



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

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The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

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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.

Let's hear from you!
Deadline for August Flash

Monday 15 July 2006

Items to Pat Marley,
Max Moore Peter Cartledge
or Gus Allen Sec.

Presidents Report February 2006

I trust you all had a good break and ready to "kick on" again this year.

On 11th December we (the Committee of Management) had a break up barbeque at the home of the Cox's, I would like to thank Roma and Reg once again for the use of their home and to thank the committee for all their assistance during the year as without their help our Association would quickly go down hill.

We held a very successful Corps Birthday dinner at East Malvern RSL in conjunction with COL Terry Beaton with an attendance of 85 at which the Craftsman of the year award was presented on Friday 25th November.

Next year this function will be held on the actual Corps Birthday that being 1st December which is a Friday evening so please put this in your diary NOW!

On the 29th January 2006 we held our inaugural service with an attendance of 80 plus members and friends (which was great being our first and in the middle of a Long weekend) at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Our service was held simultaneously with Bandiana (80 attendees) and Hobart (26)

After a very moving service within the Sanctuary of the Shrine and the laying of wreaths, we then moved to the "RAEME Tree" where we placed hand made crosses to remember some of our departed members and laid flowers to honour the fallen.

This is to become an annual event, next year it will be held on Sunday 4th February (2007) please put a note in your diary NOW.

On 4th February we held a Committee of Management meeting at Oakleigh and invited "steering members" from Bandiana, Seymour and Vietnam Vets, to discuss rule changes that allow the forming of "Chapters" of our Association to cater for members in those areas.

This was a very successful meeting and I have called a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING on SUNDAY 19th MARCH 2006 (prior to the luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members and may I commend this luncheon to you all) at 1100hrs at OAKLEIGH BARRACKS to put these rule changes to the Members. I request as many members as possible to attend and vote on these important matters.

At our last AGM it was decided to move our ANZAC REUNION to take the form of a Barbeque lunch on the Sunday next after ANZAC DAY, this year being Sunday 30th April. I trust we will see you all at Oakleigh Barracks at 1130hrs and of course the Mess will be open!

Peter Cartledge *President*

Social Report

Our next function is a most important one and that is the **LUNCHEON to HONOUR our WIDOWS and LIFE MEMBERS** to be held at Oakleigh Barracks on **19th MARCH 2006** at 1200 hrs for 1230 however I have called a **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** (notice on Page 18 in this 'Flash') to cast a vote on some rule changes at 1100 hrs please make the effort to attend this important vote.

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE at Oakleigh Barracks at 0545 hrs followed by breakfast in the Gym. We will be picked up from Oakleigh and taken into the March and returned after the March to Oakleigh.

Our **ANNUAL REUNION** will be held on **SUNDAY 30th APRIL** and will take the form of a Barbeque lunch (as requested at our last AGM) at 1130 hrs and the Mess will be open.

Peter Cartledge
Social Co-ordinator

Welfare Report

A call to Laurie Burley who had had another amputation, and is going into Grace McKellar. Laurie was in good spirits and sends his kindest regards to my wife Roma and the RAEME Association.

John Boothroyd has a bad leg; swelling is down now. John has taken lots of antibiotics and penicillin. Blisters have gone, leaving John with an itch.

Judy Brown had bleeding from one eye, but with any trouble with her good eye, she has to act immediately. Donald is home, and on light duties. He sends his regards to the RAEME Association and Committee.

Helen Wylie last Monday broke her leg and is now in hospital. She is on the mend and recovering.

Barry Ridgway had a few days in Hospital and is now back home resting.

Pat Marley had a few days in the Epworth Hospital with severe heart irregularity. An angiogram showed the cardiac arteries to be fine following the stent fitted in October; additional medication seems to have restored the rhythm.

Reg Cox
Welfare Officer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretarial desk has been a busy area. I am pleased to report 32 new memberships.

As you can see, Terry Beaton our COLCOMDT--RAEME for Victoria & Tasmania Region has also been busy in the recruiting drive.

I shall list and welcome our new members:

John Manderson	Phillip Craig
Robert Minato	George Reid
Andrew Turner	Hans Sievers
Bob Lymburn	Phillip Peers
Paul Morris	Robert Thompson
Cornelis Van de Velde	
Albie Cunningham	David Miller
Ron Rust	Alex Wolf
Noel Cooper	Iona McIlraith
Jeff Bruhn	David Martin
Kevin Shirley	Daniel Goff
David Maddick	Allan Hawkins
Anthony Pardey	Andrew Barnett
Brian Langridge	John Peters
Terry Stacey	William Chalmers
Richard Fitzgerald	Ian Deegan
Philip Stephenson	

Sadly, I have to report the passing of Dianne Hudson, the wife of Robert Hudson.

MAJ "Rocky " Hudson has the sympathy of the Committee of Management of which he was a recent and valued member.

Gus Allen

Secretary

Colonel Commandant's New Year Report

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Very Happy New Year. Issue No 44 (Mar 05) of "The Flash", published my "Vision" statement delivered as ColComdt--(Elect) at the 2004 Corps Dinner. It stipulated the importance of mateship, welfare to each other and regaining lost Corps ethos; especially as "Esprit de Corps" has no statute of limitation. It also promised to establish a database of all RAEME living in "my patch", increase pride in our past and create a system of widely disseminating information about Corps activities in the Region.

It has now been seven months since officially receiving my appointment by the Chief of Army and a good time to reflect on progress for my ambitious vision. At last year's Corps Dinner, I presented the motto for 2006, which was "**To Establish**". To say that the last six months has been hectic is an understatement.

Yet it can also be said that through the dedication of numerous people, substantial achievements have already been gained. With regard to the establishment

of a database and dissemination of information - not only has project "**Finding RAEME**" already discovered the contact details for 868 "all ranks", from a seriously

outdated list of 112 officers only; but through highly successful reunions held at "The Stump" on 20 Oct 05 and "The Seymour Club" on 1 Feb 06, motivated steering groups are working hard to establish local organisations to cater for the needs of RAEME in the Albury/Wodonga and Seymour/Pucka areas. These two new groups have joined Committee members of a re-invigorated RAEME Vietnam Veterans Organisation and are all working towards the establishment of autonomous 'Chapters' under the "Incorporation" protection offered by the RAEME Association of Victoria (RAV). I am deeply grateful to the incredible support given by Andy Turner and his crew "Up North" and by Dave Maddick and veterans in Seymour.

Despite these gains however, it is my belief that the establishment of these Chapters will still only capture 20 percent of former RAEME personnel living in the Region. We have a long way to go to find the remaining 3000 estimated MIA (Missing in Area) and bring them from the "dark side" of neglect and bitterness to join the new proactive "Force" in RAEME in this region. Your help is therefore needed to rectify this sad deficiency by checking with your mates that they are **at least** on the Col Comdt's list, should they choose not to join one of the newly forming Chapters or the RAV itself.

The establishment of a cyber Regional Corps Committee called "EME Group" has brought representation from numerous Corps related Associations into a network of email addressees for maximum dissemination of information about future activities. Apart from reaching currently serving members through the RAEME Mafia network, efficiently run by Jeff Bruhn, former Corps members are currently being advised through RAV newsletters, email notices and established websites, like that run by 106 Fd Wksp.

The latest inclusions to the Cyber Committee are representatives from the newly reforming Australian Army Apprentice Association (AAAA).

With regards to establishing pride in our past, not only has substantial development already been achieved with the EME exhibit at the Army Museum in Bandiana, but the "RAEME Day of Remembrance" on Sunday, 29 Jan 06 will go down in Corps history for its uniquely united Commemoration of the loss of RAEME Training Centre and our recently lost Corps members, which was simultaneously held in three separate locations in two different States. Despite heat, short notice and the complication of an unofficial extra long weekend, nearly 200 dedicated Corps members and family

ignored distractions to attend services in Melbourne, Bandiana and Hobart.

