

RÆME ASSOCIATION NSW INC.

NEWSLETTER 176

OCT 2024

CELEBRATING 80+ YEARS

OF

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE



ARTE ET MARTE

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SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY OF

THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE

Earlier this year I gave evidence during the final hearing block of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. For three years, the Royal Commission has heard evidence from serving and former-serving members, and their families. The Royal Commission has examined extensive data and sought expert testimony.

The Royal Commission has noted that for most Soldiers¹, service in our Army is a positive aspect of their personal and professional lives. This is an important point to acknowledge but that is not what this Royal Commission is about.

It is about those for whom service has been a negative experience, the effects of which have been life-long, life-altering and in the worst case life-ending. The Royal Commission has heard of many such experiences, historic and recent. Our failings — whether institutional or individual — have had terrible consequences for those we have failed.

The evidence is compelling. Since 2017, for example, we know we have lost 30 serving Soldiers either suspected or confirmed to have died by suicide². Many more have been lost across our wider community.

This is not acceptable. We must do more. These are our people, members of our teams and our Army. To fight and win in war our teams must be built on the foundations of trust, respect, and cohesion.

Last year we identified and brought home the remains of Australian soldiers who were killed in the battle of Fromelles in 1916. This reminds us all that *'Lest we Forget'* is not rhetoric, it is a **promise**. We continued the search for our soldiers for over a century, a commitment of which we ought to be proud.

Now is the time to apply the same approach and effort to the challenge of suicide and suicidality among our people. We will not leave our mates behind, fallen on their own personal battlefield.

This Royal Commission presents us with a once in a generation opportunity to reduce the incidence of suicide and suicidality in our community. To make a **step** change rather than incremental improvement. It is both our individual and collective obligation to do so.

I am ultimately accountable for Army's people, culture, mission and resources, but like everything we do — it requires a committed team effort if we are to be successful.

We need not wait for the Royal Commission to publish its findings and recommendations before we act. The opportunity exists today, and we must act on it today.

We will focus on three outcomes: achieving a **measurable** reduction in the incidence of suicide and suicidality amongst Soldiers; building our individual and collective resilience; and strengthening our culture³. When we achieve this, we will have a stronger Army, an Army that is more capable and better able to fulfil its mission.

We must move on this effort together, as one team, and we must stay together. We train and fight in teams. Trust among our teams is our **main effort**.

I am grateful for all that you and your families do in service each day. I am proud to serve in an Army that owns its failures; an Army that is genuinely determined to learn from the past and committed to improving our future.

Our Army's future begins today — with each of us reflecting our values in our thoughts, words and actions today and every day.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Simon Stuart', with a small '4' written at the end of the signature.

SIMON STUART, AO, DSC

Lieutenant General
Chief of Army

. July 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE CORPS RSM

WO1 JON TYNAN

Following are extracts from the Corps RSM 26 Aug 24.

CORPS

ST ELIGIUS TROPHY

St Eligius Trophy event is locked in for 27 Nov 24. The Main Planning Conference has been conducted and we are full steam ahead.

To clarify some of the questions asked of myself recently, the reasoning behind inviting only 1/3/7 BDE was to have a starting point with a small group IOT build the foundation of the competition. The founding competition will set the ground work for every iteration following (with the participants providing feedback into how we went).

We plan to expand the competition to all RAEME trades (RAEME AERO inclusive) within all BDEs.

ALLEVIATE CONFUSION SURROUNDING ECN 034-1 & 034-1 (A)

For those that would like to research for themselves, please use the below

link then go to RAEME and the applicable ECN: [Manual of Army](#)

[Employments \(MAE\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

ECN 034 Technician Assistants are to provide assistance to qualified maintenance technicians in the conduct of maintenance IOT sustain Land and Air Power. This is achieved through each TA undergoing trade specific training at their respective IET establishments:

TECH ASST Grade 1 - 034-1, is the ground Technician Assistant , they will undertake training within ASEME for a period of six weeks.

TECH ASST Grade 1 Aeroskills - 034-1 (A), is the Aeroskills Technician Assistant, they will undertake training within RAAFSTT for a period of ~14 weeks.

