

CORPS BIRTHDAY 2025 IN-REVIEW



RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (RAEME-SA)

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Assistant Secretary	Judy Moyses
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RAEME Association of SA Inc. Website
(www.sa.raeme.org.au)

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
ALL**

**PLEASE DRIVE
SAFELY**

RAEME Happenings is South Australia

Army Compliance and Assurance Unit (ACAU)

On Saturday 6th Dec 2025, the 2025 ACAU Dinner was held in the Torrens Parade Ground Combined Ex Services Mess

Master of Ceremonies at the dinner was SERCAT-7 - RAEME Fitter WO2 Aaron Stevens who is the current Detachment SGT Major (DSM) at the Adelaide ACAU detachment based at Keswick Barracks.



During the evening, and much to his surprise, WO2 Aaron Stevens was presented with a Command Commendation which was read out by ACAU RSM WO1 Nicholas Vote and presented by LTCOL Jane Evans, CO Army Compliance and Assurance Unit.

Aaron was recognised for his outstanding efforts and enthusiasm as an experienced member of the Lethality Team at ACAU who work with all personnel to improve and maintain our Combat Behaviours and weapon handling skills.

WO2 Stevens is set to become the National ACAU Operations Warrant Officer



At the same dinner our president WO1 John Prince was formally presented with his Federation Star by the Adjutant General – Army, Brigadier Mark Armstrong CSC.



Brigadier Mark Armstrong CSC



The Adjutant General - Army delivers analysis to identify root causes, strategic trends and capability risks. This analysis provides the Chief of Army with assurance and support for strategic decision-making. The Adjutant General also coordinates internal and external audits and inspection activities involving Army.



RAEME Association of SA

DIARY DATES 2026



Activity/Function

Date

- | | |
|---|--|
| - RAEME Luncheon (West Adelaide FC) | Tuesday 3 rd March |
| - Committee of Management Meeting (Plympton/Glenelg RSL) | Wednesday 4 th March |
| - RAEME-SA ANZAC Day function (West Adelaide FC) | 12 th /13 th April (TBC) |
| - 2026 ANZAC Day March (Details to be confirmed) | Saturday 25 th April |
| - Committee of Management Meeting (Plympton/Glenelg RSL) | Wednesday 3 rd June |
| - RAEME Luncheon (West Adelaide FC) | Tuesday 1 st September |
| - Committee of Management Meeting (Plympton/Glenelg RSL) | Wednesday 2 nd September |
| - RAEME and other Log Association's Combined Function | (TBA) |
| - SA RAEME Corps Birthday Activity (TBA) | Friday 27 th November |
| - 2026 RAEME-SA Annual General Meeting (West Adelaide FC) | Saturday 28 th Nov (10.30am) |
| - 2026 RAEME-SA Corps Birthday Family Function (West Adelaide FC) | Saturday 28 th Nov (noon) |

Allied Military Association Functions

- Army Museum (Keswick) History Week Lunch (See Museum Website) Wednesday 13th May

To view all functions happening around Australia by the various **RAEME Associations**
[Hold down the Control button and Click on this link](#)

VALE – Lest We Forget



Recently Received Vale from SA

MAJ Graham Spurling

Died 30 March 2025 aged 87
Graham was a CMF soldier for over 20 years
and commanded 107 Fd Wksp.
(see page 4)



CPL Jeffrey Carrington Clarke

Died 17 Nov 2025 aged 81
Served with 161 Recon Flight and 5 RAR.
(see page 4)

VALE MAJ Graham Spurling

MAJ Graham Spurling AM ED (B Tech 1960). AM for significant service to business, and to the community of South Australia - Member of the Order of Australia (AM)



Graham Spurling is remembered as a manufacturing industry leader with a deep respect for the dignity of workers, a devoted family man and strong supporter of the Church.

Graham grew up in Mile End with his brothers Peter and Bill and once described Mile End as a suburb that “slid down from the West End” along with its ‘wonderfully colourful and generous characters’.

When Graham left school, he worked at the SA Harbors Board and began studying engineering at university. During this time, he joined the Adelaide University Regiment graduating as an officer and was posted to RAEME.

In 1959, during his final year of university, Graham saw an advert for a Chrysler scholarship to complete his Masters in Detroit, USA, so he applied and was accepted. He also got engaged and married his wife (for 65 years) Peggy in 1960. After a one-day honeymoon they both headed off to the USA.

