



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

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA

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**Colonel Commandant
Western Region:**
Colonel Mark Sweetman

What the Prez Sez

Welcome to the summer edition of the Horse's Mouth for 2026.

We had our first Committee meeting on the 16th of February in which we firmed up the first of our activities for the year. No surprise that our RAEME Vigil in Kings Park is first up followed by the ANZAC Day march and get together at the IBIS. John Crosby (the new Padre at HQ 13 Bde) will again support our vigil.

My wife and I were not able to be at the first cocktail party due to COVID so we are doing another one this year and hope it will be well attended like the last one was.

RAEME Vigil

The RAEME Vigil will be held as usual at the Sandakan memorial in Kings Park on ANZAC Eve. We will meet up in the car park at the back of the tennis club at 1900 and move forward from there, under the direction of our Piper – Rob Reeves, just back from piping at the Aust and NZ tour of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Remember this is our "RAEME" event commemorating the foundation members of the Corps who were captured at Singapore and perished on Sandakan. The four Craftsmen and one Corporal are the only members of the Corps commemorated with plaques at Kings Park and it is our duty to remember them.

ANZAC Day

We still have not received our notification on our position in the March, but it is expected to be much the same as last year. Once we get the information we will let you know.

All RAEME Association of WA members and families are however invited to attend the after march function in the Rubix Bar and Restaurant at the IBIS Hotel, 334 Murray St. Please note a special license will be obtained (subject to approval) to open at 1000 h. Cost: As per last few years - Free for members (Fees can be paid on the day) and \$20 for guests, Food will be available.

Social Functions

The committee is looking at the possibility of some additional social functions for the year. These include:

- A visit to the SASR Museum.
- A visit (and possibly lunch) to RAAF Museum.
- Cocktail Party for Corps Birthday – details below

RAEME Birthday '26 – Cocktail Party

We are looking at booking ANZAC House again for a Cocktail Party for the Corps Birthday. Food and drink will once again be partially subsidised by the Association, Details to be advised

Maintenance Matters

Please find links below to the first Edition of *Maintenance Matters*.

What BRIG Follett, Head of Corps, said:

I am very pleased to share with you the first edition of *Maintenance Matters*, our new Corps-wide newsletter. This marks the beginning of a refreshed and more connected era of communication for our Corps, and I am genuinely excited about what this platform may help us achieve together.

The newsletter may be viewed online or downloaded at:

- a downloadable PDF – <https://raeme.org.au/index.php/publications/newsletter>
- a Heyzine Flipbook – <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/4229c7fd66.html>

My sincere thanks go to the Associations and members who contributed material for this first release. Their enthusiasm and willingness to share their activities, history, and people has set a strong foundation for what this publication can become.

For *Maintenance Matters* to truly succeed, we need broad participation from across the Corps, especially from serving members or workshops, but also from all Associations.

RAEME Birthday – at 113



Entry to Irwin Barracks officially (or may maybe not so officially) recognising our Corps

2025 Corps celebrations was well attended by Serving and ex-Serving Corps Members from Karrakatta, Swanbourne, Guildford, and surrounding areas. Members from the WA RAEME Association and two of our past Colonel Commandant were also in attendance.





Celebrating our birthday is not complete without challenges that show off our skill, fitness, and our ability to apply effective sledging techniques! No celebration is complete without the Obligatory Spanner Throw – embarrassing attempts were made by some, OK attempt by others, but we were all put to shame by a retired ASM who smashed his nearest competitor! As a retired ASM, he was no stranger to throwing spanners... He won his last throw celebrating the Corps Birthday in Vietnam! (True story)



