



# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

**SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN**

**November 2003**

**Issue 40**

**The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.**

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**Gus Allen**

**Secretary:**

**Ron Clifford**

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## **President's Report**

We held our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August last, with a small attendance, which was disappointing to say the least! Is it that you feel our Association is running well or is it just that you cannot be bothered?



It is with pleasure I report to you that the office bearers of your Association remain the same as last year, thank you for your vote of thanks. However we lost a couple of valuable committee members in Bruce Doolan and Barry Ridgway, Bruce because the distance between Meeniyah and Oakleigh (some 135 km.) seemed to be getting longer and Barry because his health is quite a problem I thank them both for their input to the committee and our Association. Jeffrey Gould replaced these members and I welcome him "aboard."

Try as we may, there was not another person willing to give of a little time and effort to help in the running of the Association!

Our new Head of Corps was to attend and give a short address however he was required overseas at short notice and was not able to be with us, however he has accepted our invitation to the Corps Dinner on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2003 at East Malvern RSL.

*We conferred Life Membership upon Jack Westernhagen for his long and devoted service to both the Army and to our Association, thanks Jack.*

Some important matters tabled at the AGM were setting a due date for our subs, something that was overlooked when the rules were

drawn up, and the making of a new member listing, that of Honorary Member which will, among others, cover our Widows. These rule changes are with Corporate Affairs now awaiting their blessing.

Leonie and I, together with your Committee wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and good health in 2004.

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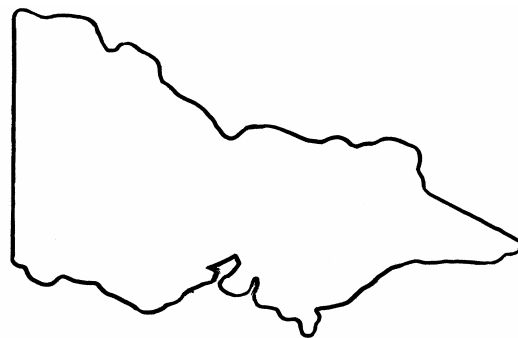
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**ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION**

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.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT***(Ron Clifford)*

Our Secretary Ron Clifford has been unwell, and was unable to provide a report. Matters have been covered in the President's Report.

Ron sends all members and families his best wishes for the coming festive season.

**WELFARE REPORT***Reg Cox*

Barry Ridgway has been having extensive radium serum treatment; he was in a lock-up lead-lined room for three days running, receiving the doses of serum at \$15,000 each. He had three doses, then a Geiger counter check of Barry and then OK for home. Barry sends his regards to the Committee and members.

Ron Clifford has had a very extensive set of tests, C.T. blood test then the oncologist; quite a program. Ron has lost quite a bit of weight, but is soldiering on regardless. We wish Ron good luck.

Laurie Burley is just out of hospital after having had a shoulder reconstruction job done. Laurie said there is no pain in the shoulder now and is feeling a lot better. Laurie and Jen will be on the coach trip.

A call to Alice and Ken Kermonde; Alice is still the same, lots of medication which keeps her fit. Ken is now totally deaf; even the hearing aids do not help. Our kindest regards to the Kermondes.

**Reg Cox***Welfare Officer*

Another "search for" project.

The following message is from Mick Ryan, RAE Assoc who is looking to help someone find information about Ken Sandilands. If anyone knows Ken and can pass on some information to Mick, please send him a message and let him know so that he can pass it on.

The original request reads:

My girlfriend and I are travelling to Vietnam for a month soon so I am writing to you to try and track down some information about my uncle who served there as a sapper.

According to my mother, he served in the 17th Construction Company. His name was Kenneth John Sandilands # 1734051.

We know he was stationed at Nui Dat or Vung Tau but little else. Can you help us please with more information if possible.