MASTER ARTIFICER – ECN 418 ENERGY TECHNICIAN: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Unfortunately, we have had no expressions of interest for one of our Master Artificer roles, I won't lie, this is bloody disappointing. If any WO1 or WO2 is interested and unsure of process, please reach out in the first instance and I will assist.

It would be insanely devastating to not fill the role next year.

RMC GRADUATES

We (HOC) would like to welcome 20 of our newest corps members. The lanyard Parade held in Canberra was a massive event this time around and extremely well supported by the corps.

12 will be returning to ADFA to complete their engineering degrees, prior to posting to units in 2025/26.

LT Alina Hutton has been offered an amazing opportunity to undertake work experience with a placement inside McLaren Automotive in the United Kingdom. This will be an amazing opportunity and we look forward to reading of her time away in the Craftsman Magazine article she will provide.

REGIMENTAL PATHWAY – BUILDING FUTURE RSMS

As a corps we have bounced around this concept since 2001 (original concept of pathway presented to Corps Conference). In 2018 we revisited the concept, which outlined the who/what/where/when and why, yet here I am rethinking and providing guidance. Now this is not a shot at anyone, nor disparaging any work previously conducted, we have just failed to keep to momentum.

RAEME (unlike Arms corps) does not have a specified regimental pathway, we rely on those previously filling regimental roles to take those that express an interest under our wing and foster them.

Personally I think the best place to start is the ECN 350 MAE and reverse engineer how to get to that role. Annex I to chapter 3 to part 1 to all corps employment specification is our starting point, this outlines the role and attributes expected of an all corps RSM.

Annex B to chapter 3 to part 2 shows the flow chart for (expected) time in rank and flow of career.

From there, move to Annex B to chapter 4 to part 2 for the career management guidance (posting preferences & experience). In order to be appointed as an RSM, a WO2 or WO1 must have completed the following:

- a. any career development courses including the RSMS course
- b. minimum of one regimental posting as a CSM/BSM/SSM
- c. have entered the PCZ for promotion to WO1 (WO2 only)

A previous All Corps instructional posting as a CPL, SGT or WO2 at ATW, ARTC, WO & NCO Academy or RMC is highly desirable.

From this point, you can plan career postings, e.g.; as a CPL get to Kapooka, as a SNCO get to ADFA/RMC, as a WO2 fight for an SM position (ADFA/RMC preferred).

Please feel free to reach out to myself if there is anyone interested in the regimental pathway and I will assist as much as I can.

RAEME CORPS AWARDS

We are running short of time to get all award nominations in (this is imperative, as we need time to prepare the awards and send to respective locations). Nominations are due NLT 30 Aug, the latest this can be extended to is 10 Sep, after that time all voting will be closed.

Please don't let maladministration lead to our soldiers not being recognised.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL – CANUNGRA

I was extremely privileged to be present at the unveiling of the new Vietnam Memorial Canungra (now outside Kokoda Barracks) on 18 Aug 24 (Vietnam Veterans Day). I was able to lay the plaque representing RAEME at the memorial, whilst Mr Bruce Shedden (previous RAEME Training Centre RSM and current Runaway Bay RSL member) laid a wreath on behalf of all RAEME veterans.



VALE TO A LEADER – Brigadier Herbert W Barker

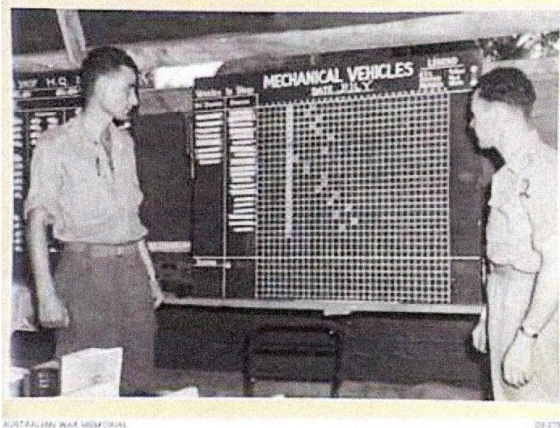
On 17 Jun 2024, our Corps lost one of its founding members, Brigadier Herbert “Bert” Barker. He passed in Melbourne, aged 102.

