM website at: <<http://www.awm.gov.au/research/peacekeeping> .

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### **The Bitch!!!! And Tiger Lyons**

Dear John,  
This is part of Tiger's eulogy  
Regards Charles.

"The Bitch"

In 1970 while on operational service with 1 SAS Sqn in South Vietnam Tiger displayed the initiative, innovativeness and dedication for which he was renowned. SAS Patrols were armed with a variety

that time all the city boys are buggered because we've been on a 'route march' - geez its only just like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!! This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting awards for shooting - dunno why.

The bullseye is as big as a bloody possum's bum and it don't move and its not firing back at yer like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka [State Rural Exhibition Show] last year! All yer gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target - its a piece of cake!! You don't even load your own cartridges - they comes in little boxes and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes yer gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster. Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got. I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers - he's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet. But I fought him till the other blokes carried me off to the boozer. I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how bloody good it is.

Your loving daughter, Jill.

### **A Sad Story**

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it's worth reflecting on the death of a very important person which went virtually unnoticed last week

Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey," died peacefully at the grand old age of 93. The most traumatic

part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in  
And then the trouble started.

### **From Anonymouse**

**Eds Note:** We don't want a lynching. Anonymouse was chased for 3 months last time. Here is an offering that is sure to raise up another lynch mob.

Brian, the world expert on European wasps and the sounds that they make, is taking a stroll down his local high street. As he passes by the record shop, a sign catches his eye. "Just Released - New LP - Wasps of the World & the sounds that they make - available now"

Unable to resist the temptation, Brian goes into the shop. "I am the world expert on European wasps and the sounds that they make. I'd very much like to listen to the new LP you have advertised in the window."

"Certainly, Sir," says the young man behind the counter. "If you'd like to step into the booth and put on the headphones, I'll put the LP on for you."

Brian, world expert on European wasps, goes into the booth and puts on the earphones. Ten minutes later, he comes out of the booth and announces, "I am the World expert on European wasps and the sounds that they make and yet I recognised none of those."

"I'm sorry Sir", says the young assistant. "If you'd care to step into the booth, I can let you have another 10 minutes."

Brian, the world expert on European wasps and the sounds they make, steps back into the booth and replaces the headphones. Ten minutes later, he comes out of the booth shaking his head. "I don't understand it", he says, "I am the world expert on European wasps and the sounds that they make, and yet I still can't recognise any of

ing natural means has been totally misrepresented in some quarters.

I made an official protest about these matters when the head of the Australian Legation visited us at the Police Station the next morning. However, not only did Ambassador Downey not attempt to refute the preposterous allegations made against me and my soldiers crew, but also failed to secure our release immediately.

I trust that now I have outlined the correct version of events, we may allow ourselves a discreet smile as to the lack of social sophistication of some of these developing nations and put all this behind us. In my opinion my soldiers behaved in accordance with the finest Australian Army traditions.

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### Military Rules

“A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what’s left of your unit.” - Army’s magazine of preventive maintenance.

“Aim towards the Enemy.” - Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

“When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend.” - U.S. Marine Corps

“Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground.” - USAF Ammo Troop

“If the enemy is in range, so are you.” - Infantry Journal

“It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.” - U.S. Air Force Manual

“Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.” - Gen. MacArthur

“You, you, and you . Panic. The rest of you, come with me.” - U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.

“Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo.” - Infantry Journal

“Tracers work both ways.” - U.S. Army Ordnance

“Five second fuses only last three seconds.” - Infantry Journal

“Don’t ever be the first, don’t ever be the last, and don’t ever volunteer to do anything.” - U. S Navy Swabbie

“Bravery is being the only one who knows you’re afraid.” – David Hackworth

“If your attack is going too well, you’re walking into an ambush.” - Infantry Journal

“No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.” - Joe Gay

“Any ship can be a minesweeper... once.” - Anon

“Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.” – Unknown Marine Recruit

“Don’t draw fire; it irritates the people around you.” - Your Buddies

“If you see a bomb technician running, follow him.” - USAF Ammo Troop

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### Army Life

Dear Mum & Dad,  
I am well. Hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin’ on the farm - tell them to get in bloody quick smart before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don’t hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all you gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No bloody cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack - nothin’!!