Thank You  
Yours Sincerely  
Rod Baker

If anyone can help, please pass info on to Mick Ryan at email [ssm1@iinet.net.au](mailto:ssm1@iinet.net.au)

**Let's hear from you!**  
**Deadline for April Issue**  
**Saturday 20 March 2004**

**Contributions to the President or Secretary or to the Editor:**

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## SOCIAL REPORT November 2003

The 29 members who attended our trip to Swan Hill together with the 28 members from REME SA enjoyed their time together.

The trip with Barry Mills and his coach was most enjoyable and made even better by Ron Clifford's brainteasers and Doug Brazier's videos.

The rotary dairy that we saw from an observation platform saves the farmer valuable time and effort by milking 92 cows at once.

The President of Swan Hill RSL (where we had our evening meals) made us all temporary members and accorded us member privileges. Several of our members were lucky with the pokies and Keno however some were not! Sunday saw us at a photographic studio with spectacular photographs of many landscapes mainly mountains, rivers and sunsets followed by Devonshire morning tea.

A luncheon cruise on the *M V Kookaburra* traversing the Murray River with a very informative commentary from Captain Bill Hogg.

This trip was followed by a visit to the Pioneer Settlement and after we returned for the sound and light show – quite a different place at night. Monday we travelled to Lake Boga and visited the Catalina flying boat Museum where they have an excellent video of the base being built and maintained during WW2.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Commercial Hotel where there is a wonderful display of memorabilia when it was a watering hole for the RAAF during WW2.

On the way to Best's Winery we stopped at possibly the smallest war cemetery with only 7 graves.

The Winemaker at Best's, with 40 years experience, explained all areas of their winemaking, which we found extremely interesting. Tasting and purchases were enjoyed by many!

Upon returning it was time for the preparation for our special dinner at the RSL together with a raffle and of course our own special Melbourne Cup with Geoff Maggs horses as per RAEME Association this time we were able to present a real cup to the winning winder - Rod Brazier. After breakfast on Tuesday morning we loaded up and bade farewell to the SA gang who left for home just before us.

On our way home it was decided to buy the necessary and have a BBQ on the bank of the lake at Bendigo which was enjoyed by all on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

We ran a sweep on the coach (my horse is still running I think) and listened to the Cup on the way home dropping off several people before we returned to Oakleigh.

Thank you to Barry Mills for his great service with the coach.

I have booked Barry for Anzac Day and asked him to pencil in a trip Cup Weekend 2004.

This would be a time to think about next year and start to put a little aside so YOU to are able to enjoy one of our trips.

### Dates for Diary

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET** our Birthday Dinner 28<sup>th</sup> November at East Malvern RSL you will find a tear off slip in this 'flash please return it ASAP to us. See you all there!!

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2004: our Dinner to honour our Widows and Life Members.

## More Three-Minute Jeeps

(see February 2003 *Lightning Flash*)

The following letter was received from Member Joe Wisdom of Narre Warren (*unfortunately space precluded its inclusion in the August 2003 Lightning Flash*):

It may be of interest to readers of "Lightning Flash", concerning the Three-Minute Jeep.

I am enclosing photocopies of the Royal Tournament Show in Earls Court London in the mid-1950s.

I enjoyed the reading of the *Lightning Flash* Three-minute Jeep, as I am in the process of restoring a jeep, it is a 1942 Ford chassis with a Willys engine which I purchased in October 2002.

So far, I am I am down to the chassis; it is time-consuming having to strip, repair or replace parts, but my wife has told me it is keeping me out of trouble. I ask you – what trouble can I get into at 77 years old? Ha-ha!

I am also enclosing a photo of myself (the one on the right) taken in Palestine in 1945. I was with Store Section, R.E.M.E. Workshop, 6 A/B Div.

If any member is passing my home in Narre Warren and would like to see how I am progressing with the Jeep, you would be welcome.