Until recently, Bert was a resident in aged care at Banora Point on the Gold Coast, moving back to Melbourne to be closer to family, he was focused on making sure his wife Nona was settled in the Victorian retirement village with their daughter. They would have celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary on the 15th July and Nona, herself a WWII veteran, turns 100 on the 31st of October this year.

BRIG Bert belongs to a rare cohort of servicemen because he was an original member of our proud Corps at our foundation in 1942. He served in WWII on operations in PNG and through his many postings, his various commands, training and staff appointments over 33 years’ service, it is clear he made a huge contribution to the Corps, the Army and the ADF. He served as Colonel Commandant 1 Military District from 1980 to 1984 before retiring.

The following tribute was written in 2021 to mark BRIG Bert’s 100th birthday.

BRIG Herbert “Bert” W Barker (Retd) joined the Army in 1941, following completion of the second year of a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering course at Melbourne University. Although he didn’t complete his degree, he had previously completed a Diploma of Mechanical Engineering, and as a result, he was allocated to Australian Army Ordnance Corps (AAOC), as a Private. He then attended an Infantry Officer Training Course at Bonegilla.



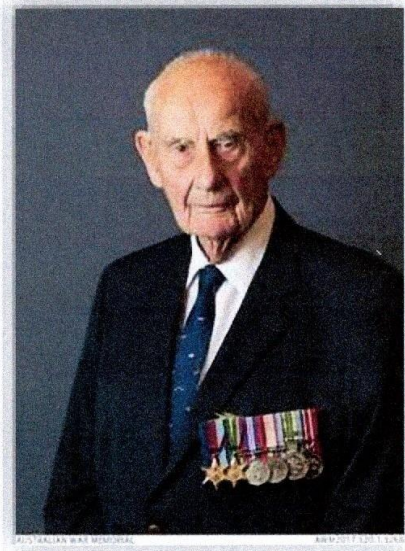
1 Infantry Troops Workshops Pamalmal Plantation, Jaquinot Bay, New Britain, 1944-1945. CAPT Barker and Sergeant S Aaron review vehicle repair and maintenance production.

Bert was commissioned in June 1942 and appointed to raise and command 320 Aust LAD attached to a major Signals unit at Balcombe, Victoria. A short time later, while attending an Ordnance Mechanical Engineering Wireless Course at the AAOC School, Broadmeadows, Victoria, he was transferred to the newly formed AEEME Corps on 1 Dec 42. He celebrated his 21st birthday on 13 Dec 42.

Lieutenant, and later, Captain Barker, spent most of WW2 at Oatlands Golf Course, Parramatta, then the Atherton Tablelands (1943) before heading to New Britain in 1944, where he served with 1 Infantry Troops Workshops till War’s end.

Post WW2, BRIG Bert continued his service in several workshop postings in Australia until 1950, when he was sent to UK for two and a half years, to attend the Long Electronics Engineering Courses at REME Training Centre, Arborfield. He attended Army Staff College, Queenscliff, Victoria, in 1956 and was appointed CO & CI RAEME Training Centre from 1959 - 64.

LTCOL “Bert” Barker (left) handing over command of RAEME Training Centre (RTC) in 1964 to LTCOL Bruce C. Sefton, signified by a tree planting in the grounds of RTC.



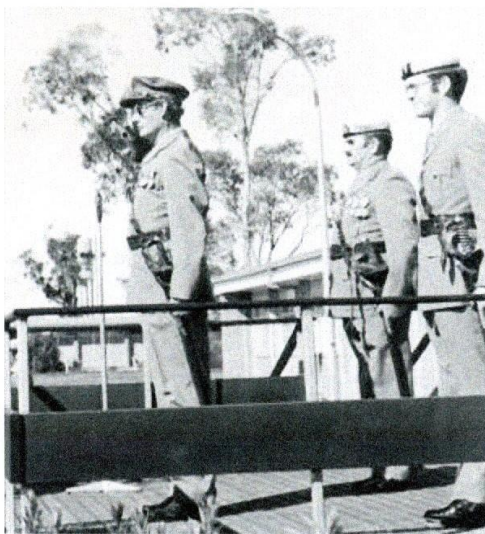
After three years as DDEME Eastern Command, Bert was promoted to Brigadier and appointed as Chief Superintendent Army Design Establishment (ADE), Maribyrnong, Victoria. He served for a further three years until resigning from the Army in 1974. During his time at ADE, he took part in the Rapier trials in Darwin.