Blokes haz gotta shave though, but its not so bad, coz there’s lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing! At brekky ya get cereal, fruit and eggs but there’s no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like wot Mum makes. You don’t get fed again until noon, and by

of small arms weapons but primarily the SLR and the M16. SLR’s were modified to allow automatic fire but attempts to shorten the length of the weapon had been limited to cutting off the end of the barrel.

Another member of 1 SAS Sqn had purchased a SLR on the black market and offered it to Tiger for experimentation. Tiger disappeared into his workshop and after a few days produced a plan to miniaturise part of the operating system. He removed and shortened the gas chamber, gas piston and spring; removed a section of the barrel but re-attached the flash eliminator; and produced a weapon that was shorter than the standard M 16. After many test firings by pulling the trigger with a piece of nylon cord while protected behind sandbags Tiger declared his creation a success.

The weapon was never given a name, but it sounded like a .50 calibre heavy machine gun, it emitted a flame approximately a metre long and it terrified those in close proximity, both forward of the flash and behind the stock.

Greg Mawkes.

**Ed’s Note:** Thanks, Greg, for letting us know a bit more about our own Corps History. A lot of these little gems go missing and are never recorded. Now we have done so in memory of Tiger.

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**“Our Past Determines The Future”**  
by Terry Beaton (Corps Historian)

At the recent Corps Seminar at Bandiana, I was given the honour to present a short historical address to the Officers’ Corps Dinner at ALTC on 20 Oct 05. Many assembled there did not know me from a ‘bar of soap’, as I was from the past – especially in their eyes!. But having sat through the first day of the Corps Seminar, I pointed out to them, that problems they were facing today, were exactly the same problems

we faced over twenty years ago and that history was only repeating itself again, as the Army keeps reinventing itself without looking at lessons in the past. I also pointed out that decisions that were made twenty years ago are now quite evidently causing a majority of the more pressing issues being suffered by the Corps today, like Production Clerks. It is essential that we realise that **“we are, from where we came from, which will determine where we are going”**. I highlighted to the dinner that from my past experiences and listening to the Seminar, it had confirmed that the only “certain thing” about life in the future was that one day we will all die at some time!!!

Contrary to many people’s belief, history is living, dynamic, repeats itself and significantly affects the future. More importantly, historical events, particularly wars, are caused by people and war is the mother of invention. Many luxuries we take for granted today, may never have been invented, if it had not been for the two World Wars.

How many readers realise that the Second World War would never have occurred if Hitler had not been born or that AEME would never have been formed, if it had been for Field Marshall Montgomery wanting to consolidate his repair capability to **“keep the fight in the Army’s fist”** in the sands of North Africa in 1942. Certainly few at the dinner even contemplated the thought that without this decision in the past, we would all still have been Ordnance Officers and therefore sitting in the old RAAOC Officers Mess would have been inevitable – regardless of the unpopular formation of the ALTC and the demise of RTC and the RAAOC Centre.

Using myself as an example I proved to the assembled gathering how history could be totally unforgiving today

and in the future for bad decisions made in the past, using my own inability to fit into “Blues” trousers, lack of hair and reduction in sexual prowess as highlights. This led to clarifying how events in the past will now affect the future of our own Corps Banner. Feedback confirmed that few young officers present knew its correct title as “The Prince Philip Banner” or that a decision made in 1982 is going to affect their future. Few present were aware that a formal approach by BRIG John Dean to our Colonel-in-Chief in 1982 requested it be called as such, rather than “the C-In-C Banner” as previously proposed by Prince Philip. When Prince Philip agreed to naming the Banner after its presenter, allegedly in accordance to Australian tradition, then his own personal cypher was incorporated into the top left corner above our revered RAEME emblem, with “1986” in the top right hand corner to commemorate its presentation on 20 May 1986 at the famous Banner Parade at the now disestablished RAEME Training Centre.

Now you may ask - so what? Well, that decision was made when the Duke was only 62. He is now 84 years of age and his future as our C-In-C is numbered and is now very much in the hands of the Royal Surgeon and his own well-being. With his eventual passing, use of his personal Cypher will also cease due to the Laws of Heraldry. This will mean that the banner should be laid up and a new banner acquired once it has been decided who will be the new C-In-C. Now some may argue that the Corps, which had HM The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret as their C-in-C, have not laid up their Banners with their passing. This may be due to two reasons: Firstly, they do not have a personal Cypher on the Banner and were pre-

sented as the C-In-C Banner; or their Corps Committees have logically sought dispensation for the fact that when HM The Queen passes away (she is also about 84 years old), all banners, emblems, rank and everything with a crown, will all have to be changed from a Queen’s Crown to a King’s Crown, as the next monarch will definitely be male, regardless if it is Prince Charles or William. The big question is that with the demise of RTC, all Logistic Workshops throughout Australia and a significant reduction in our manpower, will the Corps have the capability to ever mount another Banner parade? The last one took five years to plan, fund and execute.

