



**SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN**

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH



**APRIL 2002  
ANZAC EDITION**

**Issue 35**

The RAEME Association  
(Victoria) Incorporated  
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## COMING EVENTS

### **ANZAC REUNION**

**WED> 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 1930Hrs**

### **DAWN SERVICE**

**WED> 25<sup>H</sup> APRIL OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 0545 Hrs**

### **RESERVE FORCES DAY**

**SUN>28<sup>th</sup> JULY:** Full March to the Shrine from Flinders St.  
Step off 0945hrs

### **KORUMBURRA DEPOT CLOSURES**

And associated events (details inside)

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2002

### **CORPS 60<sup>Th</sup> ALL RANKS BIRTHDAY DINNER**

Friday 29<sup>TH</sup> November

#### **What is Anzac day?**

Anzac day- 25<sup>th</sup> April – is probably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during The First World War. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as Anzacs and the pride they soon took in that name endures to this day.

#### **What does it mean today?**

Australians recognise the 25<sup>th</sup> April as an occasion of national commemoration. Commemorative services are held at dawn, the time of the original landing, across the nation. Later in the day ex-serviceman and women meet and join in marches through the major cities and many smaller centres. Commemorative ceremonies are held at war memorials around the country. It is a day when Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

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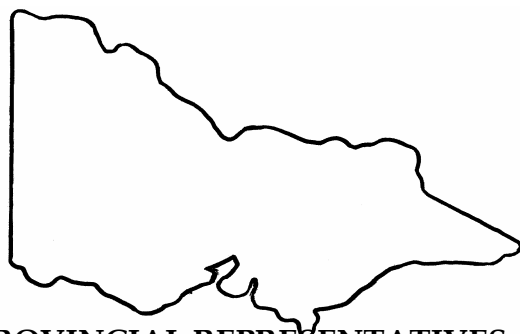
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This magazine is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

How do you find out what is happening in and around the RAEME ASSOCIATION, or in fact RAEME? through 'The LIGHTNING FLASH' of course.

DISCLAIMER - The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.



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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

I am writing this report from Room 79, Critical Care Unit, Knox Hospital.

I have been admitted with a heart attack but I am well and truly on the mend thanks to the great work and care of the staff at this place. Thank you all for the calls, cards, flowers, visits and good wishes Leonie and I have received.

How lucky I was that the W & LM luncheon was on Sunday.

The last issue of the Lightning Flash had several errors in it for which I apologize; (It was put together in a bit of a rush), this issue will be back to our usual standard (I trust).

There is little to report since the last issue so I am looking forward to seeing you all on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> of April please make an effort to join us.

In the August issue there was a proforma to update our records with your details. Some 40% of members replied; how about you other 60%. Please take a few minutes to reply, this time using the form in this issue.

I have heard comments that some of our members are not well, in hospital etc, and are not being contacted by our Welfare Officer. Lets put this straight: If the Welfare Officer does not know, he can not contact them. It only takes a moment to contact a committee member or provincial representative and they will pass the message onto Reg.

**Reserve Forces Day.** Ian Ward has advised that the Reserve Forces March is to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 02, with a March, down Swanson St, from the assembly area in Flinders St., followed by a get-together at your favorite Hotel. More detail will be provided as it comes to hand by the Media but you should put this day in your diary now.

**Peter Cartledge.**

ANZAC Day has a proud history, but our Lightning Flash has just passed a milestone. Your newsletter has now been issued in roughly its present format for ten years. This reproduction opposite (reduced) is of the front page of the first issue printed and circulated late in 1991.

On page four (4) of this issue are some extracts from that publication and you can judge whether we have fulfilled those targets and met the expectations that inspired the creation of your newsletter.

Our Association was in existence long before the incorporation in 1991.

**Do you know when the Association was first formed?**

Join us at the reunion on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

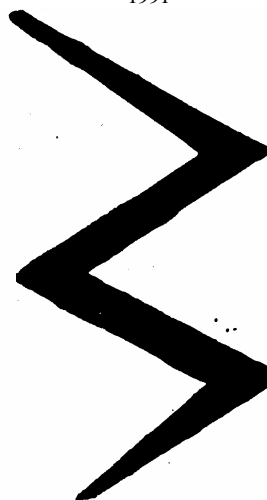
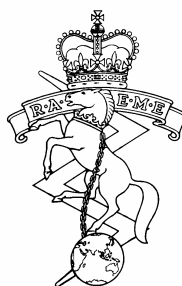
>>>>>**for the answer**<<<<<.