Graham was awarded an Order of Australia by the Queen for his services to the Australian manufacturing industry. In the 1980s he, along with Senator John Button, crafted a strategy with the goal of nurturing the Australian car industry into the era of globalisation. Graham was acutely aware of the role of manufacturing in Australia and particularly South Australia.

Graham was a member of the CMF for 20 years, where he held a number of postings at 107 Inf Wksps, 3/9 SAMR LAD and Officer Commanding 107 Field Workshops. It was a voluntary role that he loved, and they say that was what led to his obsession for wearing highly spit-polished shoes.

VALE 43782 CPL Jeffrey Carrington Clarke - RAEME

passed away on 24 November 2025 after a long illness in Adelaide, South Australia.

Jeff was born on the 17th November 1944, Port Augusta.

He was posted to 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight from 23 September 1966 until 27 September 1967 as a Craftsman in the Airframe Section.

From 22 December 1969 until 09 February 1970, he was posted to the 5th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment as a Corporal.

From 10 February 1970 until 12 December 1970, he was posted to the 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot.

Jeff is survived by Fran his wife of 56 years and children James and Hayley and grandchildren Keith and Ariadne

Lest We Forget

Online lists of recent RAEME members Deaths and Illnesses are always available at:

- <http://www.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-alt>
- <http://www.sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-report>

CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Friday 28th November 2025

EDINBURGH

16 Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, hosted the regional 2025 Corps Birthday celebrations on 28 Nov 25. All regional current and ex-serving members of the Corps and associated personnel were invited to participate in the birthday celebrations held within Horseshoe Lines, RAAF Base Edinburgh around the 'Iron Keep', (the Pig Pen for those who have been in the SA region for a while).

While the numbers were down on last year (due to unit movements and exercises/courses) there was still a good representation of Corps members along with trade suppliers plus the Army Museum of SA, the National Military Vehicle Museum and RAEME-SA Association.

Thanks to photographer Heather Newitt from Gawler for providing the RAEME Birthday photos at Edinburgh.



The trade display set up adjacent to the presentation area



LTCOL Gareth Pihl, CO JLU - South presenting SERCAT 7 SA Craftsman of the Year award to CFN Liam O'Connell (16 REGT RAA)



WO1 John Prince, President of RAEME-SA presenting SERCAT 7 Soldier of the Year award to CPL Callum Munro (16 REGT RAA)

EDINBURGH



CPL M Lo Piccolo (14 REGT RAA) being presented his 15-year medal by Major Michael O'Callaghan (DQ 10 BDE)



LCPL Keenan Rojas-Vernon being promoted to CPL by MAJ Michael O'Callaghan (DQ 10 BDE)



LTCOL Gareth Pihl, CO JLU - South Welcoming everyone to the 2025 Corps Birthday Activity