The success of this new regional initiative could be readily seen from discussions at the pub afterwards on how to improve next year's Day of

Remembrance. Not only the Corps, but also the public were evidently affected by the "Symbolism of the Day", as crosses, poppies and wreaths laid around the RAEME Memorial Tree in Melbourne were completely untouched over a week later, much to the disbelief of the Shrine Guards and members of Staff.

Without doubt a most memorable highlight would have to be attending Corps Birthday Celebrations in Tasmania. As the first ColComdt to visit Hobart for several years, I also had the honour to represent the Corps at the 2nd Force Support Battalion (2 FSB) CO's Handover Parade attended by the Commander LSF, BRIG Kehoe. I am extremely grateful to Russell Clark (President), WO2 Steve Wilson and many of the hard workers of the newly reformed RAEME Association of Tasmania, (proudly shortened to "the RAT"), who made the weekend's Corps Birthday celebrations so successful. Despite being a small, widely spread group, their dedication is highly commendable and notably leaves other local Corps Associations in their wake! They further demonstrated their high level of motivation, when 26 out of the 50 plus membership attended their Day of Remembrance Service at Derwent Barracks - despite the long weekend!! Any RAEME travelling to the Apple Isle would be warmly welcomed by this Merry Band of Bluebells, but just watch out for Rolly's "Shed" and his home brew! This renowned bastion of RAEME hospitality-Tassie style- caused many of the Committee Members to depart the following day's Corps Birthday celebrations **BEFORE** the ColComdt - through obvious tiredness and other complications!!!

Over the remainder of 2006, efforts will continue to lift the profile of "**The Craftsman of the Year**" Award, to ensure greater unit participation in 2006; especially with Banner Miniatures at stake as this year's prize. This is being achieved by unit visits, to the Puckapunyal, Bandiana and Metro areas. The recent discovery of numerous ARA and ARES Craftsmen in Regional units, only serves to highlight the pathetic effort by most units in recent years for this once prestigious award, despite Max Moore's valiant efforts. Visits have already been conducted to JLU (V) at Puckapunyal and Bandiana, with requests to teach Corps History to a Logistic Officers Basic Course (LOBC) on 22 Feb 06 and a formal visit to 26 Tpt Sqn Wksp (Pucka) in Mar 06. It is hoped that by 1 Dec 06, the COLComdt's list will detail over 2500 names,

leaving an estimated 1500 MIA. Support will also be given to assist the 106 Fd Wksp Association to hold a successful "*Back To The Heart Land*" Reunion over 17-20 Aug 06. Upgrading the EME exhibit will concentrate on having all cabinets filled with items of historical importance to RAEME, which will be professionally mounted and with informative descriptions.

Throughout the year, wherever possible, I shall attend any Corps or Unit functions to which I am invited. Regrettably I will not be able to attend RAV's ANZAC activities and the Annual RAEME Mafia Dinner at Victoria Barracks SGTs Mess on 5 May 06, due to prior commitments associated with ANZAC Day Commemorations in Thailand and Burma. But actively encourage all to support these activities; especially Jeff Bruhn with his rare opportunity to enjoy a traditional formal 'All Ranks' dinner in military surroundings, as poor attendance could strip this annual activity from the SGT's Mess Calendar due to growing pressure to save costs with contract catering. In plain language - support it or lose it!

I will now leave you to judge whether my ambitious "Vision" is being achieved through the hard work of a dedicated "Band of brothers" who have the Corps in their heart and not just on their mantelpiece or wall!

Yours - "With Skill"

Colonel Terry Beaton

Colonel-Commandant: Victoria-Tasmania

A Day To Remember

COL Terry Beaton

Sunday, 29 Jan 06 will go down in Corps History as a "Day to Remember" for almost 200 dedicated RAEME personnel and family who braved hot oppressive weather and the attractive distraction of an unofficial extra long weekend to attend the "**Inaugural RAEME Day of Remembrance**", with services simultaneously held in three separate locations in two different States. The overwhelming success of this new regional initiative enabled those gathered to commemorate the loss of RAEME Training Centre, through the appointment of LTCOL H.L.C. Martins as the first CO/CI, and the sad loss of members to their families and the Corps in recent years. Reports from each location follow:

Melbourne Shrine:

Incredibly over 80 attended the Service, undeterred, despite the added complications associated with a Cycle Race isolating the Shrine of Remembrance. This remarkable attendance far exceeded the anticipated crowd of between 20-30.

The Banners for the RAEME Association of Victoria, the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association and 1 Fd Sqn Wksp Association were proudly paraded in front of their respective groups, led by 14 uniformed RAEME personnel (All Ranks) representing 4 CSSB, as well as representatives from HQ 4 Bde. A weathered National Flag, which had flown over the Remembrance Garden at RGH Heidelberg, from early 2005 until 24 Jan 06,

lead the parade up the Shrine steps and into the Inner Sanctum. This flag had been recently presented by the long standing Veterans' Liaison Officer, Mr Robert Winther, on a day when a AEME Veteran with BCOF (J) service and a RAEME Vietnam Veteran were undergoing treatment in the RGH for war-caused disabilities. It therefore symbolised all Corps members who had sadly undergone treatment at RGH since WW2 and was proudly carried by Cfn, Matthew Guarino from 4CSSB, the youngest serving RAEME Craftsman in attendance.

Inside the Inner Sanctum, a Catafalque Guard was provided by ex-ADF members of the Shrine Guard. Three official wreaths were laid during a short but memorable service, skilfully assisted by Rev Bryan Nicholls (a RAEME Vietnam Veteran) who had travelled from Ballarat. The echoed words of hymns and prayers, and the eerie reverberating sound of the Last Post will be remembered by all those who participated in this rare privilege. The group then moved to the RAEME Memorial Tree in the Shrine Gardens, where a moving service was conducted. After an formal blessing by Rev Nicholls, a further two official wreaths were laid beside the old plaque, which first dedicated this tree on 26 Nov 64 as the Memorial Tree for the "Royal Corps of Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers". Afterwards 19 white crosses, marked with names and bearing RAEME tri-colours surmounted by a poppy, were laid for those we had lost in recent years. The Colonel Commandant, as senior member present, laid the cross for BRIG H.L.C Martins, representing the loss of RTC, whilst Sheila Beaton laid the cross for Mrs Audrey Martins, who sadly passed away in Aug 05. It was an honour to have Valarie Robinson, Dianne Stevens and Leonie McNaught, assisted by family, lay crosses in recognition of their late husbands' contribution to the Corps. The other fourteen crosses were laid by WW2, Vietnam and Long Serving Army Reserve Veterans on behalf of those Next of Kin who could not attend. Stirring addresses were given by the Presidents of the RAEME Association and RAEME Vietnam Veterans Group. On behalf of BRIG John Dean - whose health had been adversely effected by the recent heat - all those in attendance were most gratefully thanked for their valiant attendance under most testing circumstances. Over 60 then adjourned to

the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne, to replace much of the fluid that had soaked their clothing throughout the Service. Many new and old friendship were rekindled over the ensuing three hours with discussions over past service experiences accompanied by a well-earned beer! Many would say – "This is what "Mateship" and being a member of the "Best Corps" is all about!"