In his subsequent civilian career, BRIG Bert worked as Regional Engineering Manager for STC, 1975, the Boy Scout Jamboree Executive Officer and CEO of Australian Fire Protection Association, each for about a year before relocating from Melbourne to a warmer climate in Northern NSW in late 1977.

He served as Colonel Commandant 1 Military District from 1980 to 1984.



BRIG Barker, COL COMDT 1 MD visiting 5 Base Wksp Bn 1981, Oakey, discussing repairs to an aerofoil with CO, LTCOL Bob Millar.



BRIG Barker taking the salute on the occasion of the 9th Anniversary of 5 Base Wksp Bn, Oakey 31st July 1981.

also by those members of the Corps who came later. Most recently, he has been an inspiration to a new generation of RAEME servicemen and women (serving and retired), as an active member of RAEME Association Queensland, where he regularly attends its many activities and lunches in Brisbane, and on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Congratulations Bert on this most important anniversary.

A recent photograph of two RAEME Brigadiers, old and new, BRIG Bert Barker and BRIG (now MAJ GEN) Andrew Freeman AM at an RAEME Association Queensland Lunch, Sunshine Coast Maroochy RSL, 2019.

Lest we forget.

Bert married Nona in 1944 and they have three daughters, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

He and Nona live in Darlington Retirement Village, Banora Point, NSW. Whilst Nona receives full time care, he enjoys semi-care in the same facility, and is still driving his car and routinely attends local RAQ events.

Bert turned 100 on 13 Dec 21.

BRIG Bert belongs to a rare surviving cohort of servicemen, not just because they are closing in on their 100th Birthdays, but also because they are original members of the proud Corps of RAEME, which will celebrate its 80th Birthday in December 2022. Bert is indeed a pioneer of the Corps and through his many postings, his various commands, training and staff appointments, over 33 years' service, it is clear he made a huge contribution to the Corps, the Army and the ADF.

BRIG Bert is much admired by his peers but



DVA NEWS

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/new-veterans-legislation-introduced-parliament>

Correct as at: 11 July 2024

On 3 July 2024, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh, introduced legislation into Parliament to simplify and harmonise the veterans' rehabilitation and compensation framework. This is another important step the Government has taken to respond to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's Interim Report.

The Bill would consolidate all legislation governing veterans' compensation and rehabilitation into the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) from 1 July 2026. This means the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) will be closed to new compensation and rehabilitation claims. An underlying principle of the Bill is that there will be no reduction in payments that veterans or families have previously received or are currently receiving.

These changes will make the claims system easier to navigate and help veterans and families receive the support and services they are entitled to. It will also ease the administrative burden for DVA, making determinations less complex, and reducing training and system maintenance overheads.

The Bill also introduces a range of enhancements that will improve compensation arrangements for veterans, including:

- a new Additional Disablement Amount (ADA), similar to the existing Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) available under the VEA (This will compensate older veterans who have a high degree of incapacity due to service-related conditions.)
- introduction of 'presumptive liability', which will allow the Repatriation Commission to specify injuries and diseases that can be determined on a presumptive basis where they are known to have a common connection with military service, without needing to engage with the Statement of Principles (SoP) system
- consolidation of household and attendant care, travel for treatment, and retention of automatic granting of VEA funeral benefits in the MRCA
- an increase to \$3,000 for funeral allowance for previous automatic grant categories currently covered under the VEA, and the availability of reimbursement of funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service-related deaths.

The 2024-25 Budget included a measure providing an additional \$222 million in veteran and family entitlements across the first 2 years from commencement of this legislation, with increased expenditure continuing beyond the forward estimates.

The Bill is the result of significant community consultation undertaken over 3 rounds since late 2022. Over 50

consultation sessions were conducted in 2023 and 2024 and 569 submissions were received. DVA found there was broad support within the veteran community for a single ongoing Act.

