



The word from the
Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA

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What the Prez Sez

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Horses Mouth. Just in time for you to catch your breath before the silly season.

Firstly, a report from Stino's Annual Spanner Get Together. He is going to be hard pressed to beat this one next year. Then it is the AGM Report and information on the what we are doing for the Corps birthday; Corps Port, 80th Anniversary of the loss of the Sydney (and the Kormorant) in Geraldton, a couple of promotions, some feedback on Spanner Packs, the raising of XLH back to a Regiment and more obscure military history. Grab a brew and get reading.

RAEME Get Together

Another great weekend. As per SOPs it commenced with Dinner at the Pinjarra RSL on Friday night with about 20 of the clan. This was followed on Saturday by a visit to the Marrinup ghost town & the 16 POW Camp then back to Chateau Stinson for the Footy, a bonfire and campfire cooking. Sunday was taken up by a visit to the Dardanup Heritage Park, the Wellington Dam Mural and Collie-Cardiff RSL - Collie Mural Trail followed by a BBQ back at Barragup

Veteran Health Week/AGM

Once again we managed to score Mt Eliza house to commemorate Veteran's Health Week as well as holding our AGM. While the turnout was lower than expected, we still had a quorum and as everyone renominated for their positions on the committee, they were elected unopposed.

It was decided that we will continue with our current format of:

- the RAEME Vigil in Kings Park (in conjunction with 113);
- an ANZAC Day celebration in town;
- support for Vietnam Veterans Day;
- Stino's get together (supported but not run by the Association);
- an informal celebration around the birthday;
- three Horses' Mouths per annum; and
- support for any Apprentice reunions, etc

Any other ideas would be gratefully accepted, possibly a stickybeak at all the new kit down at 113 after the Vigil?

Corps Birthday

We have booked the Bayswater Hotel for 40 in the Bistro Area for Friday 3 December.

The function will commence at 1800 (though we have the tables from 1700 in case a few quieties are required beforehand)

I look forward to seeing you all there. Don't worry we will be reminding you again closer to the event!

RAEME Port

Graeme Coles is trying to get the gig to do RAEME port either next year or in 2023 to commemorate the raising of 113 Fd Wksp (as 2 Med Wksp) post war. It will be 113 based and we are still finalising the label but by all accounts the options for the port are all actually drinkable (I famously used an old Corps port to check which surface I should choose for a kitchen rebuild for stain resistance). We will keep you informed on progress.

Promotions

It is with great delight that I can advise that two of our brethren have recently been granted their Warrants.

Long serving Boffin Sergeants Alex Smithers (Pilbara Regt) and Ray Wharton (JOSS) have recently both been promoted above their level of expertise to the exalted rank of WO2

Now all they have to do is decide which knee is to be their dickie one and choose their favourite malapropisms (better known as WO speak)

Please join me in congratulating Ray and Alex and saying about bloody time!

XLH

For those of you who weren't there, on Sunday October 10, XLH was reraised as a Regiment – on its 107th birthday.

A formal parade was held on Langley Park with the 2 Div Commander and the Governor (whose grandfather served in XLH to formally raise the regiment and was followed by a mounted parade up the Terrace

The unit currently has G-wagon SRVs, Bushmaster PMV-Ms and Hawkei PMV-Ls – which will be split between the two squadrons. It is all pretty new kit and, especially the Hawkeis, very impressive.

Initially the new Regiment will consist only of A and B SQNs with a small Regt HQ. There is no mention yet of a Tech Support Sqn or even a Tech Support Tp, but the word on the street is that an A1 Ech is the next to be formed and they are already having some issues with serviceability (why are we not surprised). Any way it may be time to dig out the old black beret and dust off the emu plumes.



HMAS Sydney 80th Anniversary

There will be a commemorative service in remembrance of the HMAS Sydney and her 645 crew members on Friday, 19 November 2021 at 5pm at the HMAS Sydney II Memorial, Gummer Ave, Geraldton

If you are unable to attend in person, the City of Greater Geraldton will be live streaming this event. Follow the City's Facebook page for more details.

A flyer is attached at the end of this Newsletter together with many other events which are happening in Geraldton to mark the anniversary.