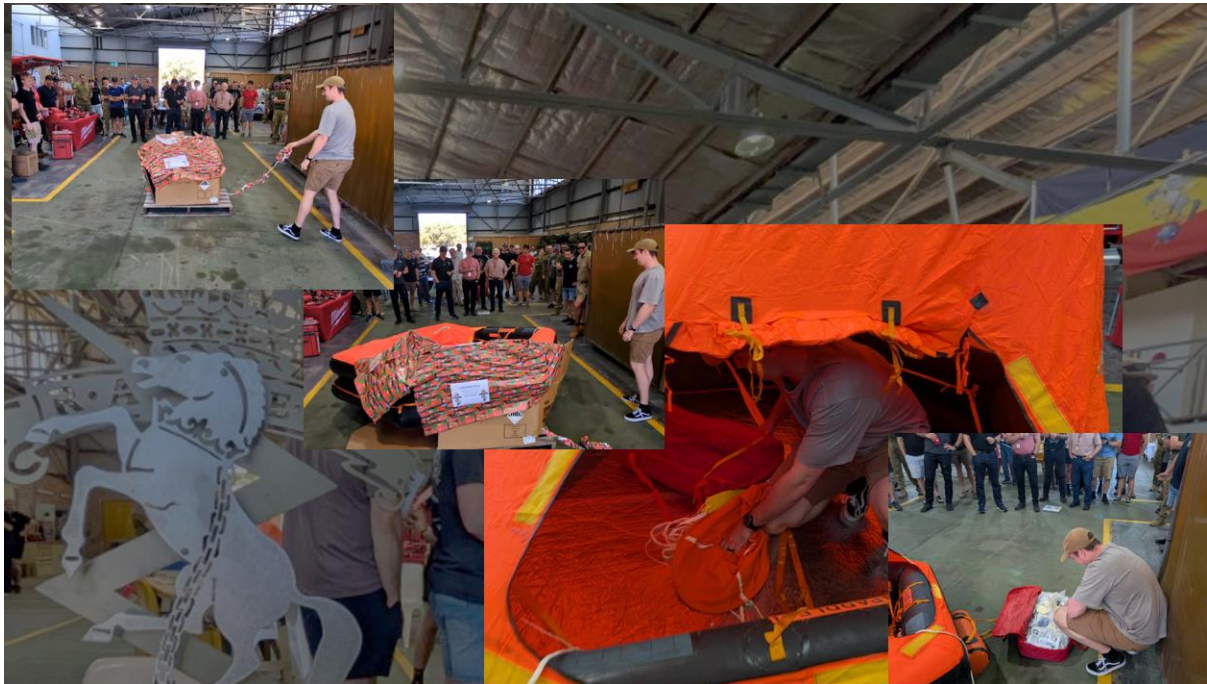
To handle the workload, the wrecker was setup to suspend a chin-up beam where one of our RAEME Officers put us all to shame.



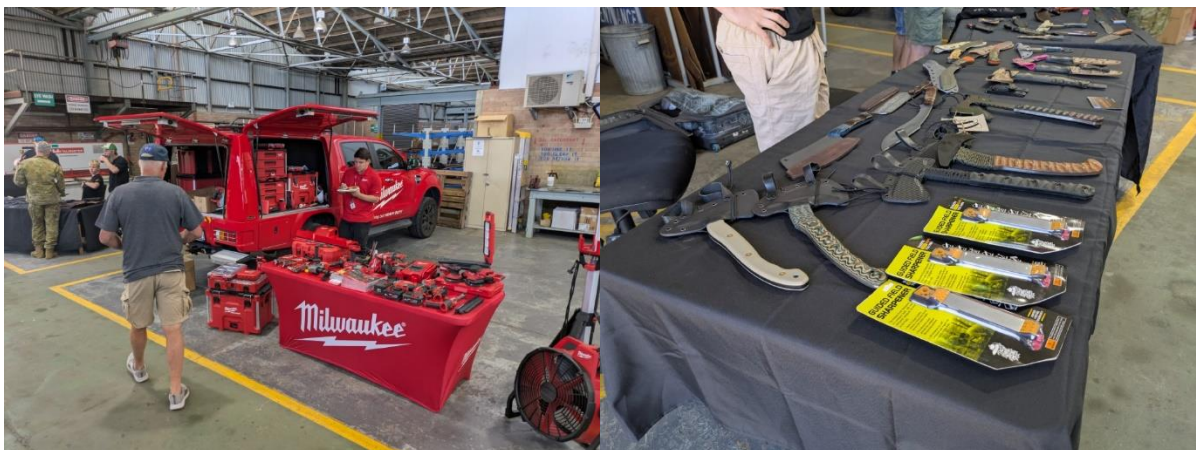
As racing cars around the base is banned... Something to do with the rubber tyre burnout marks that are still visible in-front of the workshop from a previous Corps Birthday celebration some years back... We had to settle for fastest lap at Bathurst on PlayStation.