Following consideration of the feedback on the exposure draft in early 2024, these changes have been made to the Bill:

- Veterans in receipt of DRCA incapacity payments will automatically transition to MRCA incapacity payments on the date of commencement.
- Where the Repatriation Medical Authority updates an SoP between the veteran's primary and reviewable decision, the version of the SoP which is most beneficial to the veteran's circumstances will be applied.
- An introduction of an instrument-making power to enable the Repatriation Commission to determine circumstances where a veteran must receive financial advice before receiving a lump sum payment.

The Senate referred the Bill to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 3 October 2024. More information is available at: www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform.



RAEME CORPS 82nd BIRTHDAY BBQ

(All ranks)

The RAEME Association NSW Inc. invites you to join us, at above function, to celebrate our Corps' 82nd birthday.

WHEN: *Friday 22 November 2024*

WHERE: *Memorial Gardens Ingleburn RSL Club, 70 Chester Street Ingleburn NSW*

Note: *The BBQ will be held outside the RSL Club and All guests will not be required to sign into the Club*

TIMINGS: *1200hrs for 1230hrs*
BBQ to commence at 1300hrs

COST: *\$15 per person*

DRESS: *Smart Casual*

INVITEES: *All members of the Corps past and present, their partners, friends and friends of RAEME*

RSVP: Notice of attendance and payments by **08 November 2024**

PAYMENT: Cheque/Money Order to: RAEME ASSOCIATION NSW Inc. and send to
The Treasurer, 6 Magney Place BELLA VISTA 2153

OR

Direct deposit to RAEME ASSOC NSW INC.

BSB: 062 196

A/C: 0091 6051

Reference : Surname and postcode

Please include names of those attending, with cheque/money order.

NOTE: If paying by direct deposit please ensure you inform the Association

Treasurer at: treasurer@nsw.raeme.org.au with details of your payment, and those attending

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Email address.....

Contact phone number.....

RAEME PORT 2024

The 1st Aviation Regiment is proud to have the opportunity to present the 2024 RAEME Port, and, for the first time offer a 2024 RAEME Whisky.

The theme that we have chosen for the port this year is 'The Sundowner'.

The Sundowner holds a special place in the hearts of the craftsman that serve amongst the Regiment and we find it fitting with the circumstances 1 AVN currently finds itself in.

With 1 AVN beginning its move to Townsville next year the theme sits well, the Sundowner bar has followed the Regiment around Australia throughout its many relocations.

Buller Wines (Rutherglen, Vic) has kindly taken on the job to supply this year's port, and is well up for the task as they've supplied the RAEME port many times over the previous years. We've chosen a beautiful Old Fine Tawny this year.

2024 RAEME Port is valued at \$30.

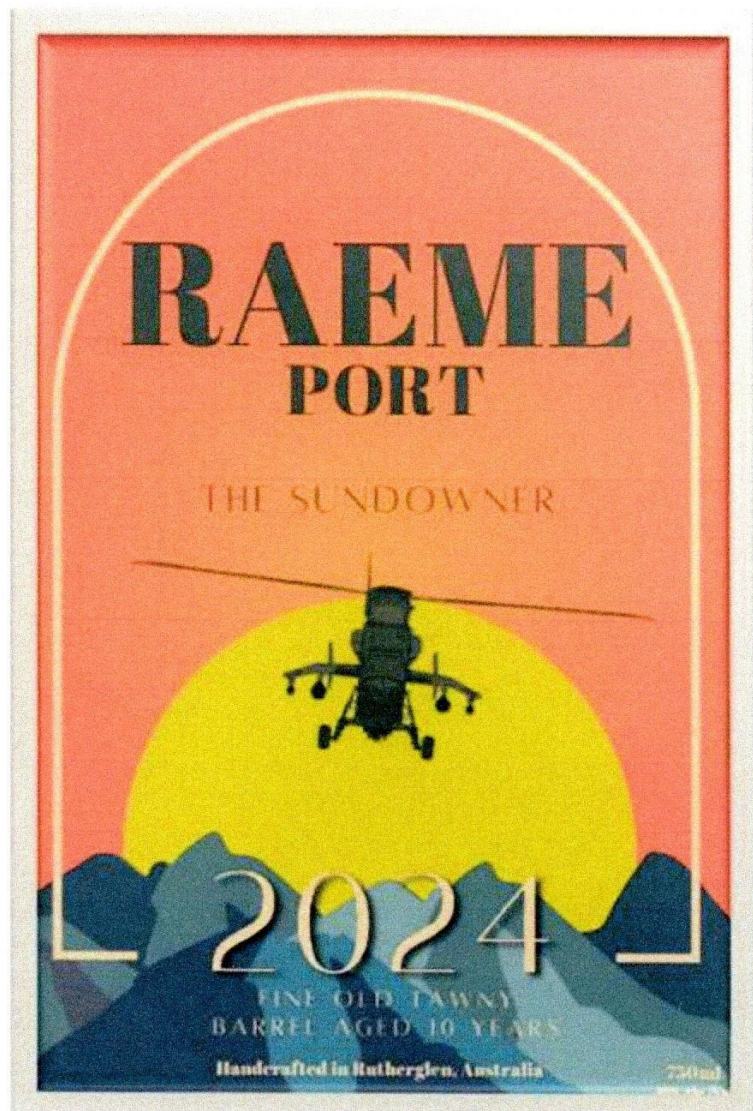
Ancient Wisdom Distillery (Pakenham, Vic) has offered a lovely Australian Whisky aged in Tawny Port barrels which is a captivating expression that marries the robust qualities of the whisky with the luxury of fortified wine casks.