Food Truck



Trade Display



Matthew Shoemark & Mark Faranda enjoying the game



All Fun and Games



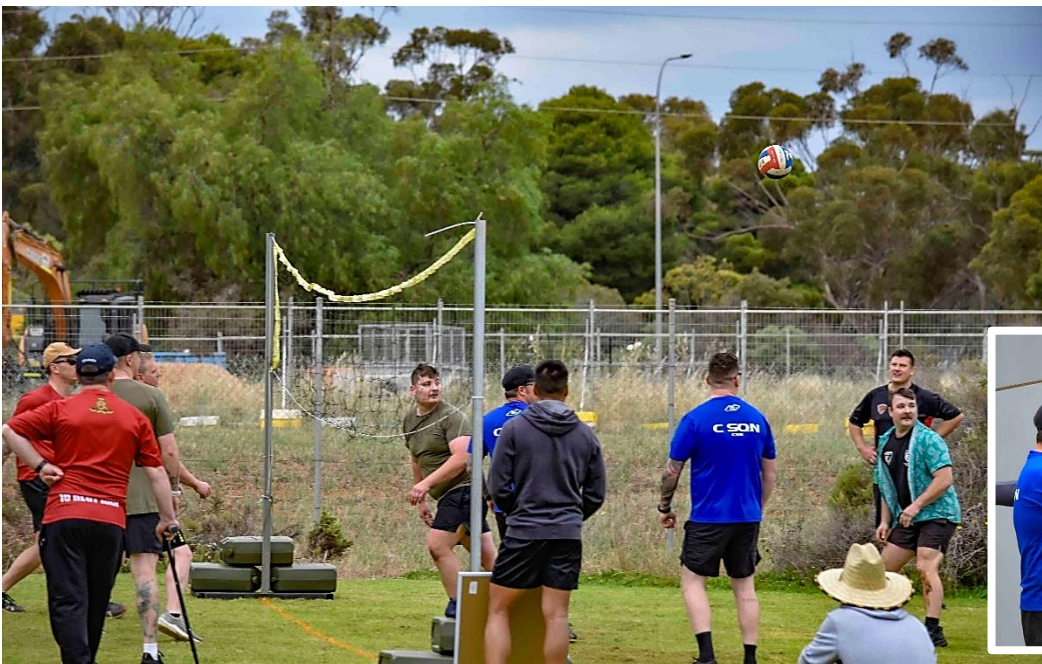
Trade Display

CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Friday 28th November 2025

EDINBURGH



Let the Games Begin



CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Friday 28th November 2025

EDINBURGH



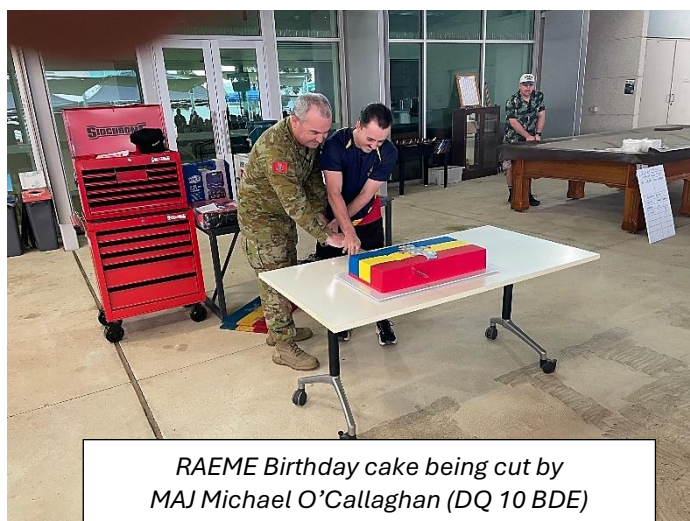
Part of the National Military Vehicle Museum Display



Army Museum of SA Display



2025 RAEME Birthday cake



RAEME Birthday cake being cut by
MAJ Michael O'Callaghan (DQ 10 BDE)
and CFN Evans (ASEME)

RAEME – SA ASSOCIATION

Members of the RAEME-SA Association celebrated the Corp's 83rd Birthday at the West Adelaide Football Club in Richmond inviting friends, family and other ex-RAEME members to join them for the event. Everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and the great range of food available at the venue.

The activity was preceded by our Association AGM where our President WO1 John Prince presented two Life Memberships to Association members. (See pictures below)

We were also joined by members of the REME Association (SA Branch) with whom we have a great relationship. The winners of the Central Region "RAEME Soldier of the Year" Awards were also announced.



Our Banner Bearer WO2 Lou Leeuwrik marched in the Banner



Our Treasurer and Membership Officer Bob Matthew being awarded his Life Membership Certificate



Our AGM Head table



Our Historian and long -time Committee Member John Howard being awarded his Life Membership Certificate

RAEME – SA ASSOCIATION



Our Memorabilia Display



Our Raffle Prizes

CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Saturday 29th November 2025

RAEME – SA ASSOCIATION



The RAEME - SA CORPS Birthday Cake



Our Secretary Don Harvy with “the Sword”



The very popular RAEME cup cakes



REME SA Chairman Alan Weeks cutting the cake for us

CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Tuesday 2nd December 2025

WARRADALE

107 Fd Wksp Coy, 9CSSB incorporated the Corps Birthday with their final parade of the year. The function was held in the Warradale Barracks Other Ranks Mess on Tuesday 2nd December. It was a great activity with a number of other RAEME ARes staff invited back to “Home Base” to help celebrate the activities.

These activities include the presentation of the RAEME Head of Corps SERCAT 5 SA Craftsman of the Year award for SA to CFN Joshua Hutchings by LTCOL Gareth Pihl, CO JLU – South and the presentation of the RAEME-SA Association SERCAT 5 Soldier of the Year award to CFN Sarah Gordon by WO1 John Prince, President of RAEME-SA. The evening also included the promotion of LT Riley Lodge to Captain with his badge of rank being changed by his wife. The Promotion was conferred by CO 9 CSSB LTCOL Andrew Glover.

There were also a number of other unit awards presented by OC 107 Wksp Coy MAJ Eugene Wasilenia.

The evening included a barbecue and sporting activities including the “Hammer Throw” and other general participation activities.