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Pres. J H LEE

Summer  
1991

Editor R H Hunter



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**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

As a result of my sudden hospitalisation and subsequent operation in December, it made me realise the true value of friendship, especially that gained through belonging to organisations such as the RAEME Association and the RSL.

It is too late when someone you know passes away, to say, 'I SHOULD HAVE KEPT IN TOUCH'.

To this end, make an effort to come to our reunion on ANZAC Eve and renew those old acquaintances and bring a friend.

It was great to see our Widows and Life Members at the special luncheon provided in their honour, however, it is disappointing to see the numbers so low when this is what the Association is all about, ... staying in touch! Well done to the hard working Committee, the tables and food were excellent.

It was great to hear from Col. Jack Wilson that the Army had seen the error of its ways after the East Timor conflict disclosed a lack of direction and the necessity for more Corps identification. We now have a Head of Corps again..... RAEME continues to live!

If you are not involved with local activities on ANZAC Day please come to the City and march with the Association to help keep this honourable tradition going.

**NATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL** Are you entitled to the newly produced NSM? If you believe you may qualify, use the Application Form included in this issue of 'The Flash', but be aware there could be a long delay as the processing procedure is overloaded at the moment.

**INTERSTATE:** We have received advice that the Queensland Branch of our Association is now up and running and in fact we have obtained a copy of their Newsletter. For our Queensland and other members, who may wish to get in touch with them, their Web address is:

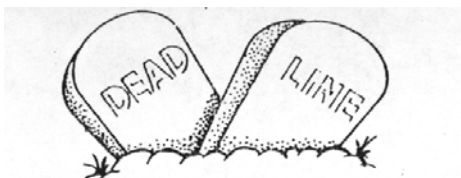
([www.raeme.cjb.net](http://www.raeme.cjb.net))

**From: Ross Grant Chairman**

**RON CLIFFORD**

**NEW EDITOR**

As a result of the advice in the previous issue of 'The Flash' it is heartening to see such a positive response for a member to take over as Editor. Pat Marley, ably assisted and/or directed by his good lady, Terri, will edit future issues. Pat can be contacted on 9802 0637, contributions or items considered for publication are to be sent to 16 Clematis St. Glen Waverley 3150. Pat will introduce himself and give some of his background in future issues. Thanks Pat, for your offer to take over the reins, you will get wholehearted support from myself and all members of the Committee of Management.



**THE DEAD LINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE AUGUST FLASH IS: 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2002**

**All Articles to Pat Marley our new Editor (as above)**

**PETER CARTLEDGE, PRESIDENT**

A man accidentally bumped into a woman in a busy shopping centre and as he apologized she told him not to worry, then looking him up and down she exclaimed: 'You look like my fourth husband!' fancy that, mused the man, "and how many husbands have you had? "THREE" she replied with an inviting smile.

## SOCIAL REPORT

In the last issue of The Flash I omitted to mention the All Ranks Mixed Corps dinner which was held under the auspices of Col. Jack Wilson our Corps Commandant. (Although it is not our function, we do a lot towards it). Some 60 members, partners and guests sat down at East Malvern RSL for a delightful dinner. A cake to celebrate the Corps 59<sup>th</sup> birthday that was jointly cut by the Junior and Senior Members of the Corps present. Another cake was presented to Les Bailey, as it was also his 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday that day. Col. Jack Wilson announced the winner of The Craftsman of Year, Cfn. Joe Sant and presented him with his Cheque, Award and Trophy. The runner up for the Award was Cfn John McKenna, who was presented with a special bottle of Corps Port. Our President Peter Cartledge presented the Association's Shield to Cfn. Sant. Col. Jack Wilson made a special mention and thanked Cpl Domenic Pontelandolfo for the outstanding work he has done in promoting the Corps to the other Ranks. This year's Dinner will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November as we feel a Friday is a more suitable night. So make a note in your diary now.