I left the dinner with this thought –

***“In 1946 after winning the war, AEME was reduced from its built up force structure of 20, 813 to only 3,213 all ranks. By 1948, due to the lack of any perceived threat, it was further reduced to only 637 all ranks in Australia, with a few extras still deployed as part of BCOF in Japan. That was before the Korean War! You can see that regardless of political decisions, the Corps has continued to survive, withstanding ongoing unrealistic demands on its ever talented capability. We have survived due to the efforts of those who served in the Corps in the past, who enabled it to get it to where it is today and not part of an Amalgamated Logistic Corps . Now we of the past, entrust the continued survival of the Corps into the hands of every officer here tonight, because the Corps will always be derived from its most important foundation - “its people” and how they cope with decisions made by others. The future is in your hands – don’t stuff it up or we from the past will come and kick your backside into the future!!!”***

food were purchased against your credit card, with festivities being held in my hotel suite. An enjoyable evening ensued but insufficient supplies had been obtained, so several members of the company left for further purchases at a local bar.

In a truly magnanimous gesture, ten bar girls from that establishment helped carry the beer back to the hotel. To demonstrate our appreciation of their assistance, we served them some cool drink. They then offered to show us some local culture, and, in order not to offend, we allowed them to dance.

The banging on the walls of my room had, by now, quite honestly, become invasive, and it was disturbing the dancers, so we arranged an amusing little deterrent. LT Brown’s impersonation of a Police Officer was quite clever as he goose-stepped to each room and harangued the occupants with a very witty diatribe about disturbing hotel guests. I personally heard nothing of his alleged threats to life or limb in as claimed by the sister of the local Police Chief whose room was, unluckily, next door.

I suspect that this woman was the sneak who called security and hotel management but I absolutely refute that the shout “Stand To, enemy approaching!” was made. The simple coincidence of security arriving just as we stood the double bed on its side across the door to make the dance floor bigger is obvious. The major damage to the room occurred when a group of gatecrashers, whom we could not know were hotel security, forced their way in just as most of us happened to be leaning against the bed watching the dancing.

The subsequent events in the foyer of the hotel are an equally vicious distortion of the facts. I was explained the importance of the post activity celebrations to the General Manager of the hotel, and stated that other guests were obviously fabricating their stories of the

noise and drinking. CPL Smith and several others from HQ Coy (in keeping with their pursuit of physical fitness) organised the race up the drapes which hang along the foyer wall. It says little for the workmanship that the fittings were torn from the wall before most of the company was even halfway up.

At this stage SGT Williams, our Orderly Room SGT attempted to rescue the situation with her depth of knowledge of local culture. Her rendition of the Fertility Dancing Maiden in the foyer’s ‘Pool of Remembrance’ was nothing short of breathtaking. Normally this dance is performed wearing just a sarong skirt but SGT Williams’ extra step to “Au Natural” was a bold step forward. Unfortunately, during one intricate step, SGT Williams slipped and fell beneath the fountain, but we were lucky that SSGT Johnson had the great presence of mind to strip to avoid getting his uniform wet, leapt in to help.

The tiles of the pool were very slippery and it took nearly ten minutes of threshing about before he could actually complete his rescue. Such concern was there for these two exemplary member’s safety, that the many of company jumped in to assist, and I deny that this massed rescue attempt could be construed as a ‘Water Polo’ game!

Order had nearly been restored when the fire started. I prefer to CPL White’s version of events that the drapes had caught fire from being against a light fitting, and that he dropped his cigarette lighter whilst trying to escape the flames. Had hotel management fulfilled their responsibilities and used fire retardant material instead of velvet, the fire would not have spread to the rest of the hotel.

The responsible attitude shown by my soldiers in assisting the bar staff to carry out drinks from the cocktail party is to be commended, not condemned, and the attempt by many male members to extinguish pockets of fire us-

of the item, and explanation of its historical value to the Corps and your details so that they can be displayed on the explanatory plate as the donator.