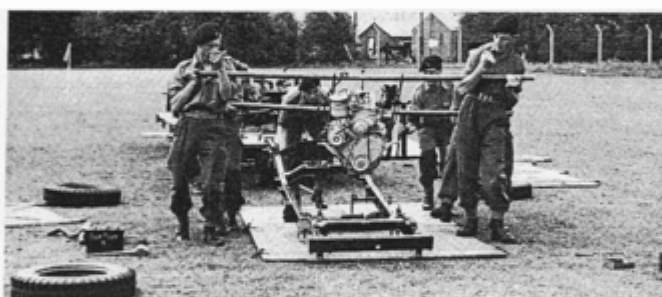
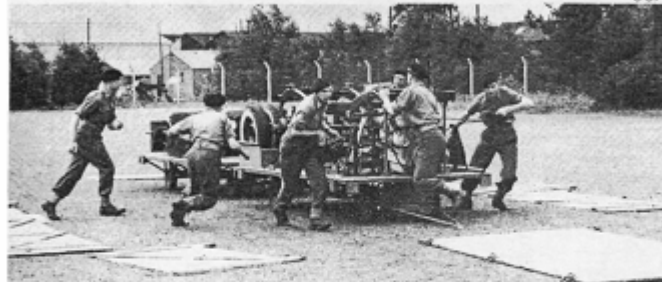
Happy Motoring!

Joe Wisdom.

One of the spectacles of the Royal Tournament Shows in Earls Court, London in the mid-1950s was the assembling of Jeeps in the shortest time possible. Four teams of six men and a leader from the Six Homebased Commands of the REME would compete and perform this quadruple operation in about three and a half minutes. Picture sequence shows one of the teams rehearsing. The vehicles were modified in many respects to make this performance possible.



50A



50C



50D



50A: 5 sec. One crate top becomes a working platform.

50B: 10 sec. The crates are open and out come the chassis and wheels.

50C: 34 sec. Four men carry the power plant as one tilts the chassis to receive it.

50D: 55 sec. Up come the axle assemblies as the engine is bolted in.

50E: 1 min. 4 sec. Axles are tilted while the wheels are fitted

(Continued next page)







*(from "Spanner News" – RAEME Association of Qld)*

## Army Museum, Bandiana

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, the Army Logistic Museum Bandiana goes from strength to strength. There was a good article in the latest RAEME 'Craftsman', which outlined the initiatives being taken to improve the RAEME display. In recent weeks, the Association has received photos from the Museum Manager, MAJ Graham Docksey, OAM, some of which have been placed at random throughout this Newsletter. He has also provided two short video clips which we are hopeful placing on our website. Graham advises that immediate priorities for the Museum are to complete the RAEME display, continue with the Army Apprentices display and install the mannequins in the workshop module currently being established.

The Museum needs your support to truly represent our Corps, so if you have ideas, memorabilia or wish to volunteer your knowledge, time or money please get in touch with MAJ Rod Bolt, SO2 Corps Heritage, whose details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter and he can direct you to the MuseumManagement staff.



*The Workshop Module display under construction.*

## The Prince Phillip Banner Miniature

While on the subject of memorabilia, we have received advice from the HOC organization in Bandiana about an initiative to produce a limited edition miniature of the RAEME Corps Banner.

*The proposed Corps Banner miniature*



*Repairs underway on a 105mm Pack Howitzer in the ArmyLogistic Museum Bandiana.*



**Passing Parade.** We have been informed of the passing of the following colleagues:

- Major Bill Baker RL, ex 15th Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic, on 29th August 2003 in Melbourne (see tribute, page 11);  
and
- WO1 Steve Good, RL, who spent a considerable period in and out of the aviation stream, of cancer on 9 Sep 03.

**LIMITED EDITION  
PRINCE PHILIP BANNER MINATURE**



*Order forms available from POC below or in the Corps Web site (Intranet only)*

The framed miniature is a limited numbered series restricted to currently serving and ex serving members of the Corps. The miniature is a quality replica of the Prince Philip Banner. Each miniature will be individually certified and numbered within a limited numbered series. The size of the miniature is approx 240mm x 360mm.