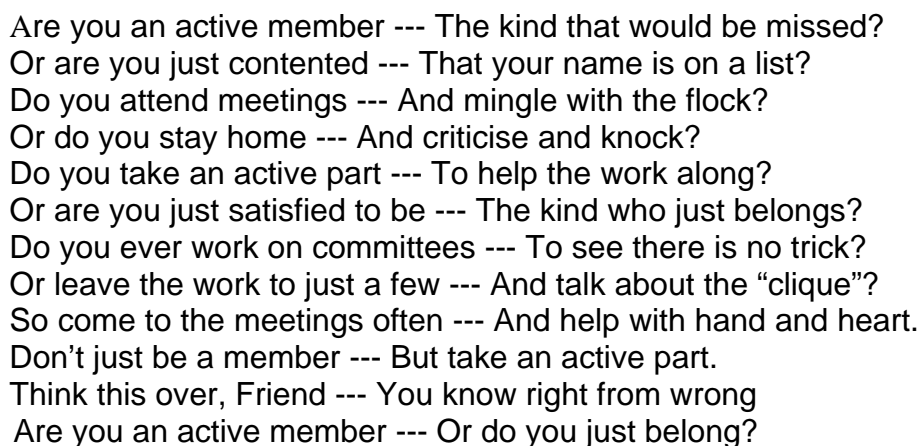
On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March we held our Annual luncheon to honour our Widows and Life Members. The numbers were down on last year, however, everybody there enjoyed them selves with plenty to eat and drink with the Sergeants' Mess being open before and after the lunch. Thanks must go to the depot staff for the use of the classrooms and to the Q staff for stores and to Chris and Ian for their help in making the day a success

Next year could all our Widows make a special effort to attend the lunch (it is the Corps 61<sup>st</sup> birthday). It will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March (third Sunday). As has been stated before if transport is a problem, please let us know and we will endeavour to make some arrangements to assist.

Please don't forget our Annual Reunion on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1930 hrs at Oakleigh Barracks Officers/ Sergeants Mess. Gunfire breakfast at 0530 on the 25/4/02, Dawn Service 0600 followed by breakfast and then transport to the March after which we will be picked up and returned to Oakleigh for a light lunch.

A special thank you to my Social Committee for the work they put in for these functions. My committee of management for the man power to prepare the functions and to that number of silent helpers who simply roll up their sleeves to clear away and clean up after every function. You know who you are and be assured your help is greatly appreciated.

Peter.



Are you an active member --- The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented --- That your name is on a list?  
Do you attend meetings --- And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay home --- And criticise and knock?  
Do you take an active part --- To help the work along?  
Or are you just satisfied to be --- The kind who just belongs?  
Do you ever work on committees --- To see there is no trick?  
Or leave the work to just a few --- And talk about the "clique"?  
So come to the meetings often --- And help with hand and heart.  
Don't just be a member --- But take an active part.  
Think this over, Friend --- You know right from wrong  
Are you an active member --- Or do you just belong?

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

## THE INDOMITABLE BAILEY

Our oldest (91) and some say our finest member has been granted Life Membership of the Association. Les Bailey served in the SWPA during World War 2, joining RAEME in 1948 as an "original" member of 105 Infantry Workshop where his reputation as a cook reached legendary status. Les and his wife Hazel are active participants in all Association functions. Congratulations Les and Hazel.

## IN THE NEWS

At a recent hand-over luncheon Brian Driscoll was installed as President of the Warrnambool Legacy Club. Brian was an "original" of 105 Infantry Workshop when it was formed in 1948. He later served in various units located in the Western District, retiring as the RSM of an Infantry Battalion. Congratulations Brian.

## WELFARE REPORT

18.03.02

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb:** A call to Barry Ridgway who is in the midst of ChemoTherapy at Peter McCallum Hospital. He has signed himself up for new treatment; some days are OK others not so good.-

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Finally contacted David Beattie who was in Footscray Western General Hospital, Coronary Care Nursing Unit. David has lost weight and will miss the Widows and Life Members Luncheon, however hopes to be along for the ANZAC parade and has requested a seat in the jeep.

**17<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Barry Ridgway was admitted into Peter McCallum. His kidneys were not functioning but with treatment they are now working again. He was also suspected of having a small blood clot, but a brain scan fortunately failed to detect any problems. Barry sends kind regards to all.

**17<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Ron Clifford is making good progress after his recent operation.

Welfare Stop Press:

Just after this Welfare Officer's report was written (18<sup>th</sup> March) our President Peter had a sudden heart attack. His wife, Leonie, took him to Knox Private Hospital where he was admitted and promptly received attention. The problem was diagnosed as a Blocked Artery near the heart. By means of a catheter, a "stent" was threaded through the artery and inflated thus restoring the blood flow. Peter was allowed home on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, where Leonie is keeping a vigilant eye on him and will ensure he takes care of himself while recovering to full health.