I am happy to advise that the RAEME Association of Tasmania (RAT) has risen from the ashes due to the hard work of the new committee chaired by Russell Clark and now has a reported membership of 65. The RAT will be holding it's Corps Birthday Celebrations in Hobart at the Derwent Barracks on 11 Dec 06 and hope for a good turn out as the COLCOMDT will be attending for the first time in too many years.

Currently there are a number of interested bodies striving to raise Associations in Victoria. An attempt is being made to re-raise the Victorian RAEME Vietnam Vets Assoc, 106 Fd Wksp Assoc has a growing Victorian group. The RAEME Mafia, efficiently run by Jeff Bruhn, has attempted to plug the gap created by the cessation of the RAEME WOs/SNCOs Association. I highly applaud all such efforts and will offer my assistance wherever possible to help, as it is my outlook that I don't care how many groups form in "my patch", as long as they talk to each other and extend participation to all RAEME - former and serving -(ARA or ARES) in both Vic and Tas.

You may wish to note that 106 Fd Wksp Assoc (FWA) will be holding a "Back to Bandy" Reunion next year. At the Stump Bash on 21 Oct 05, there appeared to be some confusion about dates and concern that it may be too close to other activities planned by other Vietnam Vet groups. Hopefully organisers will send clarification to the COLCOMDT ASAP to eliminate the confusion. On 2 Dec 05 a RAEME Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be held at ANZAC House, including an AGM to attempt to raise the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association of

Victoria.

A project to update the Retired RAEME Officers' List, which has not been checked since 1999, has expanded into an ambitious project to capture all RAEME in Victoria and Tasmania- serving and former members - both ARA and ARES. After one week the Officers' List has increased from 127 to 185. Regrettably the project has also identified that Daryl Woolley died 4 years ago and Bob McNaught died in Apr 05. The WOs/SNCOs List is growing due to the Forms sent via the Mafia network, as is that for the OR group.

Nothing Further To Report

**Ed's Note:** In line with COL Beaton's project with the RAEME Officer's List, the WO's&SNCO's List and the OR's List, here in Western Australia we are going to do the same thing. It is felt that it is important that we maintain links with all our serving and retired members. Once we have worked out the questionnaire it will be sent out, possibly in the next issue of the Horse's Mouth. This project is entirely voluntary, but necessary to maintain links. Once in the Corps always in the Corps!!!!

### Please Explain

Makes one so proud to read the truth

Letter to his CO from a Captain answering his CO's "Request for further information."

Sir,

In your icy, indeed hostile, telephone call of yesterday, you requested a report about the alleged proceedings involving my soldiers. As the reports from the local authorities and the head of the Australian legation were undoubtedly a complete fabrication, I welcome the opportunity to put the truth of the matter forward.

Your kind offer to "buy a round of drinks" for the troops at the end of the deployment was taken and the CSM ensured that appropriate quantities of libation and

### Vietnam Veteran's National Museum

Dear Don,

Re Buy a Brick

On behalf of the President and Committee I would like to thank you for your contribution to "Buy a Brick". The detail of your brick is listed below. If we have made a error please notify us. We would appreciate it if you would encourage others to follow your example.

Our vision for the Museum is certainly becoming a reality, only made possible because of the generosity of people such as you. I have enclosed an update on the building of the new Museum to enable you to see the progress we are making.

Needless to say, our plans have generated a lot of interest and the Museum will be a focal point of the area for many years to come. The names of all that make up our "Wall of Bricks" will be a reminder forever of the people that made the Museum possible.

Your receipt is enclosed. I would like to remind you that your donation is a tax deduction.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

John Methven OAM  
President

**ED's Note:** This project is a worthwhile endeavour that has been recognised right throughout Australia. For any Veteran who would like to find out more about the "Buy a Brick" you should contact Don Phillips, or check the website for the museum at [www.vietnamvetmuseum.org](http://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org), for more details.

### Embassy of Kuwait

Any Gulf Veterans who are in the Canberra area that may want to attend the Kuwait Embassy for the Liberation

of Kuwait especially next year being the 15th Anniversary let me know and I will pass on your details to the Embassy.

Philip Steele  
Mandurah  
Western Australia  
[philip@southwest.com.au](mailto:philip@southwest.com.au)

Hello Mr. Steele

Thank you for your kind email. We appreciate your comments. The Embassy has the honour to advice you that the Embassy celebrate every year the Independence and the liberation day on the 25 - 26 of February. You are more than welcome to join us at our reception next year if that is OK with you.