Several previous members of 107 Fd Wksp attended including 4 past OCs of the unit (LTCOL Greg Rosser (Retd), MAJ Helmut Bohn (Retd), MAJ Buck Rogers and MAJ Michael Tammassy. There were also a number and other senior Warrant Officers who had served in the unit including WO1 John Prince, WO2 Doug Pammenter, WO2 Lou Leeuwrik and WO2 Don Harvy.



LTCOL Gareth Pihl, CO JLU – South presenting the RAEME Head of Corps SERCAT 5 SA Craftsman of the Year awarded to CFN Joshua Hutchings

CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – Tuesday 2nd December 2025

WARRADALE



WO1 John Prince presenting the RAEME Association of South Australia SERCAT 5 Soldier of the Year award to CFN Sarah Gordon.



CO 9CSSB LTCOL Andrew Glover officially promoting LT Riley Lodge to the rank of Captain.



OC 107 Wksp Coy MAJ Wasilenia making a Unit Presentation to Captain Lodge.

WARRADALE



Other Unit Awards



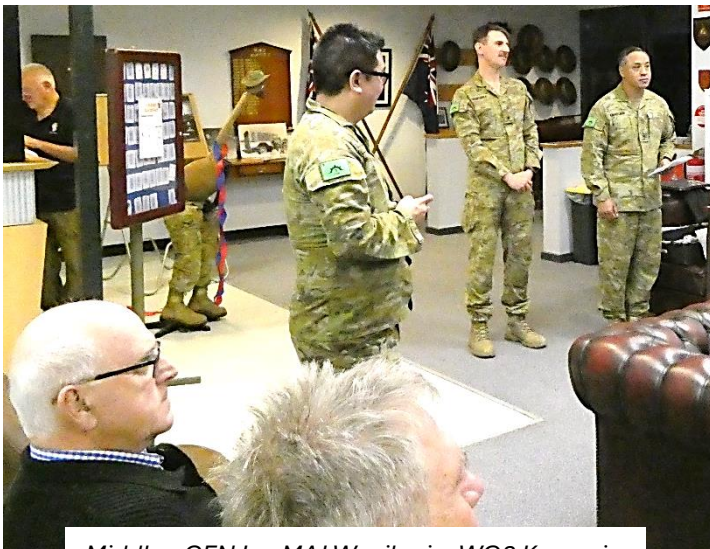
OC 107 Wksp Coy MAJ Wasilenia presenting the "KJP Brown Trophy for SNCO/WO contribution to unit efficiency for 2025 to WO2 Kavooris (CSM - 107 Fd WKSP Coy)



WARRADALE



“Hammer Throw” Activity



Middle - CFN Lo, MAJ Wasilenia, WO2 Kavooris
Close – MAJ Bohn and SGT Mikajlo



L-R WO2 Kavooris, Maj Rogers, Maj Tamassy,
WO1 Prince and WO2 Leeuwrik



Above - The CORPS Birthday cake.



Right – LTCOL Pihl and CFN Tia Hirniak
cutting the cake.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

In our July edition of the Newsletter (See Pages 10 & 11) we mentioned the RAEME National Network (RNN) and drew everyone's attention to the RAEME ACT Newsletter, talking about how it was an excellent production. It also had a prominent national focus and articles relevant to all RAEME soldiers and association members.



Since that time a number of the Associations have been talking about how this concept could become a national production and possibly be issued monthly. RAEMESA have agreed to be part of a trial of a new national news sheet. The aim is to develop and produce a regular newsletter relevant to all RAEME members past and present.

RAEME-SA will continue to have its own identity and member email distribution system which will still be available to provide immediate updates/news sheets relevant to any local functions and activities.

We hope this will prevent duplication of information and effort. *I must admit I have in the past "borrowed" relevant articles from other news sheets that I thought would be of interest to our members.* (Ed)

The first edition of the new national news sheet (yet to be named) will be available in February 2026 and we will send you all an email telling you it is available and providing the link to its location so you can all check it out. Our email will also provide details of any early Anzac Day information and details of unit and association functions.

My congratulations go to Ian Cook, the Secretary of ACT RAEME Association and his team in the ACT who spend a significant amount of time researching and compiling the information and putting together a monthly Newsletter of this quality and technical prowess.

RAEME-SA have agreed to be part of the new nationally produced Newsletter. Most members don't know how much time and effort is involved in producing, checking, proof reading and then getting the tick of approval by others before it can be shared with all our members.

Hopefully this new system will reduce the amount of work done across all associations.

LTCOL Greg Rosser RFD (Retd) - Editor

