



# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

August 2006

Issue 48

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Patron: Brigadier Conrad Ermert. MSc FIEAust CPEng

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

**President:** Peter Cartledge

**Treasurer:** Roma Cox

**Editor:** Pat Marley

16 Clematis Street, Glen Waverley 3150

Phone (03)9802 0637 Fax 9886 5840

email: [patmar@melbpc.org.au](mailto:patmar@melbpc.org.au)

**Vice President:** Max Moore

**Secretary:** Gus Allen

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## RAEME's First Ship?

The photo below was distributed by the ASM 26 TPT WO2 Peter McCann at Puckapunyal quite a humorous good natured act.

The photo nearly started WWII between Army and Navy. The boys from 3 CSR talked/ bribed/ forced(?) one of the Kanimbla Engineers in letting them on the upper deck and commandeered the priority halyard to hoist the RAEME Flag. Apparently it stayed there for some time before being noticed by a senior "pusser".



The CO of Kanimbla was not amused but after some paying of bribes and apologies (not heartfelt) the flag was returned to 3 CSR Tech Support.

The young crafty who shall remain nameless is an absolute hero amongst the brotherhood deployed over here.

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION  
(Vic) Inc.**

C/Oakleigh Barracks 1318 North Road,  
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

**Committee of Management**

**President:**

Peter Cartledge  
(03) 9802 6406 Ph/Fax  
Mobile: 0414 771 144  
E-mail : [pcart8@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pcart8@optusnet.com.au)

**Vice President:**

Max Moore ☎ 9802 9128 (Home)  
Mobile: 0412 378 183  
E-mail: [vraeme@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vraeme@optusnet.com.au)

**Secretary:**

Gus Allen  
☎ 9802 5460 (Home)  
E-mail: [raeme.sec@nex.net.au](mailto:raeme.sec@nex.net.au)

**Assistant Secretary:**

Margaret Hope  
☎ 9583 4665 (Home)

**Treasurer:**

Roma Cox  
☎ 9561 5258 (Home)

**Assistant Treasurer:**

Aranka Illia  
☎ 9796 4794 (Home)

**Welfare & Betterment:**

Reg Cox  
☎ 9561 5258 (Home)

**SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Rules & By-Laws:**

John Lee  
☎ 9580 4760

**Membership:**

Gus Allen  
☎ 9802 5460 (Home)

**Web Master**

**Guy Langford**  
☎ 9886 5420  
**Mob:** 0438 865 420

**E-Mail:** [mail4us@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mail4us@bigpond.net.au)

**Assistant Web**

**Aranka Illia**  
☎ 9796 4794 (Home)

**Finance:** Roma Cox

☎ 9561 5258

**Welfare & Betterment :** Reg Cox

☎ 9561 5258

**Social Events:** Peter Cartledge

☎ 9802 6406 Ph/Fax  
Mobile: 0414 771 144  
E-mail: [pcart8@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pcart8@optusnet.com.au)

**Social Committee:**

Leonie Cartledge

**Social:** Norma Clifford

**Editorial**

Pat Marley

☎ 9802 0637

**E-mail** [patmar@melbpc.org.au](mailto:patmar@melbpc.org.au)

**Promotion Manager:** Max Moore

☎ 9802 9128

Mobile : 0412 378 183

E-mail: [vraeme@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vraeme@optusnet.com.au)

**Kindred Associations and: ANZAC House**

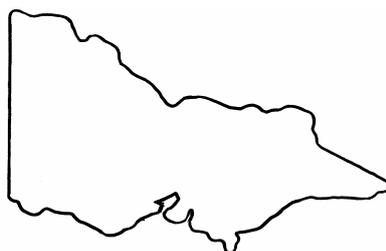
Ross Hope

☎ 9583 4665

**Unit Representative & Military**

**Adviser:** MAJ Robert Hudson

☎ 9888 2840



**PROVINCIAL  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**ALBURY/WODONGA**

Brian Tingwell  
584 Kiewa-Bonegilla Rd.  
TANGAMBALANGA VIC. 3691  
☎ (02) 6027 3402  
Mobile: 0408 273 406