Bandiana

Andy Turner reported that remarkably over 80 had attended the Service at the Craftsman Memorial, despite extremely hot and unpleasant conditions at 39 degrees C in the shade, prompting thoughts of a twilight service for next year. He also confirmed that the ashes of 15 former RAEME personnel had been previously laid to rest at this sacred location for the Corps. In addition, embedded in a rock beside the Memorial are listed the names of former Army Apprentices who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in time of war. Their service to the Corps had been truly remembered on this special day. An excellent address was reportedly given by LTCOL Andy Adams, as Deputy Head of Corps. Chaplin Steve Cloudsdale's conduct of the service was superb and very much appreciated by everybody. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the RAEME Association and by the Presidents of the three local RSL Sub-Branched, as well as the President of the Murray Border Association of the Vietnam Veterans. Notably, all four Presidents were RAEME. The Catafalque Guard, provided by trainees at the School, was then memorably marched off to the rarely heard tune of the RAEME Corps March.

A BBQ and light refreshments were partaken in the Memorial Park, with many taking the opportunity to visit the EME Exhibit at the Army Museum, prior to departure for the cooler more inviting comfort of their homes.

Hobart

Russell Clark (President of the newly reformed RAEME Association of Tasmania) has advised that the third simultaneous Service at Derwent Barracks was attended by an impressive 26 members and family from their small band of "Bluebells" widely spread throughout the Apple Isle. An old "Inter" Twin Boom Wrecker had been strategically positioned for the Service, which was held at the Memorial "Piston" beside the 2 FSB Phoenix Club. Fortunately, the temperature in Hobart was a little more pleasant. After their service, which had followed a similar format to that at the Shrine and involved the laying of wreaths at the Memorial Piston, all who attended then signed a copy of the Order of Service and had a group photo taken in front of the Wrecker for historical purposes. They then adjourned to the Phoenix Club to continue the commemoration in true RAEME style.

Summary

It is incredible to realise that nearly 200 people attended the three Inaugural services, despite the difficulties and short notice. Feedback from all three sites has confirmed the huge benefits gained by those who attended, as well as the strong desire by the majority for the Day of Remembrance to become an annual event. It is anticipated that future services will

witness a dramatic increase in numbers as the word spreads about the success of this year's "Day to Remember". Moreover, the ability to re-schedule the Service next year to the First Sunday in February, will reduce a number of the problems faced this year.

Though it was agreed that regardless of the date set, it will always be inconvenient to some genuinely motivated members and that others will find an excuse for not attending anyway. For those in the Melbourne area, next year's service will be on **Sunday, 4 Feb 07 at 1100 hrs**. Issues related to mandatory training for Reservists will be directed to Formation Headquarters for requested dispensation. Having now created Corps History by successfully completing the "Inaugural Service" simultaneously in three separate locations, the conduct of services in the other two locations is now placed under local arrangements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved with this history making and most memorable activity, and congratulated you all on a job well done!

Colonel Terry Beaton

Colonel-Commandant: Victoria-Tasmania

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST

The following is an extract from 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles (2nd Armed Bde) (APC) Regt RAAC Workshop Annual Camp Report - Wangaratta 1961.

ANNUAL CAMP

The first Annual Camp of this unit with its Parent Unit was not until 1961 in the Northern Victorian Rural Area of Victoria.

Unfortunately, at this stage, as this was a newly raised Workshop, time had not been permitted to allow for Recruitment or Technical Training of tradesmen prior to the commencement of our first Annual Camp. Therefore, much of the responsibility for Servicing, Maintenance and Recovery of RAAC vehicles and equipments during this Camp fell on the shoulders of our two RAEME Officers (Capt Derek Snowball - O.C. and Lt. Frank Bell - 2 IC. and Senior NCOs A.S.M. WO 1 Harry Switzer, (VEHS) Sgt Barry Ridgway, (ELECT) Sgt Graham Dale, R & D NCO Sgt Jack Westernhagen (RECOVERY) Sgt Peter Cartledge (Attach) and using the Craftsmen in Camp as Trade Assistants wherever possible. During the first week of this Camp, the O.C. of 'A' Sqn's Ferret Scout Car had previously damaged its radiator. WO1H. Switzer recalled reading in one

members' AF 103A Record of Service, prior to leaving Chapel Street,

Training Depot, that he had stated his Civilian Trade as a 'Radiator Mechanic' - this was an unexpected gift from 'above' - or so WO 1 Switzer first thought at the time. Instructing the Cfn where the damaged Ferret's radiator was located in the Camp Vehicle Compound, despatched him off to repair it - if he could.

A few minutes later, the young Cfn reported back to the Wksp A.S.M. and informed him that he could not locate the radiator in question. Telling the Cfn to follow him, the Wksp A.S.M. he took him back the Camp vehicle Compound to show him where the radiator was located. When shown the radiator, the Cfn reply was "I can't repair that type of radiator, I can only repair the elements on Electrical Radiators". At this point, the Wksp A.S.M. tore his beret off his head and threw it on the ground in frustration!!!!

1st PARADE SERVICING CHECK

As the Regt had planned to carryout Tactical Exercises in the local ranges, the Wksp O.C. Capt Derek Snowball, suggested to the Regimental Commander Lt. Colonel Allard, that perhaps it would be practical to have all vehicles checked by the Regt Wksp personnel prior to the commencement of the Exercises to prevent any unforeseen mechanical breakdowns occurring.

All Sqn vehicles (ferret Scout Cars and 4 x 4 White Scout Cars used as Personnel Carriers) were paraded through the Wksp Check Points. The Wksp A.S.M. had allocated each Senior N.C.O. a mechanical task to be checked on each vehicle before allowing it to take part in the forthcoming Exercises. The manner in which this was conducted by these RAEME Senior NCOs, bought high praises from each of the Sqn Commanders and troops alike, especially in view that a couple of the Senior RAEME NCOs were Admin and Regimental Duties personnel. This amazed some of the 8th/13th VMR (APC) Regt officers and NCOs - until they were informed that all RAEME personnel undergo Technical Training to fit them out for their roles in a Workshop or LAD.

ANNUAL CAMP FINAL PARADE

On the second last day of this Annual Camp, the Regimental Commander, Lt. Colonel Allard, held a Commanding Officer's Parade for all ranks. In his Closing Address, he complimented Capt Derek Snowball on the efficiency and excellence of his Wksp personnel during Camp.

It should be noted that all members of 8th/13th VMR (APC) Regt RAAC wear an emu feather behind their Beret Corps Badge (this tradition goes back to the days of the original 8th and 13th Light Horse Regts, who during WW 1, used to wear a similar feather on their berets). As a mark of respect and esteem in which the Regt now held the Wksp RAEME personnel, Lt. Colonel Allard presented each member with an Emu feather to wear on their berets as the

Wksp personnel had become accepted by our Parent Unit and for all purposes were now considered as being a part of that Regt.

As a mark of respect and esteem in which the Regt now held the Wksp RAEME personnel, Lt. Colonel Allard presented each member with an Emu feather to wear on their berets as the Wksp personnel had become accepted by our Parent Unit and for all purposes were now considered as being a part of that Regt.

1st PARADE AT CHAPEL STREET TRAINING DEPOT AFTER THE ANNUAL CAMP

Following our return to Melbourne on the first Tuesday Evening Parade night all of 8th/13th VMR (APC) Regt RAAC Wksp personnel paraded with their new adornment of an Emu feather on their berets, much to the amazement of other unit personnel within the training Depot.

Unfortunately, Lt. Colonel H.R. Byron CRAEME 3rd Div at that time, did not appreciate the addition to our head-dress and we were ordered to remove same when parading at Chapel Street.

However, pride in being presented with our Emu feathers by our Parent Unit, when attending future Camps and Bivouacs with the Regt., as soon as we left the confines of the Metropolitan Area, on went our pride and joy - the Emu feather behind our RAEME Corps badge on our berets. ...

..... ARTE ET MARTE

Lt. J.L. (Jack) Westernhagen E.D. Retd

Naval history to remain buried

(Item of Interest from Jack Westernhagen)
(from *Monash Leader* Dec 2005)

A prime piece of Victoria's pre-Federation naval history could remain buried and unseen by the public despite a harbour redevelopment plan which could have bought it to light DAVID KING reports



The torpedo boats represented colonial Victoria's first line of defence.