The Embassy would be very pleased to welcome the veterans who are in Canberra to attend the reception, we look forward to have their names and full addresses so we can send the invitations for that event.

Once again, we thank you very much for keeping in touch with us, be sure that Kuwait will all ways appreciate those who participate in our freedom that we enjoy

Best Regards

### Can You Help?

Hi All,

If you can help with this request could you go direct to Arthur. The list on the end is very sad.

Jim  
From: arthur NEWMAN  
To: Jim HISLOP

Hello Jim

My name is Arthur "Artex" NEWMAN 7th intake Army Apprentice co ordinator for our intake nominal Roll of which in a week or two I will be able to send you an up-to-date Dec 2005 list

Of the 125 who graduated I have personally contacted 92

Of course we have the 25 deceased and the 8 Most Wanted I am also confirming death details for you

If you can shed any light on my most wanted list I would be most appreciative to receive a call

Many thanks  
ARTHUR

### 7th Intake MOST WANTED LIST

- 1.. L.W "Laurie" BENNETT
- 2.. R.L "Yank" BRADSHAW
- 3.. R.A "Junior" DAWSON
- 4.. J.B. "Joe" FLANAGAN
- 5.. K "Kevin" HOGAN
- 6.. B "Barry" MASON
- 7.. S.D.G "Snare head" PIERCE
- 8.. WRIGHT PJ (Peter) "Froggy"

If you know of their whereabouts of others on this list please get them to contact me or let me know **Arthur NEWMAN (07)5579 8839 P/Fax**

### DECEASED

- 1.. Bob (Pirie) BAHNERT (VM) S
- 2.. Eric BRADLEY (VM) Plane
- 3.. Alan BRADBURY (Tels)
- 4.. Steve CARTER (F&T)
- 5.. Heinz COOPS BLUME (F&T) VA
- 6.. I. DEANS (C&J) VA
- 7.. DP(cordite)DENNIS(Plumber)VA
- 8.. C. (Grilly) HAINES (F&T)
- 9.. Rex. JOHNSON (C&J)
- 10.. K (Arkabird) KING (F&T)
- 11.. John. (Tex) LEIGH (F&T)
- 12.. Lyle. MAISEY (VM) VA
- 13.. W (Bill). MOREY (VM)
- 14.. B. (Blair) PARSONS (C&J)
- 15.. P.(ZEKE)PLAISTED(F&T)Plane/VA
- 16.. Pete SKENE (F&T)
- 17.. R SMITH (Tels.)
- 18.. L (Blue) STIRLING (Tels.) C
- 19.. Ron. TOMPSON (VM) C
- 20.. Alan WALKER (Plumber) C
- 21.. C (Bluey) WALLER (Elec.) Heart
- 22.. Ian WATKINS (C&J)
- 23.. Harry WHYTE (Tels.)C
- 24.. Frank. WILLIAMS (B/Smith)S

25.. WILLIAMS WJC (C&J) VA

VA = Vehicle Accident

C = Cancer

Plane = Aircraft accident

Heart = Heart Attack

### Can we Help? Reg. Bailey

From: Mary & John Heppell  
<heppell2@bigpond.com>  
To: <curtisj@bigpond.net.au>

Hello John,

Reference our phone conversation. 15 Nov 2005. Photos wanted for family albums. The family of Reg Bailey [deceased 1983] would welcome photos for their family albums.

Reg served 19 years, including a tour of duty with 101 Field Workshop at his death. He was in Vietnam with SVNDET 1 DIV St WKSP Mar 69 - Oct 69.

Please contact son in law, email address: Peter1p@optusnet.com.au  
Phone: 08 9527 9772

Regards  
John Heppell

**Ed's Note:** If anyone has photographs of SVN DET 1 DIV ST WKSP in 1969, please go through them and see if you have a photo of Reg Bailey. The family may well appreciate photos of the Workshop to give them some idea of what Reg was up to when he was in Vietnam. To everyone else, if you can remember being with Reg in any of your postings, have a look and see if you have a photo of him. We feel sure that the family would appreciate any photo of Reg.

### Defence Focused On Implementing Government's Response To Military Justice Inquiry

Chief Marshal Angus Houston, recently welcomed the Government's response to the Senate Committee's report into the Australian Military Justice System.