Feedback on Spanner Packs

My name is Yuki Masaoka and I work for RAAF as a Ground Support Equipment Technician. Here, I work as a Section NCO and look after ground support equipment which relate to Air Force.

Our ground support equipment includes Generator, Forklift, Air conditioner or Air Craft Loaders. This is my first deployment and there are many things to learn but I am learning bit by bit every day.

Especially, we work under Joint Task Environments and we work with Army very closely. This is great opportunities to me to understand bigger organisation.

I work some of the ARMY VM guys are who I went through ALTC VTW and they are kind enough to share the spanner pack with us.

It is good to work with them after we left ALTC many years ago.

I am proud to be included in RAEME family. Your gift reminded us that even though we work in different organisation at home, when task is on we work together.

Again, thank you so very much for your support.

Corporal (E5) Yuki Masaoka

Non-Commission Officer
MEOMS | Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 | Middle East Region

???Did You Know???

New Army Rank – Specialist

The trial of the Specialist insignia rank slide is perhaps the most significant change to Army's Other Ranks structure since the rank of staff sergeant was discontinued in the 1990s.

The black vertical line with one horizontal white stripe is currently being used to designate specialists who are being remunerated at the private/craftsman to sergeant pay rates.

Specialists can advance to WO2 and WO1 equivalency, however, they will wear WO2 and WO1 rank slides

The Specialist Service Soldier Trial is exploring how Army can enhance its workforce through long-term access to personnel with highly technical skills who are best kept with their hands literally on-the-tools for their military career.

The introduction of the Specialist insignia helps to differentiate the specialist's function and employment model, allowing them to be recognised for their technical skills rather than command and control roles.

The trial is helping Army better understand the employment architecture required to support a specialist workforce, including career pathways that seek to constantly keep this workforce employed using skillsets normally found at the manufacturer or contractor level.



Return of the SLR

The SLR is due to return to the British Army!!!

After 35 years out of circulation, the famous Self Loading Rifle is due to return to service for British Army Troops.

The SLR-A2, a 7.62mm weapon, will feature a modernised rail system and extended 30-round magazine.

This change comes after years of continuous failings of the Army's current weapon system, the SA80, which was found to be much less powerful.

"We had a major issue with stopping power with the SA80" said Lt Gen Ian Wallace, Deputy Director of Defence Armaments, "The weapons system was simply not powerful enough to put down the enemy. With the new SLR-A2, you can guarantee that it will not fail with that task."

While there is no current date announced for its integration, the news of the SLR's return has been met with approval by both serving soldiers and veterans alike.

Now to see if the tooling at Lithgow is still there.....



Now where did they get that from?

Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope

When Sir Bernard Lovell started his pioneering work on radio astronomy immediately after WWII, he relied on a lot of ex-military war surplus radio equipment (including used a gun laying radar to study cosmic rays) He soon realised that in order to really progress a fully steerable telescope would need to be professionally designed and constructed;

Always on the lookout for a bargain, in 1950 he managed to get the two circular 15" turret drive gear sets and associated pinions from 15-inch (38-cm) gun turrets were bought cheaply in 1950; these came from the World War I battleships HMS *Revenge* and *Royal Sovereign*, which were being broken up at the time.^[12] The bearings became the two main altitude rotator bearings of the telescope, with the appropriate parts of the telescope being designed around them.



The consequent Mark 1 telescope (now renamed the Lovell Telescope) when completed in 1957, was the largest steerable dish radio telescope in the world at 76.2 m (250 ft) in diameter; even now it remain the third-largest in the world and is still in constant use.



It is amazing to think that two sets of turret traversing gear, built in 1913 to fight the High Seas Fleet could still be in constant use today in what is still one of the world's most precise scientific instruments. A true example of "gees they made'em good in those days" It did however make the wonder just what other bits of precision machinery have well outlasted their parent ship. Here are a few examples from famous ships of WWII

HMS Hood

- Two of Hood's 5.5" secondary guns which were removed in a 1934 refit are still emplaced at Fort Bedford on Ascension Island.