One of only five Second Class Torpedo Boats in the world lies buried behind the Queenscliff Maritime

Museum.

And it may remain that way when construction begins on the proposed new Queenscliff Marina.

Believed to be either *HMVS Lonsdale* or *HMVS Nepean*, the torpedo boat is classified an Historic Shipwreck and protected by provisions of the Heritage Act of 1995. It was built in Chiswick England around 1883, and commissioned for the defence of Victoria at a time when the colony feared invasion by Russia or France.

At least two plans to excavate the historic vessel have been proposed but the development consortium, Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd now favours a plan to build a low bridge over the burial site.

Queenscliff Maritime Museum president Les Irving-Dusting said the plan originally proposed by the consortium had been to excavate the vessel and display it on the historic slip-way. "We objected to that and said if it was going to be displayed. It should be displayed in the museum," he said.

A consortium member privately offered up to \$1 million to have the torpedo boat dug out, properly restored, and displayed in the museum, but the offer fell through. Together with the iron breast work monitor *Cerberus*, First Class Torpedo Boat *HMVS HMVS Countess of Hopetoun*, the fortifications of Queenscliff, Point Nepean and the island forts of South Channel and Popes Eye, the torpedo boats represented colonial Victoria's first line of defence.

With their slim lines and squat conning towers they looked similar to submarines. Lying low in the water, they were designed to attack enemy ships by racing toward them and unleashing torpedoes at the last moment.

By 1912, the boats were obsolete and left to rot on Swan Island. One was later used as a breakwater off Queenscliff and now lies buried behind the maritime museum. The other is believed to be somewhere on Swan Island which is now a naval base with restricted access.

Les said the Museum was concerned about current plans to build a bridge over the Queenscliff boats site because no one knows exactly where the vessel lies.

The Victorian Archaeological Survey (VAS) excavated the site in 1985 before the museum was built, and Heritage Victoria conducted another excavation in 1996-97 which revealed the vessel's conning tower was still intact.

"We know where the conning tower is, but nobody is absolutely sure where the rest of it is, how much of it is there, or even if it's still attached to the conning tower," Les said.



Les Irving-Dusting with a plan of a Class Two Torpedo Boat.
Photo: David King.

In spite of this, plans submitted by Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd show the torpedo boat's position in the grounds and the direction it is facing.

"The developers believe they know where it is and they're just going to build a bridge over it," Les said. "How they know where it is when no one else does, I'm not sure." He said a proper archaeological survey should be conducted to ascertain exactly where the vessel or parts of it lie before development began. But he admitted any plan to dig up the torpedo boat and restore it on land would be costly. "It doesn't have any return (for the developers) so from a commercial point of view, I can understand their reluctance to go to a lot of trouble over it," he said. "But from the museum's point of view, it's very hard to go from being offered a million dollars to now not getting anything."

If the torpedo boat was excavated and restored on land, Les said its historic value would attract naval and maritime historians and enthusiasts from all over the world.

No one from Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd was available for comment.

(Submitted by Jack Westernhagen)



3 Recovery Coy 2006

Welcome to 2006 and the continuation of high tempo activity by 3 Recovery Company. The company concluded 2005 with a final parade and break-up party with the knowledge that one of our soldiers would most likely be in the middle east by February 2006.

The member has completed lead up training and is now resident in the middle east.

One of our recovery mechanics has completed the Tadano crane course while two other recovery mechanics are presently on a diver's course (yes we were successful and wrote history again with two members on the course [that is diver's without an 'r']) and another soldier successfully completed the recovery mechanics course at ALTC. Also in January the company provided instructor support RMC, however the highlight for the commencement of 2006 was the delivery on Australia Day of four new Heavy Recovery Vehicles. These vehicles complement the MRVs and other equipment in the depot. With personnel and equipment all at 'current in service' standard we are prepared and able to provide recovery support to anyone at anytime.

During February soldiers of the company have participated in mandatory training and adventurous training with our other 9FSB sub-unit counterparts in southern region, namely 1 Petroleum Company and 15 Transport Squadron.

Towards the end of the month all Officers and SNCOs of 9 FSB and Sub-units will gather for the annual Battalion Conference to meet new staff and learn the challenges and opportunities that 2006 will bring. While there are some important personnel changes within 9 FSB such as LTCOL Mike Ashleigh as Commanding Officer and Major Tony Dowling as Bn OPSO, 3 Recovery Company headquarters welcomes Sgt Kerrie-Ann Parsons as the chief clerk and LCPL Glen Harris as transport supervisor. Rapidly becoming multi-hatted and flexible Kerrie-Ann is enjoying the change from 10 FSB Townsville while

LCPL Harris is completing his canyoning and caving course.

The task book is steadily filling for the year with requests from DMO and other departments of Army seeking our support. Recently soldiers

assisted DMO with B vehicle trials and will provide recovery and transport support for A vehicle trials. Staff support will be provided to Ex-Warhorse in March while company officers will strive to complete promotion courses during the year.

Company numbers are steadily increasing as members of the public and ex-ARA join to become recovery

mechanics or utilize their existing skills as qualified vehicle mechanics and administration staff. With six recovery vehicles, eleven qualified recovery mechanics and a 'squadron of Mack Cargos' of enthusiasm 3 Recovery Company is well equipped to provide force level recovery support to deployed forces and other agencies. To become part of this active organisation call Kerrie-Ann (03) 8710 2408 or WO2 Sean Lee (03) 8710 2416 or 0429 040 721

Arte et Marte

Stephen Fisher
Major
Officer Commanding

RAEME BIRTHDAY ADDRESS TO TROOPS

*(reprinted from Spanner News Dec 2005
(Newsletter of RAEME Association Queensland)*

In BAGDAD IRAQ on Thursday 1st Dec 05 available RAEME personnel and others of SECDET (Security Detachment of the Aust Embassy) took time out to celebrate their Corp Birthday. A WO2 ASM and five are keeping the show on the road with their major role maintaining the house ASLAV fleet.

Major Malcolm Wells RAIInf, OC SECDET saw it as a fitting gesture for those available to join the Bluebell People to celebrate their Corp Anniversary and he gave the following address:

The vital repair and maintenance of the Australian Army, and the Australian Security Detachment Baghdad, is entrusted to the soldiers of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). We gather here today as an operational Combat Team, to celebrate the Corps birthday of RAEME.

Although the Corps is 'young' it has already developed proud traditions. Its fully combatant and Workshop Units and Corps members have served with distinction wherever and whenever Australian troops

have been called upon to serve their country since its formation in the Second World War. The late Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, in giving high praise to the Corps said: They exist to keep the punch in the Army's fist. They are a new Corps, born late in the war; they have done magnificently and have won their spurs in battle. The official formation of RAEME, as a Corps, is dated to this day, the 1st December 1942; however the role of skilful and qualified tradesmen supporting the Australian Army in peace and war reaches far further into the annals of history. Originally grouped into the Ordnance Corps to provide armourers and artificers to maintain firearms cannon and mortars, the development of the technology of war over the years has seen a parallel development in the 'Craftsmen' needed to maintain the equipment of war. The name 'Craftsman' is a proud and noble designation from time immemorial, and is a rank exclusive to RAEME private soldiers.

As we look back over the course of Australian military history, it is easy to catalogue the rapid development of military technology in the last 100 years in particular. Our great grandfathers went to the battlefields of Gallipoli, the Western Front and the Holy Lands just to our north with bolt action rifles with long bayonets, water cooled machine guns and on horse back. Much of warfare is enduring, but military technology is not.