The series is limited to 600 miniatures. There will be three releases of 200 miniatures each. The first 'Foundation' issue of 200 will occur in 2003. The cost for the first issue is at a reduced price of \$160 per miniature.

Subsequent releases of 200 will occur in 2004 and 2005. Each subsequent issue will incur a 20% price rise.

**Don't miss out on being part of the 'Foundation Issue' at the reduced first issue price.**

**Point of Contact:**

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Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436



## RAEME CORPS PORT 2003 ORDER FORM



**Cost \$15.00** including 95ml Collector's Miniature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bottles: \_\_\_\_\_

@\$15.00 **Total Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

Association Members can order this fine port through:

**Max Moore  
8 Padua Court  
Glen Waverley 3150  
Tel: (03) 9802 9128**

National Coordinator: MAJ G.M. Anderson SO2 Corps - RAEME  
Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Bks,  
BANDIANA, Vic, 3694  
Ph: (02) 6055 4308, Fax: (02) 6055 2436  
**No Money No Port**

**12<sup>th</sup> Intake Army Apprentices  
Graduated AAS Balcombe December 1959**



Pat Marley (Editor) is the bespectacled corporal 2<sup>nd</sup> from left, second row from bottom, immediately above the RSM.

The Drum Major beside him at the left hand end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> row from bottom is Bob Fuller. The Sergeant at the left hand end of the 4<sup>th</sup> row is John Scully.

Are there any other Apprentice Graduation photos around?????

Any other photos members can share with others?

**Army Apprentice Spreadsheet**

I have an Excel spreadsheet of all Army Apprentices, arranged by graduation year and trade. Contact Pat Marley (Editor) at email: [patmar@melbpc.org.au](mailto:patmar@melbpc.org.au)

**RAEME Items Available***from your Association:*

**RAEME Logo Stickers** 4 in. high, UV protected  
(both internal & external)

**\$2.00 each**

**Stubbie Holders** Royal Blue with a 10cm high  
RAEME Logo on a white background

**\$6.50 each.**

**Thermal Mugs** Cam. green with disruptive  
patern and Corps Logo,

**\$11.00. each**

**RAEME Plaque**

**\$38.00 Each**

**Tie Pins**

**\$ 6.50 each**

**Bomber Jacket**

with a 11.5cm Embroidered RAEME Logo,  
**(\$45.00) & Polo Shirts (\$31.50),**

**Baseball Caps Royal Blue**

with 5cm Embroidered RAEME Logo

**\$15.00 each.**

**Cuff Links full motive**

**Tie Tack /Lapel, Stick Pin**

(Corps or Artificers)

**Ladies RAEME Pendant & Chain**

(45cm or 50cm long chain)

**\$17.00 each.**

**Ladies Dress Brooch**

Silver plated cap size badge with gemstones  
embedded in the crest and the safety chain  
Clasp

**\$35.00 each**

**Ladies Dress Brooch No. 2,**

Same style as Dress Brooch with:

A Silver on Gold plated cap size badge with  
gemstones embedded in the crest, flash and the  
safety chain Clasp, plus Corps coloured stones  
in the crown.

**\$40.00 each**

**Contact Max Moore: (03) 9802 9128**

**Major Bill Baker RL**

(ex 15th Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic)  
on 29th August 2003 in Melbourne.

President Peter Cartledge received the following  
tribute from Brig. Conrad Ermert:

Although not a member of the Association (to  
my knowledge) Bill was a well known and  
well liked RAEME officer who left the service  
in late 1980s or early 1990s and set up what  
became the MACE Consulting Group with a  
couple of other RAEME identities, including  
Peter Pantic.

He had a wonderful outlook and approach and  
was a very good engineer and maintainer.

Someone may know more of his initial  
background. He was only a young fellow,  
about your age!

I will pass on anything further I hear.

Sad news,

Conrad

**Remembrance Day 11 November**

A small but moving observance of  
Remembrance Day was conducted by the  
Engineers at Oakleigh Barracks. This was  
attended by about 7 members from RAEME.  
We placed a wreath in memory of comrades.