Also; Barry is still in Peter McCallum and has undergone (and I quote) "almost every test the medical profession has devised." It is not known at this stage when he will be able to return home.

**To all those members in Hospital and any other who are unwell we wish you speedy recovery.**

**Reg Cox  
Welfare Officer.**



The President Committee and members  
regret the passing of our special friend and colleague

>> **David Beattie** <<

suddenly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2002

**"LEST WE FORGET"**





## THE ADVANCE OF RAEME

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December last year the final parade for 4 CSSB for 2001 was held at Broadmeadows. The companies were marched on and officers took post. The parade was then handed over to the 2IC and then the CO.

LT COL Buttner then gave the order for the officers to fall out. The officers saluted broke rank and moved to their new positions on the parade ground. 4 CSSB was then fallen out and members moved quickly to their new positions.

MAINTENANCE COMPANY 4 CSSB had come into being. No longer two separate FRGs with a locality based BSG; but a return to the well-loved functional company and to the tenets of the Corps.

Maintenance Coy currently has an ARA cadre staff of:

- WO2,
- 3 SGTs,
- 2 CPLs and
- CFN.

The GRES members consist of:

- MAJ,
- CAPT (soon to be 2),
- 2 LTs (soon to be 1),
- 2LT
- 2 WO2s
- SSGT
- 2 SGTs
- 11 CPL/LCPL
- 13 CFN

This gives a total strength at this time of 42, way down on what most will remember of a Field Workshop, but a good base to build upon.

**Indeed that is where Association members can help. You must know people who are in the technical fields – well we need to know them too. Talk to them and send them along to talk to us. We have a good group, who are working to a great future, and we only need the people to do it.**

As the OC of the Workshop Maintenance Coy, the CO has also tasked me with interfacing with the Colonel Commandant for Southern Region and the interfacing with the RAEME Association.

From a generic RAEME point of view the Corps pushes ahead. Afghanistan saw the RAN and 16<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Regiment along with the Special Air Service in the news as they left for operational tasks but RAEME is there with them in the form of tech support. So once again the Corps is where it is needed.

Nov 2001 saw the first Corps Conference in a number of years held at Bandiana. BRIG Sharpe opened the conference as the Head of Corps and interesting sessions were heard by all, including, after many years, a return to the question of the Corps and qualified engineers. One wonders if that question will ever be answered.

Outsourcing is seeing a changing face to the Corps. Positions are changing and more and more the members of the Corps are heading into the Land army and away from the many outsourced logistic appointments. Outsourcing is seeing our members take up new challenges in a variety of areas where they now deal with contractors and sub contractors instead of military members.

**THE ADVANCE OF RAEME: - Continued**

November 2001 also saw the formal issue of the complete Technical Regulatory Army Material Manual (that will become affectionately known as the TRAMM). The TRAMM is the engineering discipline base for the future. It will see workshops become qualified as Authorised Maintenance Organisations (AMOs) where not only will they have to prove that they are disciplined in an engineering sense but also demonstrate technical competence. Brigade Headquarters will be looking at holding an SO3 TRF (CAPT in the area of Technical Regulatory Function). It will be their task, as a degreed engineering officer, to ensure for one that local modifications are safe and that engineering is maintained.

The incoming of the TRAMM has also brought to light the shortage of appropriate technically qualified engineers in RAEME. To overcome this a program to identify and acquire increased numbers of engineering officers has been initiated. It is titled the "Other Ranks Engineering Commissioning Scheme – Australian Defence Force Academy". It will take Craftsmen to SGTs up to 46 years of age (on the first day of the month in which the Part Time – First Appointment Course commences). These candidates will be discharged and appointed as officer cadets. Once they have completed their Officer Training (at RMC) they will be promoted to 2LT on a 9 year short service commission and posted to ADFA to complete an engineering degree. Their rank on graduation will be dependent upon their rank prior to commissioning.

Overall it is fair to say that the members of the Corps who are carrying it forward are doing as good a task as those of us who look on once did. Indeed the members today are driving forward under conditions that most of us did not see, their war being fought on a new level. They continue to do us proud and we, as members of the Corps Association must strive to see that they are supported in any way we can.