Things changed for our grandfathers and fathers who soldiered in the Second World War and countless battlefields since. They saw the onset of complex technology to give them automatic weapons, tanks, long-range artillery and highly capable trucks and vehicles.

The men who kept this equipment running became highly trained and true specialists: they kept the weapons serviced, they changed armoured vehicle engines on the front line when they took a full day to take out and replace – even in the face of the enemy as they did at Fire Support Base Coral, they maintained the radios and communications systems, and every piece of equipment needed to achieve the mission.

We find ourselves today, in our current mission, mounted in the worlds most technologically advanced armoured fighting vehicle, with drop in power packs, remote weapon stations, thermal sighting systems, complex optical sights, high powered automatic weapons and a raft of specialist equipment. With this technology comes a small group of soldiers with skills of similar sophistication to keep us able to fight.

As we know, this equipment is essential for us to achieve our mission. It breaks, it falters, it needs to be looked at. This burden falls to the soldiers of RAEME, the technical support section. I say burden,

but that is not what it is to the Craftsman: it is his job, his proud responsibility, one accepted cheerfully and without complaint: working through the night if needed, in the heat of the Workshop behind me and the cold, to get the equipment ready on time to achieve the task. This is a task done behind the scenes, quietly, often unassumingly – well maybe not too unassumingly CFN Jean – and often not fully appreciated by the combat arms.

The Craftsman also offers his skills in many other ways. In our current role and location we all know for example of the 'special projects' that make our life and environment a little bit more comfortable and functional.

So we gather here today as a Combat Team on operations to help the men of the SECDET Tech Support Section and other RAEME visitors celebrate their Corps birthday. In doing so we appreciate acknowledge and recognise their proud history, their skills, the capabilities and their contribution to us as a Combat Team.

Happy Birthday – Arte et Marte

RAEME MAFIA DINNER

Some details below in regards to the RAEME Mafia Dinner, with the same bat channel and same bat timings etc as last year. So break out your RAEME bowtie and dust off your debaucherous behaviour.

Please note that I will be inviting the Corps RSM again this year, as well as the RAEME Association of VIC.

I will get an instruction out in the near future once I sort out the finer details.

When/Where

The RAEME Formal Dinner is to be held in the Colonial Room of the Victoria Barracks (St Kilda Rd) Sgts Mess on Friday 05 May 2006 at 1900 for 1930.

Attendance

The dinner is open to ALL serving and ex-serving members of the Corps of RAEME who are from the Southern Victoria Region. As the seating capacity of the Sergeants Mess Colonial Room is limited to approximately 100, attendance will be based on first-paid first-in.

Dress

Dress for the dinner is:

- a. OFFR - Mess Dress White Jacket (No 6B),
- b. WO/ SNCO - Mess Dress White Jacket (No 6B)
- c. Civilians and military members without Mess Dress:
 - (1) Males - Coat and Tie
 - (2) Females - After Five Wear.

Menu

Any member requiring a vegetarian meal or other special requirements, are requested to notify me by 21 April 2006.

Farewells

Please let me know if someone requires farewelling and who is conducting it etc.

Cost

The cost of the Dinner is \$35.00 per member and must be received NLT COB 28 Apr 05.

Late withdrawals (less than one week) will be required to pay an amount commensurate with costs incurred to date, unless a replacement can be found.

Payment for the Dinner is required in advance and can be facilitated by the following means only:

- a. Deposit directly into the "RAEME Mafia - Melbourne" DefCredit Account (BSB: 803-205 and Acc No: 169038). Members paying by this means must include their surname against the transaction and advise me by email of the deposit amount and date.
- b. Cheques and money orders are to be made payable to "RAEME Mafia -Melbourne" and sent to me at DTR-A, DPM-3, Defence Plaza, 661 Bourke St, Melbourne, VIC, 3000. Cash will not be accepted as payment.

Hope to see you all there for what will be a very good night as usual.

Cheers, Don

PS. Peter & Max went in 2005, "top night top class food," Plus, good value for money.

Members wishing to attend:

contact Max Moore or Don:

☎ 9802 9128 (Home) Mobile: 0412 378 183

E-mail vraeme@optusnet.com.au

or Jeffrey.Bruhn@defence.gov.au

R.A.E.M.E. VIETNAM ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN (proposed new Chapter)

A meeting was held at ANZAC House on 2nd December, 2005.

Jim Coghlan opened proceedings, followed by an address by COL. Terry Beaton, Colonel Commandant – Victoria and Tasmania. COL. Beaton spoke of his pleasure at being appointed to the Colonel Commandants role. He outlined his wish to re-vitalise the R.A.E.M.E. Veterans within Victoria and Tasmania.

He emphasised that he has one predetermined view - that is, there is no predetermined view. There is no such thing as ARA, ARES, Nasho, CMF, Chocos or any other divisive term; just one large family. Its name is R.A.E.M.E. He intends to work this aim and fervently supports this initiative to resurrect the Association.

He outlined his approach to capture all R.A.E.M.E. personnel within the Victorian and Tasmanian region and create a Colonel Commandant's List in order to keep track. Among other things, its purpose will be to provide a back-up.

COL. Beaton then gave a brief run down as follows;

- a. The Colonel Commandant's Dinner – was attended by eighty three personnel, which included a small group of Vietnam Veterans. Hopefully our numbers can expand as previous wars and recent conflict veterans were well represented. An enjoyable evening which culminated with the presentation of Craftsman of the Year. A charming young lady from Three Recce COY.
- b. A new initiative, namely a R.A.E.M.E. Day of Remembrance on 29th January, 2006, to be held at The Shrine. That date coincided with the appointment of the first CO at R.A.E.M.E. Training Centre LTCOL. H.L.C.Martins with instructions to raise R.T.C. on February 1st, 2006 the nearest Sunday being selected for next years ceremony.
- c. He outlined his desire for three simultaneous services i.e:- As well as The Shrine, services also to be held at The Bandiana Memorial and in Tasmania.
- d. The R.A.E.M.E. Association of Tasmania is up and running with sixty plus members. He will be attending future Corps activities in Tasmania.
- e. Andy Turner, Alex Wolf and Gary Treeve are helping set up a group in Bandiana. They've had a meeting at the Stump and more than sixty personnel attended. Dave Maddicks, Jeff Madex and John Blackwell are also forming a group in Seymour.
- g. He has been actively seeking organisations of those who served their National Service in order to include their comments in the Journal.
- h. He was a trifle disappointed because he has received little feed back from mail outs.
- i. He estimates there are more than three thousand personnel in Victoria alone.
- j. 106 Fld. Wksp. is holding an activity at Bandiana in August 2007 and all are welcome.
- k. In answer to a question, COL. Beaton advised of any other Corps who served with RAEME. are welcome.

- l. He closed his address by emphasising that he wants to see a bonding organisation and he again stressed that this is not solely ARES organisation, but we're all part of it. Lets get moving and look to the future.

Jim Coghlan then introduced Geoff McCormack, Vice President of the R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veterans Association Inc. to open the formal part of the meeting. He advised that the primary aim of the meeting was to elect a new committee. Elections then took place with Dennis Clarke as President, Jim Saddington as Vice President, Bob Fuller Secretary and Bill Slegers as Treasurer.

The new Committee then took their places and Geoff passed the chair to Dennis Clarke.

Because we were really starting from fresh, Dennis opened the meeting for general discussion and passage of ideas. This resulted in some hearty, passionate and very positive discussion which, because of the interest shown, could have lasted all day.

Finally, B.Nicholls moved a motion, which was seconded by R. Bowen, that the Committee:

- a. Investigate the need to incorporate having regard to the fact that the R.A.E.M.E. Association is already incorporated.
- b. Report back to members on results and include a recommendation on future course[s] of action.
- c. Discuss at meeting.