### 40th Anniversary Deployments of RAE Units to South Vietnam – August 2006

Dear All

Please mark your calendars and pass to all asunder, cooks, medics, RAEME, RA.AOC, AATTV, Civil Affairs, that there is planned a reunion to mark the 40th anniversary of the deployment of Major RAE units to South Vietnam, in Apr- Jun 1966.

The itinerary is being worked on and will be available shortly. The dates are Tuesday 15- Friday 18 Aug 06 at SME. The programme will include a registration and gathering, a gala dinner off base, a tour of the RAE Sydney Harbour areas and a tour for the ladies (maybe a factory outlet tour), an open day at SME and a memorial service at the RAE Vietnam Memorial.

Go to the respective association web sites and follow the links to the reunion. There you will find the REGISTRATION FORM. This should be available mid November.

The registration is \$30 per veteran attending, partners are invited.

All payments are via cheque or money order. Credit cards not accepted.

At this time we ask that you please pass this along to all Sapper Mailing lists and other attached personnel.

JOHN PRITCHARD *Chairman RAEVN*  
40

### News About RAEME In Victoria and Tasmania by COL T.R.Beaton

On 21 Oct 05 about 60 people attended at impromptu RAEME Bash at the old Stump Hotel. The purpose for calling the gathering was to gauge the level of interest in forming a Sub-Branch to the RAEME Association of Victoria (RAV). Many stayed for over 3 hours and it was brilliant to see so many old acquaintances be rekindled. We even had Pe-

ter Vincent fly down from Brisbane for the gig. This was beyond our expectations and showed the level of willingness in the area to re-ignite ethos in the Corps again. Apart from 37 completing my "All Ranks Personal Details Form", 21 signed applications to join the RAV. More importantly, 8 people put up their hand to strive to raise the new "Bandiana Sub-Branch" or whatever they choose to call the group. On the night some aired their disappointment at the lack of attendance by many others who have also settled in the Albury /Wodonga area. It is hoped that with further activities and the formation of the new group, they will reconsider their position and become part of the "Force" of the new re-invigorated Corps in the Region. Otherwise they can continue their moping and remain on the "the Dark side"! As Andy Turner and I are concerned, our advice to all RAEME in the region is that the period of mourning is over, get over it and work to a brighter future.

With the School of EME being the only RAEME ARA units left in Victoria and a lack of secretarial support, I am rapidly finding out that the job of ColComdt is significantly more difficult these days than when I was SO1 EME HQ 3MD under COL Bob Law, looking after COL Peter Tremain. As the appointed Corps Historian, apart from writing articles for "The Craftsman", I am also trying to radically improve the EME Display at the Army Museum. Efforts to date have significantly improved 7 of the 12 allocated RAEME cabinets, but small items of historical interest are desperately need to fill the other 5 cabinets. Currently, these hold other Corps' items, like RAAOC, RAAMC etc. Although of interest they are not relevant to portraying the history of our Corps. Anybody wishing to donate any small items, can send them to the Corps Historian, via SO2 Heritage at the HOC Cell. It is requested that you provide a description

American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February.

Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

A cardiologist says that if everyone who gets this message sends it to another 10 people, you can bet that at least one life will be saved.

BE A FRIEND, AND SHARE THIS ARTICLE WITH AS MANY FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE.

It could save their lives.

A stroke changes the lives of all family and friends around the victim, for years afterwards....

### Monte Bellos 22 Const Sqn 1979

Can anyone help with the names sought ?? Most would not have even known of the 22 Sqn's trip to the Monte Bello test site.

mick ryan

From: rex spares  
To: Mick Ryan

Mick,

Below is a list of some of the names of the boys from the Monte Bellos trip, taken from a photograph. The first list is of the guys we have contacted already. The second list is the guys we need to contact ASAP.

#### **(A) Contacted list:**

Peter (Doc) Tuck - undergoing tests  
Paul Talma - undergoing tests  
Ian (Pockets) Abblett - cancer treatment  
Snake Robinson - cancer treatment  
Eric Heavens - skin tests for radiation  
George Hamill - cancer/tumour  
Garry Chapman - OK  
Gordon Smith (Tracker) - OK  
Chalky Linton - OK

#### **(B) Need To Contact List:**

Murray Webb  
Dave Haynes

Mick Tolson  
John Quantrill  
Ian Reeve  
Rocky Pastorelli  
Bobby Campbell  
TJ Rance  
Darcy Duggan  
Ian Byrd  
Any one else who was at the Monte Bellos in 1979.