**MAJ Robert Hudson**  
**CO 4 CSSB Workshop**  
**Maintenance Coy**

**RAEME Association Annual Reunion**  
**24<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

**Location:** Oakleigh Barracks Officer /Sgt Mess

**Cost:** \$12.00 Per Head

**Timings:** 1930 hrs Till Stumps

**Accommodation:** Sleeping gear must be booked in advance with Max Moore on 9802 9128 or Peter Cartledge on 9802 6406 by the 15<sup>th</sup> April or you can bring your own.

**Gun fire Breakfast:** Oakleigh Barracks time, 0530hrs. 25/04/02

**Dawn Service Oakleigh Barracks:** As per the Social Report (**don't forget your head gear & torch**)

## **END OF AN ERA**

Time has finally caught up with the old depot at Korumburra. After close to 90 years of military use the depot will finally 'close its doors' later this year. The history of the depot, involves three different Corps and over 13 different units (including VDC and VAD during WWII) The current user (3 Recov Coy) is to re-locate to the new multi-user depot at Doveton later this year. Before the depot closes, its worth examining, however briefly, the history of the depot and units that have served there.

## **INFANTRY**

The first recorded unit to operate from the Korumburra area was H Company 48<sup>th</sup> Bn (Kooyong Regiment) with platoons at Leongatha and Wonthaggi. This was in 1912. From this Company men joined the first AIF and formed 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, part of 4 Brigade.

After the first world war (WWI) the army was 'down sized' and most of the Inf Bn were removed from of the Order of Battle, however in 1921 the 22/Bn (1<sup>st</sup> AIF) remained on the order of battle and became the 22 Bn (Militia). This Bn. Was later linked to the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn to form the 29/22 Bn (Militia).

By 1936 a rifle Company, plus mortar platoon and cadet company were based in the Korumburra Depot.

With the threat of war all Militia units recruited heavily and in September 1939 the 29/22 Battalion was activated and mobilized to provide protection of vital assets. (most notable the radio station at Corowa). In 1940 the 29/22 Bn unlinked to form 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn Sth Gippsland Regt. and the 29<sup>th</sup> Militia Bn B Coy 29<sup>th</sup> Bn was located in the Korumburra depot. In 1941 the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn linked to the 46<sup>th</sup> Bn to form the 29/46<sup>th</sup> Bn. Both the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn and the 29/46<sup>th</sup> Bn saw active service in New Guinea.

During the years 1941-45 the Korumburra depot was the HQ of 23Bn VDC (Volunteer Defence Corp).

The local VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment) also trained at the Depot. Between the years 1945-48 the depot was closed for military purposes, but was used by other community organizations, eg the Police Boy's Club.

## **ARTILLERY**

In 1948 the CMF was activated and the Korumburra depot was reopened for military use. The first post war unit to use the Korumburra Depot was R Battery 22 Field Regiment (SP)(self propelled 25lb guns) with its Headquarters in Lancox Street, Brighton.

This unit was part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Brigade and was the only self propelled artillery regiment in the Australian Army. It was equipped with the Australian made Yeramba self propelled 25lb gun. These guns were mounted on converted Grant tank chassis, and were produced at the Ordnance factory in Bendigo.

In 1957 with a major reorganization of the army, this unit was removed off the order of battle. The depot was again closed and remained inactive until 1960 when a troop of 2 Field Regiment was relocated to Korumburra. This was a very short term, as a couple of months later the Korumburra and Warragul depots were linked with Dandenong to form 15 Field Regiment with a battery at each depot. This battery was equipped with the normal towed 25lb field gun. 15 Field Regiment formed part of the 2 Army Group Artillery (2AGRA), and continued in this role until 1965.

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

In 1965 -2 Recovery Company (Comm Z) was located to Korumburra and Warragul, with its Headquarters in Korumburra. As this was a Corps change most of the serving members had to be retrained as RAEME tradesmen. In 1973 the unit became the recovery platoon element of 3 EME Services Unit. Its role was to provide recovery and driver training for soldiers in Third Military District (3MD), and later all districts. The Unit also served in direct support of 3MD 4 Brigade operations and tasks. The Unit continued to carry out many specialist recovery support tasks. In 1988 the Unit became 3 Recovery Coy. (LSF) The Coy HQ was in Korumburra, with 1 Recovery Platoon in Korumburra/Warragul and 2 Platoon in Homebush Sydney. In 1992 Homebush & Warragul depots closed. 2 platoon was relocated to Baxter (VIC). Baxter closed in 1997, with 2 platoon then relocating to Korumburra in 2002. 3 Recovery Coy will relocate to Dandenong.