The motion was carried unopposed
Thanks must go to Murray Lewis, John Forster for all their assistance and Jim Coghlan for help in organising this event.

Conclusion

The interest and input was extremely positive and good to see. It definitely could have gone all afternoon. In the interests of time the President closed the meeting at 1215 hrs.

The next meeting will be at a time to be advised. Inaugural R.A.E.M.E. Day of Remembrance was a huge success, with eighty members and families attending both The Shrine and The Bandiana R.A.E.M.E. Memorial with twenty – six Bluebells and families attending the Service at Derwent Barracks. LT.COL Terry Beaton and his band of helpers are to be congratulated for organising this very important "Corps" Day. We now look forward to this annual event. After the humidity of the day it was good to retire to the lounge of the "Emerald Hill" in Clarendon St. South Melbourne for a chat and refreshment. We have once again arranged this venue for ANZAC DAY.

The Committee is also looking to an after march ceremony at "The R.A.E.M.E. Tree" prior to moving off to the "Emerald Hill".

Combined R.A.E.M.E. Association meeting was held with R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veteran Association Southern, Seymour and Bandiana Chapters. Further discussion or R.A.E.M.E. VIET Meeting to take place before another combined meeting.

Arte et Marte
Dennis Clarke

Bandiana Chapter (Proposed new Chapter)

At the "Stump" Hotel on 28 October about 80 Bluebells turned up to meet old mates. A group of volunteers stepped forward to help Andy Turner form a chapter of the RAEME Association of Victoria. The volunteers are Alex Wolf, George Reid, Phil Stephenson, Mike Kusternig, Geoff McCormack, Dick Fitzgerald, Ian Deegan and Rob Thompson. It was an enjoyable evening and the numbers were pleasing.

On 29 January an inaugural RAEME Remembrance Day service was held at the Craftsman Memorial at Bandiana at the same time as services in Melbourne and Hobart. It was a very hot day and still 80 people braved the middle of the day for the service led by Chaplain Steve Cloudsdale. The RAEME Craftsmen forming the catafalque party and the address by our Deputy Head of Corps LTCOL Andy Adams made it a special occasion. Wreathes were laid by RSL presidents of Tallangatta, Myrtleford and Rutherglen and the Murray Border Vietnam Vets all are RAEME men. A wreath was laid by Andy Turner for the fledgling "chapter".

On 4 February Andy Turner, Phil Stephenson and Mike Kusternig met the RAV committee at Oakleigh Barracks in Melbourne. Also there to discuss forming chapters were Dave Maddick from the Puckapunyal / Seymour "chapter" and some representatives of the RAEME Vietnam Association of Victoria and Tasmania. Progress was sufficient to call for nominations from the Bandiana group then meet again at the "Stump" to get a show of hands to form the chapter. Our hope is for sufficient support to form an active successful chapter.

Arte et Marte Andy Turner

Seymour / Puckapunyal News (Proposed new Chapter)

On the morning of Wednesday 1 February 2006, our good Col Comdt Vic & Tas, Col Terry Beaton, was to travel to Puckapunyal in the morning, tour the military area and then have a meeting with serving RAEME soldiers in the Puckapunyal Military Area, in the old Lunch & Change room of Puckapunyal Workshop

Company. Now known as the Stable and belongs to Joint Logistics Unit, Victoria, Puckapunyal [JLU(V) P]. He was then going to follow this up with an informal visit to The Seymour Club in the evening, meeting with Retired and ex members of the "Royal Corps". The Seymour Club is the home of the Seymour Returned and Services Club.

There are now only two units in Puckapunyal with RAEME soldiers. Joint Logistics Unit Victoria, Puckapunyal, has a detachment at the School of Artillery under the command of WO2 Peter Tobin and 26 Transport Squadron Workshop under command of WO2 Peter McCann.

Unfortunately due to mechanical problems with his vehicle he was unable to make Puckapunyal. But thanks to his former ASM, David Maddick who was in Melbourne at the time, and thanks to modern technology (the mobile phone) he was able to pick Terry up and get him to Seymour in time for the social evening with the Seymour RSL Club and former RAEME members.

There were approximately 40 RAEME members in attendance consisting of about six serving members and about 36 ex members, with a mix of ex Army Apprentices from 3rd Intake Mr. Ron Fullerton to 40th Intake WO2 Peter McCann. Unfortunately we ex Appies were out numbered by "the rest". All in all we all had a great night, with fine bar snacks good cold beer, other drinks and plenty of chewing the fat (not a lie was told).

During the evening Col Beaton addressed the group, inviting us to; "come out of the Darkness and into the Light". He also informed the gathering on the formation of the Albury/Wodonga Chapter and the desire to reform the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association under their own Chapter. A show of hands then indicated that there was sufficient interest to form a Seymour Chapter. He also informed us of how our RAEME day of Remembrance was derived. Since our meeting of the 1st February we have found 70 former members of RAEME living in or within a 60 km radius of Seymour and another meeting of "The Clan" has been called for the 1 March to formerly approve the formation of a Seymour Chapter of The RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated. David Maddick
Warrant Officer Class One (Retd)

From RAEME team at 4 CSSB First Article – February 2006

It is with pleasure that I am able to submit this as the first official article from the 4 CSSB crew. The workshop continues to set the pace among the RAEME elements within Victoria and has taken on some new faces as follows. The new OC, Major Peter Cave has just marched in and has set out to make his mark on the workshop. He has already started to bring the RAEME profile to a higher plane within the battalion, – **watch this space**.

He is joined this year by the new 2IC, CAPT Guy Langford who has just returned from his non-CORPS posting at Monash University Regiment.

On a different tack, the recent RAEME Memorial day was well attended by the current reserve members of the workshop with a good showing at both the ceremonial activity at the Shrine of Remembrance and at the luncheon afterward. This was the first of an ambitious project to establish a National day of Remembrance for the RAEME CORP and was a whole hearted success.

Guy also been tasked with being the 4 CSSB Technical Adjutant this year and when he works out what that means, he will write some more words about that in a future edition of the Flash.

The ASM WO1 Allan Hawkins continues to provide technical guidance to the workshop crew alongside the new Training WO, WO2 Tony Danger, who has just marched in and put his hat on the hook in the workshop office.

Most of the regular reserve attendees continue to serve on at both the Oakleigh and Broadmeadow's sites, with a number of the workshop staff returning from leave with increased vigor. All of the workshop personnel have also started the year with the mandatory training activity weekend and some sporadic tasking in support of current local operations.



Oneupmanship

Two men were boasting to each other about their old army days.

"Why, my outfit was so well drilled," declared one, "that when they presented arms all you could hear was slap, slap, click."

"Very good," conceded the other, "but when my company presented arms you'd just hear slap, slap, jingle."

"What was the jingle?" asked the first. "Oh," replied the other offhand, "just our medals."

Proposed Army Apprentice Memorial at the Australian War Memorial

*Frank Poole, 10th Intake Army Apprentice
Draughtsman, circulated the following proposal by
email:*

To all ex-Army Apprentices,

As part of the planning for our 10th intake reunion, a suggestion was canvassed that we should investigate the feasibility of a memorial plaque at the Australian War Memorial to remember the services provided to the Army by graduates from the Army Apprentices School, particularly those who died or were injured in the line of duty.

I met with the AWM to discuss the feasibility and was given a very favourable reception and a brief of what was required. It turns out that the AWM provides considerable assistance and services free of charge and I believe that as a group we can organize a plaque and dedication ceremony. It would probably be sometime in 2007 and Intakes may care to utilize this gathering for their own reunions, or as a group we could hold a gala dinner with tables arranged by Intakes. The AWM has intimated it may be possible to utilize Anzac Hall for such a gathering. The obligatory AGM would also be held at that time.