#### **(C) Deceased:**

Eddy Brahms  
Joe Nangles.

These guys need to be aware of the possibility of some form of radiation/cancer risk associated with the "Clean Up" operation at Monte Bellos. It appears that we have lost at least two members to cancer, and at least six members either have, or have had, some form of cancer or radiation illness which may possibly be traced to the work at the islands. If any of the guys mentioned have had, or heard of, anyone else that may have been affected, they need to contact either Snake Robinson at rexspare@bigpond.net.au (08 9446 8788) or Paul Talma at phtal@iinet.net.au ASAP for information gathering. With 20% of the guys that went to the Bellos already affected, we need to take action NOW.

Paul Talma should be forwarding a photograph of the guys at the Islands, in the hope that we can name a few more names.

Regards,  
Snake

**Ed's Note:** Thanks to Mick Ryan for this notice. As we all know there were quite a few RAEME guys with 22 Const. If anyone knows of one of our members who went to Monte Bellos with 22, please get them to contact Mick or Snake. If anyone has photos of the clean up at Monte Bellos, I feel sure that Mick and Snake would appreciate copies, particularly if they have names to the faces.

### The Strategy of 'Creep' [An article researched by Sheldon Maher OAM – VVFA Lismore NSW]

From early last century till 1997, there was a clear understanding, a clear principle, that war veterans received free medical treatment for their war caused illnesses and injuries.

How did it come about that the sickest of our war veterans will, next year, be slugged \$97 from their pensions to help pay for the medical treatment of these illnesses and injuries?

#### **And that's not the end of it.**

The government has decreed that the amount sick war veterans are out of pocket for medical treatment will increase each year so that by 2009, these veterans will have to find \$125 from their pensions.

The question is; 'How did this come about without the ex-service community strongly and loudly objecting?

The answer is that the government has 'crept' changes into the pharmaceutical system. Each change by itself has seemed too small to worry about. It's not till you look back and add up all the incremental changes that you realise that the changes are significant and that we have been 'conned'.

First, let's look at how governments progressively provided medical treatment for war veterans.

- **1914** An Act for the provision of war pensions was passed. The Act provided for **medical treatment of war-caused disabilities** as well as the payment of war pensions.
- **1943** The introduction of the provision of **free medical** or hospital treatment **for all disabilities** for members in receipt of 100% or higher war pension. Along with ex-service preference in employment and a time limit for recognition of wives as dependants was set at 15

The Government has agreed to introduce significant reforms to enhance the ADF's military justice system.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said he was totally committed to driving the implementation of the reforms over the next two years.

"The Secretary, Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Service Chiefs and I are very focussed on revamping the military justice system.

"I have appointed Rear Admiral Bonser to lead a dedicated and fully resourced Defence team to oversee the implementation of the reforms. He will report to us each month on the progress made in implementing these reforms, as well as recommendations that Defence is already implementing as a result of previous reviews.

"We will also provide a progress report every six months to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade over the next two years."

Air Chief Marshal Houston said the Government's response to the Senate Committee's report provided an opportunity to enhance both the discipline and administrative aspects of a system.

"These reforms will significantly strengthen the existing military justice system. I am confident they will deliver an enhanced military justice system with greater impartiality, rigour, transparency and fairer outcomes.

"In addition to these reforms, I have made it very clear to the Defence leadership team that I expect all ADF members to be treated with care, compassion and consideration.

"Everybody in the ADF should be treated with respect and get a fair go. I will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of our people," he said.

years for WW2 members.

- **1953/54** The introduction of the National Health Act. At this time special provisions were made to ensure that the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme was kept to guarantee **free medicine** for Veterans.
- **1959** The extension of **free medical treatment** to war widows, children of deceased veterans.
- **1980** Australian mariners who were prisoners-of-war and veterans with service related amputation or loss of vision in one eye, who did not qualify on other grounds, were made eligible for **free medical treatment** for all conditions.
- **September 1991**. Pharmaceutical allowance to cover the cost of pharmaceuticals was introduced to eligible veterans at the rate of \$2.60 per week. This included a safety net provision. The Government at this time gave the reason was to control the “**over use**” of drugs. But as prescriptions cost \$2.60 each, and were free after the 52<sup>nd</sup> prescription, so veterans were not out of pocket.