2024 RAEME Whisky is valued at \$70.

Please use the following link to secure yourself a 2024 RAEME Port and Whisky;
<https://www.trybooking.com/CUCVK>

The sales event will finalise 19 Oct 24, to allow for delivery by RAEME Birthday

2024 RAEME Port and Whisky



Select tickets				
Thursday 1 August 2024 7:00 PM - Saturday 19 October 2024 11:00 PM				
1x 750 ml Port Bottle	Fine Old Tawny Blend - Buller Wines	\$30.00	-	1 +
1x 700 ml Whisky Bottle	Tawny Barrel Aged Whisky - Ancient Wisdom Distillery	\$70.00	-	1 +

Exercise 101 Reunion



Ingleburn RSL Saturday 17th August 2024 was definitely the place to be.

A night for some, a weekend for others to remember!!!

For most of us, we haven't been in the same room for 30+ years, but it only felt like last week we were all sitting in the boozier or Sgt's Mess together or out the back in Aero Paddock under the cam nets. We travelled from all around Australia to make this a successful memorable night.



It was great to have had three ex 101 Vietnam Veterans - Allan Moore, Bryan Fyfe & Geoff Watts to share the night with us.

We had the pleasure of the current 101 Fd Wksp Darwin OC Jesse Voyer and ASM Marcellin Chee attend. It was great to hear what the guys are up to up north.

We were also lucky enough to have had our last OC Michael Culley and ASM Henry Gibson attend. Lots of laughs and reminiscing about the 'old days'. Lots of memories some had forgotten and reminded of. Everyone looks exactly the same apart from receding hairlines (sorry men 🤪).

If you'd like to attend our next RAEME reunion, Aug 2026, then please send an email to Karen Cairns - karencairns@bigpond.com to express your interest and to be kept up to date with further details.



Photos and article curtesy of Michell Lafferty.

Social Calendar

Corps Birthday BBQ 2024

To be held in the Memorial Gardens Ingleburn RSL Club on Friday 22 Nov 24.

All past and present RAEME Members, the partners, friends and friends of RAEME are invited.

For Full details see the flyer attached to this Newsletter/Bulletin.

Corps Birthday Celebrations Holsworthy 2024

RAEME Personnel in Holsworthy Barracks are to hold Corps Birthday Celebrations in Holsworthy Barracks on Friday 29 Nov 24.

Anyone interested in attending are to contact **president@nsw.raeme.org.au by 24 Nov 24.**

NSW RAEME Association AGM 2025

The AGM of the NSW RAEME Assn is to be held on 15 Feb 25 in the Ingleburn RSL Club, 70 Chester Street INGLEBURN. **Note new location of the AGM.** Formal notice of the AGM will be released in Jan 25.

Editor's Note:

I am disappointed to report that a submission of a 1992 Association newsletter has been scrambled in either the transmission or formatting processes. I will try to reconstruct it for the next newsletter – no promises.

I would also like submissions from Unit archives, stories of past glories and any other news you would like to share.

Arte et Marte