As a first step, the concept needs to be expanded outside of the 10th intake to include all ex-apprentices, so I ask that whoever receives this email that they pass it to any ex-apprentice not already in receipt.

To provide the basis for discussion and consideration, and this may very well change when a committee is appointed, I see the following phases in the planning.

Phase 1: To circulate the proposal as widely as possible to ensure there are no serious objections.

Phase 2: To either resurrect the old Australian Army Apprentices Association or form a new association. (If anyone can advise me on the current status on the old Apprentices Association that would be greatly appreciated). In the event that we cannot utilize the old Association then we will need to:

Form an interim committee;

*Write Articles of Association, Hold a meeting to approve Articles and elect office bearers, Register Association
Open bank account*

If the old association can be utilized then the Committee needs to consider the proposal for support.

Phase 3: Appoint a memorial plaque planning committee. Write to Director AWM requesting that consideration be given to a memorial plaque

Phase 4: Detail planning for the dedication of the memorial plaque Detail planning for social aspects of the dedication days.

Phase 5: Dedication ceremony

ACTION: To proceed further I need to be confident that the proposal is supported by as many as possible of ex-apprentices. Please reply to me by Jan 20th 2006 with a yes or no for support of the concept and Yes or No if you would join an Association. Further, if you are prepared to

be part of the interim Association Committee, particularly if you have a legal background and can take on the task of drafting the Articles of Association and any legal matters.

Anyone who can fix up a web site or page as part of the existing web site for armyappies (I hate that term!!) I would also like to hear from.

Until an interim committee is formed I will coordinate this proposal. I will compile a register of people who respond and will keep these people in the loop of all that happens, so please also include your mailing address, telephone number, intake and trade.

Hoping to hear from many ex-Apprentices very soon, and wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and exciting 2006.

Frank Poole

*A further email was circulated by Frank Poole on 24th
January, giving an update on progress:*

I received quite a number of volunteers for the advisory group and from these I have selected the following people. I have tried to have representation by intake and location and still keep the group manageable. For those who volunteered but are not on the list, I thank you and suggest we will be looking for you when it comes time for elections to the committee of the AAAA.

Tammy Steve Puckapunyal-- Frank Maloney Qld 13th

Greg Mulcahy ACT 10th-- Frank Owen SA 10th

Ian Pullen Bandianna 34th

Vim van Reyk N Qld 21st--Denis Anspach NSW 12th

Jack Westernhagen Vic 3rd--Andrew Bishop NSW)

Glenn Jones NSW---Gib Owen NSW10th

(Gib is drafting the Articles of Association)

(Andrew and Glen are working together to develop a web site, most importantly, to allow on-line registration and payment. As you can see, the articles of association are being developed by Gib Owen now and should be ready for perusal by the Advisory Group in about three weeks. They will then be tidied up and submitted to the ACT Registrar. We should be incorporated by mid-year when we will call for membership and then hold our first elections, probable by email and postal vote of the then financial members.

Andrew Glen are working on a web site for the Association. This is an essential element as our membership is widely scattered and email has proved its worth in gathering together ex-apprentices. I also believe that with on-line membership with direct payment to the AAAA account, the Secretary and Treasurer will be relieved of a major work load. The web site will also enable dissemination of news and information.

I am working on a draft budget at the moment to enable a determination of membership fees and I hope to have that draft to the Advisory Group within the next week or so.

Once the election for office bearers has been carried out, we can then formally approach the AWM and I will then be concentrating on the plaque issue and the dedication ceremony, which I am tentatively aiming for November

2007, but there is much water to pass under the bridge before that can be confirmed.

I hope this brief up-date is helpful to you all. In my interest (I am currently working at Karratha) and not disinterest, please only email me if you have strong disagreements with anything I am doing and I will note you for the Advisory Group.

Regards to all

Frank

Our Member Jack Westernhagen replied to Frank Poole with relevant background to previous attempts to establish Army Apprentice Associations:

Greetings Frank,

I am replying to your email re: the above topics. Following the successful AAS 50th Anniversary Reunion at Bandiana on 23rd-25th January 1998 and the Dedication of Memorial Plaques at Balcombe on 17th Feb 2001 I think the proposer of the above named topics warrants merit and a well done.

AAS MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT AWM

I for one would be very interested in this proposal if it got up and running.

REVISING THE AAS ASSOCIATION

This would be about the 3rd attempt at forming an AAS Association. Perhaps a little history of these attempts may be appropriate:

The 1st attempt was in the late 60s at the old R.S.L. in Hawthorn Road, Vic by a member of the 2nd Intake. This failed to eventuate after the Inaugural meeting. The 2nd successful attempt took place at the Vic Police Auditorium at Russell Street, in February 1970 when Bob Scott (2x-1st Intake Brickie) was duly elected as State President and myself as the State Secretary. This was soon followed by the following - ACT Branch on 13th May 1970, N.S.W. Branch on 11 Jul 1970,

W.A. Branch on 5 Feb 1971, S.A. Branch on 12 Feb 1971, TAS Branch on 24 Feb 1971 and Sth-QLD Branch on 23 Apr 1971.

Following the Annual Graduation Parade at Balcombe in 1971, in the NCOs Club, the National Association was formed at which Bob Scott was duly elected National President and myself as National Secretary. Later I was duly elected State & National President.

As I was instrumental in the successful 2nd attempt in forming an Association in Victoria, I was invited in turn to attend the ACT, N.S.W and S.A. Branches Inaugural Meetings as their Guest Speaker, at which I gave them copies of the Vic Branch Articles of Association and Constitution with permission for their adoption by that Branch (with/or without any amendments applicable to that Branch). One of the rules stated that any Interstate

Financial Member on joining the appropriate Branch of the Association was deemed to be a Financial Member until that previous yearly Membership had expired and then the member was required to join the new Branch as a Financial Member.

The Victorian Branch also introduced a Branch Newsletter named "THE CRUX" copies of which were distributed to all State Branches, the AWM Library and the Victorian State Library in Swanston Street.

I had applied to AHQ Canberra and received permission for the adoption of the original School Hat Badge (modified to read "Army Apprentices Assoc Australia") and this appeared on our Newsletters.

In addition, I approached Lega Badges & Plaques 13 Hinkler Road, Mordialloc (www.lega.com.au) to manufacture our Lapel Badges, Name Tags, Key Rings, cigarette Lighters, and Wall Plaques (of which I still have mine). To the best of my knowledge they could still have retained the moulds if it was decided to use them again.

Jack Westernhagen

Jack went on to offer himself for the Interim Committee, and suggested other names.

Jack has also made a number of comments and suggestions to Frank Poole regarding both the establishment of a Memorial at AWM and also a National Association of ex Army Apprentices. I have not included those here, as they are more properly matters for the Interim Committee.

Pat Marley; Editor. (12th Intake Army Apprentice)

Memories of CFN Reg Cox VX79035

In 1943 I was on a troop train in Queensland and heading north. We were travelling through pineapple and fruit-growing plantations. Our train of five carriages was pulled along by an ancient steam engine. Each carriage had an Officer in charge, and when our train was approaching a small siding where a fruit train was parked to allow our train to pass, the CO of our train sent a command to every Officer in charge of each carriage that no man is to set foot off the carriage. Our train driver must have been quite a character as he stopped our train level with the fruit train. The fruit train had the sides of each truck propped open for fresh air travelling in the heat. We immediately opened the doors of our carriage, fixed bayonets, and with another soldier holding our legs as we reached out and bayoneted the packing cases and stabbed the pineapples, mangoes and all sorts of fruit; the din of smashing of the fruit cases was beaut. The Officer in charge of our carriage said "It's good to see no man has set foot off the train!"