Despite many and various name changes, reviews and Defence 'white papers' the future of RAEME's last independent Coy is looking bright. Since the latest review (May01) the unit has developed a more refined structure that reflects a clearly defined role. Continuous involvement in operational deployments (Timor etc), has provided the unit with the rare opportunity of 'war like' experience at the soldier level.

Hand in hand with the new role is the requirement to direct our training in new directions. The unit is to shortly commence 'A' vehicle familiarization training in conjunction with the B vehicle driving courses. This new direction is reflected in the fact that the unit will have Trade Testing Officers for both A and B vehicles. In addition to these courses the unit has recommenced the training of basic recovery mechanics.

The units equipment holdings is also 'on the improve' with the recent acquisition of a 20 tonne recovery trailer and two new Medium Recovery Vehicles (MRV) gives this unit an operational capacity that it has not possessed for many years. We await eagerly the next generation in heavy wreckers (said to be two to three years away).

The Unit looks forward to the new depot. The facility has been designed from the outset to accommodate EME elements, from the height lift jacks and 6.5m ceilings to re-enforced bollards and lifting points in the floor, this new depot presents 3 Recovery Coy with modern up-to-date outlook for the future.

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### New Corps Items

In addition to the Corps items we have publicized in earlier newsletters we now have :-

**Thermal Mugs.** Cam green with disruptive pattern and Corps Logo. **\$10:00 .**

**Ladies Dress Brooches.** New design . Silver Horse set on a Gold Flash, Crown and Crest with Gem stones set in the Crest and Lighting Flash plus coloured Gems set in the Crown, plus a safety chain to a Gem studded clasp, **now only \$35:00**

We have, or can arrange to get, any of the previously advertised items such as Bomber Jackets, Logo Stickers, Polo Shirts, Baseball Style Caps and Stubbie Holders etc. Contact Max who will organize delivery and payment arrangements.





Are you aware that the last military unit in South Gippsland (3 Recovery Coy.) is to be relocated to Dandenong later this year.

DID YOU SERVE ?

In the MILITIA- VDC-VAD-CMF-ARMY RESERVE in South Gippsland between 1912-2002

Units that operated from the KORUMBURRA area include:

48 Militia Bn  
14 Militia Bn  
29/22 Militia Bn  
22 Bn South Gippsland Regt  
29 Militia Bn  
29/46 Militia Bn  
23 Bn VDC (Volunteer Defense Corp)  
VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment)  
22 Field Regiment (Self Propelled)  
2 Field Regiment  
15 Field Regiment  
2 Recovery Company (Comm Z)  
3 EME Services Unit  
3 Comm Z Recovery Platoon  
3 Recovery Company

You are invited to attend an open day at the Korumburra Training Depot where most of the units latest equipment will be on show plus a collection of vintage army equipment/memorabilia.

In addition to the open day 3 Recovery Company is to conduct a Regimental Dinner and if you served in any of the listed units (or any other unit that operated in South Gippsland) your participation at this function would be welcome.

The date for these two functions is:  
**SATURDAY the 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2002**

For planning and catering purposes please contact the Korumburra Training Depot on (03) 56 551842 as early as possible, as seating is limited.

**The Officer Commanding , staff and  
members of 3  
Recovery Company respectfully invite**

.....  
to attend the last Regimental Dinner  
in  
South Gippsland

This function is being conducted in  
order to commemorate the relocation of  
3 Recovery Company to its new  
Head Quarters in Dandenong

**Dress:** Officers, Senior NCO'S and retired members :  
Mess Dress or after 5  
Current serving members dress of the day  
Past members and guests evening/ after 5 dress

**Date:** **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2002**

**Location:** Korumburra Training Depot

**Cost:** \$40.00 Per head.

**Timing:** 1900 for 1930hrs

**RSVP:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2002

**PS** No military accommodation is available.

I will / will not be attending .....

**UPDATE** Open day commences at 1000 hrs.

Because of limited seating the dinner will be restricted to serving and



exserving members who were posted to or had ties with the Korumburra Training Depot & Gippsland area.