Winners from each event received a bunnings vouchers and bragging rights.

A raffle with way too many prizes ranging from rocky road chocolate, hams, knives, and power tools was run and won, with all profits going to the RAEME Association. The Luck Door Prize – *“A Mystery Meal for you and seven of your closest mates!”* was drawn and the lucky winner got to open their prize with a quick pull of a cord. To everyone’s amusement, he got to retrieve his meal from the eight-man inflatable rescue life raft!



Thanks to the Corps Fund, Local Milwaukee rep, OBJ Blades, and WA RAEME Association for your support in making the day a great success. And a special thanks to the team from 113 Workshop for hosting and running the event.



Arte et Marte

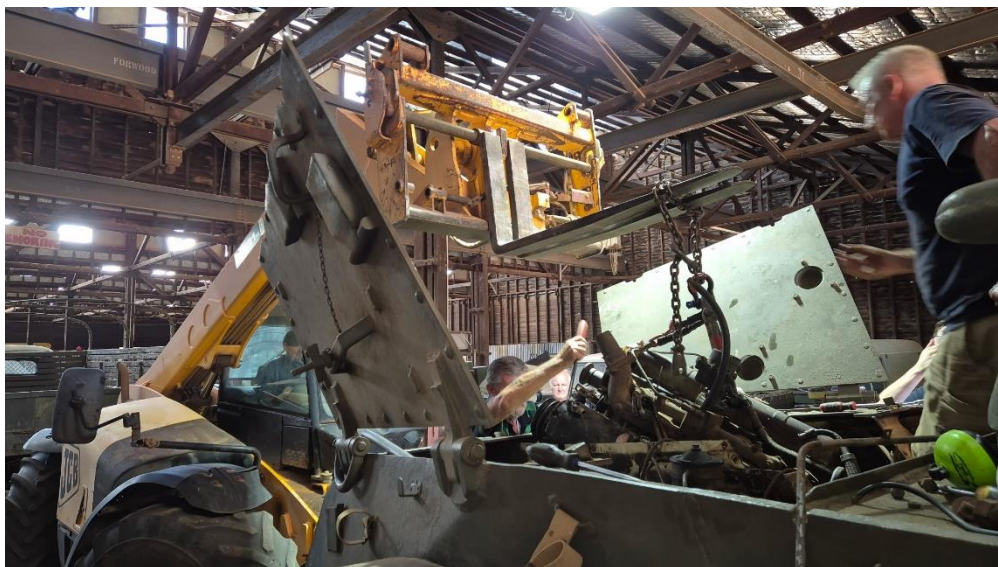
Nungarin



The Team on this trip – 31 Jan – 1 Feb

A big weekend! We had some plans to get some jobs completed this weekend... But as to be expected with working on old stuff... nothing goes to plan!

The Stag Hound – The main drive was to have her fully assembled and hopefully driving... We were tracking well, we had the right engine fuelled up and running, we did the same for the left... Unfortunately when we turned her off we heard a dribbling noise! It turned out the Fluid Couple (torque converter) Seal on the transmission decided to let go and started to pump the transmission dry... This resulted in us pulling the motor out again.



Once we had her out we pulled it apart and found the offending item... The parts have been acquired and are waiting our next trip. We continued on the Right engine. We connected up the drive shaft, filled the transmission and got the girl to move for the first time under her own steam. No one at the Museum has ever seen her move under her own power, so we are assuming she hasn't run for the past 20 year (guess). This was a great achievement for the team! (Bryce, Steel, Coles, Smithers)

Other tasks that occurred concurrently included Stinno rewiring of the electrics on the half-track. This is progressing steadily with the rear lights repaired and the new loom run up to the console.

The Studebaker with the blown head has had it's head removed (Steel) and a Gasket is being flown in from QLD and the head is off to be machined.



Coles and Steel reinstalled the overhauled Master Cylinder in the Blitz Truck and bled the brakes up... Finally brakes! They took her for a drive.

They got the Willy Jeep started and took her for a quick run also.

We also did some further investigation into the Scout Car. The rumours turned out to be true... After we removed the Brake Master Cylinder for overhaul, we started to check out the drive line. We have now confirmed that the right front Drive Shaft is absent... We hope to recover one from the wreck in the paddock!

The Story continues...