#### In 1997 the rot set in.

- **January 1997** – The government introduced a 50 cent surcharge on the first 52 Chemist scrips each year. This meant the sickest of our war veterans, those needing at least one prescription a week, were out of pocket \$26.00 for the year.
- After 1997 the government increased the cost of Chemist scrips every year.
- **January 2002** – So by 2002, the Pharmaceutical allowance was \$2.90 a week with a Chemist script costing \$3.60 each for the first 52. Our sickest veterans were now paying a surcharge of 70 cents on the first 52 scrips so they were out of

pocket \$36 for the year.

- **January 2005** –By January 2005, the Pharmaceutical allowance was \$2.90 a week with a Chemist script costing \$4.60 each for the first 52. Our sickest veterans were now paying a surcharge of \$1.70 cents on the first 52 scrips so as to be out of pocket \$88.40 for the year.

So, in summing up so far, the government’s introduction of a 50cent surcharge on veterans Chemist scrips was simply the thin end of the wedge which has now grown to \$1.70. Now our sickest war veterans must pay \$88.40 toward the treatment of their war caused disabilities.

#### But what about the future?

It seems the government is wary of increasing the surcharge above \$1.70. It may have gauged this is about as high as we will tolerate without making a fuss. So it has changed its tactics. They have decided instead of a direct increase in cost, to increase the number of scrips we receive before they become free. In other words, our pharmaceutical allowance will to partly cover the cost of 52 scrips but the scrips don’t become free till we have purchased more than that number.

Here’s how it will work:

- **1 January 2006**. Increase from 52 to 54 scrips before scrips are free. The sickest of our war veterans will now be out of pocket \$97.60 for the year.
- **1 January 2007**. Increase from 54 to 56 scrips. Veterans now out of pocket \$106.80
- **1 January 2008**. Increase from 56 to 58 scrips. Veterans now out of pocket \$116.00
- **1 January 2009**. Increase from 58 to 60 scrips. Veterans now out of pocket \$125.20

#### Now for the really mean bit.

The Government has changed the rules of the safety net. From **1 January 2006**

repeat prescriptions within 20 days will not count towards the safety net or be free under the safety net if you have reached it.

This measure will inconvenience veterans in Rural and Remote areas who only have access to a Chemist shop once every two weeks or so. They need repeat prescriptions to ensure that they don’t run out of medications between visits.

Others need to have their scrips filled prior to travel as many Chemist shops in smaller areas do not stock a full range of medications. Others may simply lose or misplace medications, perhaps which might even be related to their war caused conditions.

So little by little, the principle of **free medical treatment** for war caused illnesses and injuries has been undermined; the pace of the ‘creep’ slow enough not to ‘scare the horses’. But look back at what has happened. The government has so undermined the principle of **free medical treatment** that it now seems an ancient artefact, a curiosity of the past. We have been ‘conned’.

It is well worth noting here that people in receipt of medical treatment under Workers Compensation court orders, do not have to pay a cent of the cost of Chemist scrips, the Insurance Company paying for them in full. Why not war veterans?

Whilst we should be angry with the government for this undermining of a just principle we should not take it out on the poor chemist. He or she is not responsible. If you are angry, let your local member know. Perhaps you could show or send him this article with a few well chosen words.

#### Recognising a Stroke

A true story:

Susie stumbled and fell. Her friend, Sherry, saw this happen.

Being very concerned, she had the insight to ask Susie the 3 questions below.

Suzie failed all three test-questions, so 000 was called.

Even though she had normal blood pressure readings and did not appear to be suffering from a stroke (she could converse to some extent with the Paramedics) they took her to the hospital right away.

Susie suffered brain damage after a massive stroke, but is recovering at an incredible pace. So simple - this literally saved Susie’s life - some angel had previously sent this advice to Suzie’s friend and she followed it exactly.

Read and Learn the 3 steps!

A stroke occurs when oxygen fails to reach some part of the brain. Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster.

The stroke victim will suffer brain damage if people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke, and take action.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking the victim three simple questions:

Ask the individual to SMILE.

Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE coherently (e.g. “It is sunny out today”).

If he or she has trouble with ANY of these tasks, call 000 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness arm weakness and speech problems, researchers now urge the general public to learn the three questions.

They presented their conclusions at the