HIJMS Mitsu

- A twin 16" turret which was removed from the Mitsu in 1932 remains on display in the grounds of the former Imperial Japanese Naval Academy at Etajima



KMS Gneisenau

- A triple 11" turret was removed in 1943 and emplaced Austrått Fort in Ørland, Norway and was kept operational until 1968.



- A twin 5.9" secondary turret was removed at the same time and remains in situ at Sevnsfort in Denmark. This mounting was reduced to reserve status in 1984, but continued to be fired every year during training exercises. They "were fired for the

last time in the summer of 2000, ending their operative career with an HE war-shot from turret no 1, driven 17 kms into the Baltic Sea and raising a column of spray to a height of 150 m, the shell detonating at an approximate depth of 17-18 m, according to the commander of the fort at the time." The fort was officially deactivated in 2001 and now exists solely as a museum.





80th Commemoration Sunset Service

in remembrance of the HMAS *Sydney II* and her 645 crew members on
Friday, 19 November 2021 at 5pm
HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial, Gummer Ave, Geraldton

If you are unable to attend in person, the City of Greater Geraldton will be live streaming this event.
Follow the City's Facebook page for more details.



RSLWA
GERALDTON

Rotary
Club of Geraldton



Australian Government
Department of Defence



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Further information can be requested from
E: events@cgg.wa.gov.au | P: 08 9956 6600

HMAS SYDNEY II

80th Commemorations



WHAT'S ON

Theatre 180 Presents **SYDNEY II: Lost and Found**

GERALDTON ORANA CINEMA
13-21 November, various times

SYDNEY II: Lost and Found will tell the real life story of the dramatic loss of the pride of the Royal Australian Navy, brought to life using theatre and cinema.

Book tickets at <https://theatre180.com.au/show/sydney-ii-lost-and-found/>

Deep Light Exhibition

MUSEUM OF GERALDTON

19 November onwards, daily from 9.30am - 3pm

Remarkable images of the wrecks captured during the 2015 expedition, interviews with the research team, and personal reflections from descendants and family members of Sydney's crew.

museum.wa.gov.au/museums/museum-of-geraldton

HMAS Historical Display

GERALDTON REGIONAL LIBRARY

15 - 30 November

View a selection of historical photos, memorabilia and other interesting items held in the Local History Collection.

library.cgg.wa.gov.au

Service for the Unknown Sailor

GERALDTON WAR CEMETERY,
UTAKARRA

19 November 2021 at 10am *RSVP required

This service takes place every year at the grave site of the Unknown Sailor to reflect and remember the servicemen who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country.

www.cgg.wa.gov.au

HMAS 80th Afternoon Tea

GERALDTON QEII SENIORS AND
COMMUNITY CENTRE

19 November 2021 at 3pm *RSVP required

An afternoon tea will be held for descendants and veterans of those on the HMAS Sydney II prior to the 80th Commemorative event.

www.cgg.wa.gov.au

HMAS 80th Commemorative Sunset Service

HMAS SYDNEY II MEMORIAL

19 November 2021 at 5pm *RSVP required to events@cgg.wa.gov.au

The legacy of Australia's greatest naval tragedy will be remembered with a moving commemorative service at sunset.

www.cgg.wa.gov.au

War Drive Trail

VARIOUS LOCATIONS FROM
GERALDTON TO MULLEWA

Drive trail at your own leisure

This 200 kilometre drive trail explores various places and stories associated with the military in Geraldton.

www.visitgeraldton.com.au

HMAS Memorial Daily Tours

HMAS SYDNEY II MEMORIAL

Daily at 10:30am

The Geraldton Voluntary Tour Guides Association offer a daily tour at 10.30am, taking in the five elements steeped in symbolism.

www.visitgeraldton.com.au

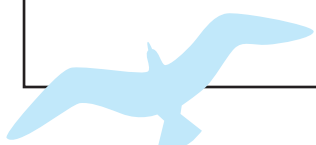
From Great Depths

MUSEUM OF GERALDTON

Regular 3D film screenings daily from 9.30am - 3pm

Witness the wrecks of HMAS Sydney II and HSK Kormoran as they currently lie, 2,500m deep on the ocean floor, through a sequence of extraordinary high quality 2D and 3D images.

museum.wa.gov.au/museums/museum-of-geraldton



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