In 1943 at Wallangra Base Workshops, a very big complex and lots of Matilda tanks were assembled to have diesel engines installed and out with the petrol engines. The whole camp personnel were put to work on the conversions. I was on the chain block and tackle, lowering the gearbox slowly down into position behind the diesel motor. I asked the Sgt in charge which way to lower the gearbox, as it had identical shafts at each end. I was told to shut up, as the Sgt was in control. This particular tank was the first off the production line, and the ceremony was attended by Northern Command Officers, and the Regimental band playing as the tank driver in command received the order to move forward off the production line. The gearbox was in "arse about", giving only a few gears forward but heaps backward. Instead of going forward it went backwards, smashed lathes and grinders, went through the fibro wall and ended up in the dam near by. That Sgt immediately told me to shut up, and not mention anything, but for months after that I did not get any kitchen fatigues or hygiene fatigues for months.

In 1943, having done our basic training at Bendigo, Phil Cook and myself were sent to Wallangra Base Workshops; being 4th Year plumbing apprentices we continued doing plumbing work. One morning we were called to the Dentists' marquee where a blockage in the pipe-work needed clearing. The Dentists had not arrived for work so we had a clear go at the work. Sitting in a tent was a horse transport soldier with a greatly swollen face.

We decided to have a bit of fun with this chap. We put on the white coveralls the Dentists had hanging up, called in the soldier, plonked him in the dentist chair, tilted it back to the horizontal position and told him to open his mouth. I then asked my helper for pliers and hammer. The poor chap had a monstrous gum-boil and the look on his face made us stop, explaining that we were plumbers and that the real dentist would be along soon.

In 1943 in Queensland we were a small platoon doing a survival course in the bush. We came up to a pineapple plantation, the Sgt in charge said that no-one was to take the ripe fruit, so we continued on through acres of fruit. When we arrived at the other side, the Sgt lined us all up and said "Those soldiers who have not got any small ripe pineapples stuffed down the legs of your pants, step forward." Over half the platoon stepped forward. Phil Cook and I had small ripe pineapples bulging in our strides. The Sgt said that those without any fruit would not survive in action.

Reg Cox *Reg is
our Association Welfare Officer*

Food For Thought

This little gem of an email was received from a Colombian school student who experienced a classroom massacre:

The paradox of our time in history is that:

- we have wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints;
- we spend more, but have less time;
- we buy more but enjoy it less;
- we have bigger houses but small families;
- we have more conveniences but less time;
- we have more degrees, but less sense;
- we have more knowledge but less judgement;
- we have more experts, but more problems;
- we have more medicine, but less wellness;
- we have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values,
- we talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often;
- we have learn to make a living, but not a life;
- we've added years to life, but not life to years;
- we've been all the way to the moon and back, but we have trouble crossing the street to greet a new neighbour;
- we've conquered outer space, but not inner space;
- we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul;
- we've split the atom, but not our prejudice;
- we have higher incomes, but lower morals;
- we've become long on quantity, but short on quality,
- these are the times of tall men and short character, steep profits and shallow relationships;
- we have more kinds of food, but less nutrition;
- these are the days of two incomes, but one divorce, of fancier houses, but broken homes;
- it is a time when there is much in the window and nothing in the storeroom, a time when technology can bring this letter to you in an instant, and a time when you can choose either to make a difference, or just hit 'delete.'

Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations

Friendly fire - isn't.

Recoilless rifles - aren't.

Suppressive fires - won't.

A sucking chest wound is Nature's way of telling you to slow down.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

11.00am Sharp Sunday 19th March 2006
Oakleigh Barracks, 1318 North Road, Oakleigh South

A G E N D A

1. ATTENDANCE --- 2.APOLOGIES ---3.SILENT TRIBUTE –THE ODE--- 4 CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS
5. PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

PROPOSED NEW RULES CHANGES

New Rule **Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription for a Member of a Chapter**

- 4A. (1) The amount of the Entrance Fee for a member of a Chapter and the Subscription shall be determined by the Chapter Committee from time to time:-
- (a) The annual Capitation fee for a Member of a Chapter to be paid to the Association, shall be a percentage of an Ordinary Members fee as determined by the Committee of Management of the Association, from time to time, and paid to the Association by the Chapter.
- (b) A notice in writing shall be raised by the Chapter and posted to the mailing address of each member by the 1st June, detailing the dues owing and/or annual subscription payable in advance, by the 1st July
- (2) Member of a Chapter shall not be required to pay an Entrance Fee to the Association, (but such fee may be required to be payable to the Chapter)

New Rule **REGISTER of a MEMBER of a CHAPTER**

5. (3) The Secretary shall keep and maintain a Register of Members of a Chapter in which shall be entered their full name, address, regimental number, current or last unit in which served that would entitle membership under Rule 3. and the date of entry of the name of each member of a Chapter. The register shall be available for inspection by members at the address of the Chapter Secretary.

New Rule **NOTICE of MEETINGS**

11. (1) (a) if the meeting called is for the purpose of Rule changes, 21 days clear notice of the date of such meetings must be given.

New Rule **POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

- 20A (1) For the furtherance of the purposes set out above, the Committee has power to:
- (a) by Charter establish and constitute Chapters of the Association throughout Victoria;
- (b) suspend a Chapter;
- (c) administer and conduct and maintain the affairs of a Chapter;
- (d) wind up and dissolve a Chapter;
- (e) revoke or withdraw any Charter granted to a Chapter;

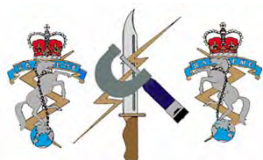
New Rule **CHAPTERS**

- 20B (1) **Chapter Powers:**
- (a) there shall be Chapters of the Association. They shall comprise the Chapters as listed from time to time in the Association bylaws.
- (b) a Chapter, subject to its own Constitution or Rules, is to be vested with such duties, powers, functions, discretions and authorities as the Association Committee of Management may decide.

New Rule **ESTABLISHMENT of a NEW CHAPTER**

- 20C (1) The Association may by Charter establish a new Chapter within Victoria on such terms and conditions as the Committee of Management shall from time to time determine and it shall be a prerequisite for a Charter being granted to a new Chapter. Bylaw 4
- (a) That the new Chapter agrees in writing that the Charter granted to it shall be subject to the Chapter complying with and observing these Rules and Bylaws.

6. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

Incorporation No.A0022655Z

Patron: Brigadier C. Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust CPEng

Invitation to All Members & Guests

The Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members will be held at

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS**Sunday 19th March 2006****at 12:00 am for 12:30****Lunch Menu****Three Succulent Spit Roast's :****Beef, Pork & Seasoned Lamb****Hot Baked Potatoes with sour cream****Six Garden Fresh Salads.****Pasta, Rice, Potato, Coleslaw, Garden Greens & Beetroot****Four Delicious Sweets :****Pavlova, Cheesecake, Mud Cake, Fresh Fruit Salad, all served with Fresh Cream.****Tea and Coffee.****Table wines.****Cost: \$30 per person (inc. GST)****Dress: Neat Casual****other drinks available at the Sgt Mess Bar.**

Please tear off and return to the RAEME Association (Vic) Social Committee,
C/o 8 Neera Crt. Glen Waverley
or Phone Peter Cartledge on 9802 6406 Max Moore 9802 9128 by the 10th March 2006.

✂ ----- ✂

I _____ will/will not be attending the above luncheon and will be
accompanied by partner/guest @ \$30-00 per head.

Guest/partners names please _____

I agree that if I accept this invitation I will be responsible for any costs incurred.

Signature _____ Date _____

Enclosed please find my cheque/money order made payable to The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.
(no cash) for the amount of \$ _____ for the TOTAL due.

Office use only.

Acceptance Yes / No. Payment received Yes / No. Cheque / Money Order

Receipt No. _____ Date issued...../....