**ECHUCA/SHEPPARTON**

Harry Ross  
22 Dobinson St,  
ECHUCA 3564  
☎ 5480 6794

**BALLARAT/DAYLESFORD**

George Hepburn  
24 Junction St. BALLARAT 3350  
☎ 5331 3153

**BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/  
HEATHCOTE**

**Jack Balsillie**

147 The Outlook Bendigo Village  
Mandurang Rd.  
Spring Gully 3550  
☎ 5443 4803

**HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG**

**Rex Foord**

598 Thompson Rd,  
NORLANE 3214  
☎ 5275 1728

**LEOPOLD/ANGLESEA &  
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**We are looking for a new  
Representative. (Help Please)**

**BERWICK/PAKENHAM  
WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/  
TRARALGON & SALE**

**Bill Slegers**

25 Main Neerim Rd,  
DROUIN 3818  
☎ 5625 2232 Mobile: 041 913 6149

**CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA  
& WELSHPOOL**

**Kevin Moon**

1 Hawkins St,  
KORUMBURRA 3950  
☎ 5655 1545

**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 November Flash  
Monday 16 October 2006

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT****(Peter Cartledge)**

All the I's have been dotted and the T's crossed our Chapters are up and running!  
 May I take this opportunity to thank all concerned who have made these Chapters possible, from the seed planted in my mind at the meeting of all State Corps Commandants and Association Presidents last year, the meetings called in various areas, the steering committees, our rules sub-committee to pen the necessary rule changes, you, the membership to pass those rule changes and the very interested members who have joined those Chapters.

The spadework has all been completed now and it is up to us all to make it all work.

We have prepared quite attractive, framed, formal Charters to be presented to the Chapters at a suitable meeting of the various Chapters sometime soon.

I would like to make a point very clear to some of our members.

You will have noticed some members have had their membership renewal notice sent from one of the new Chapters if you happen to be in their areas, please understand that ALL MEMBERS OF A CHAPTER ARE ALL FIRST AND FORMOST MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION AND THEN, A MEMBER OF THAT CHAPTER.

I look forward to the Chapters joining into any and all activates of our Association and of course any activates the Chapter may arrange themselves!

Our Melbourne Cup Weekend trip this year will be in the Myrtleford area and I look forward to many Chapter members joining us there, more details of that trip elsewhere in this 'Flash.

Our Corps Commandant's Corps Birthday dinner is to be held at East Malvern RSL on the actual Corps Birthday Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at which our Head of Corps BRIG Dav McGahey and his wife Sue will be present (the CC has asked if your White Jacket fits please wear it!!) this being his last official function as H of C so let us dine them out with the flare only RAEME are able to do!

I trust I will see you all at our AGM on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2006 @ 1100 @ Oakleigh Barracks

**Peter Cartledge***President*

**SECRETARY'S REPORT (Gus Allen)**  
**(Including Welfare Report from Reg Cox)**

The Association has had a busy time, mainly to do with the creation of the new Chapters.  
 President Peter has alluded to the forming of the Chapter in his report. It is left to my duty to cover the secretarial doings of the Association.

We have a host of new members and welcome to them all. They are as follows.

Patrick Shanahan  
 Ken Beatty  
 Anne MacLeod  
 John Colville  
 Norman Creek  
 Aden Armstrong  
 Danny Kay  
 George Austin  
 Anthony Zammit  
 Gordon Falk

Ron Walters  
 Rod Bolt  
 Peter Pickett  
 Bruce Gibson  
 Gary Fox  
 Martin Magill  
 Brian Jones  
 Michael Kusternig  
 Kelly Knott  
 Robert Matejic

Some of the names are new to the Association, others have rejoined and yet others have come to us through the new Chapter structure.

Sadly, we have lost three members since the last edition of our news letter. Dennis Oakley of Myrtleford, dear Gwen Byron, Col Ron Byron's widow, and more recently John Davidson a past apprentice instructor in the early days of the Apprentices Training School.

Reg Cox our welfare officer has been attending to his duties and reports on several members who are on the sick list.

Barry Ridgway, Ken Kermond, Laurie Burley and Ed Collins have all been contacted by Reg. Please let Reg or myself know if any members need to be followed up on regarding their well being.

**GUS ALLEN***Secretary*

**Denis Oakley** (*Myrtleford*)  
**Gwen Byron** (*widow of Col Ron Byron*)  
**John Davidson** (*past AAS Instructor*)  
**Rex Straughair** (*Malaysia & SVN*)  
**Bill Hanson** (*SVN*)

## OBITUARIES

### Rex Straughair

It is with sadness that I report the death of Rex Straughair on 10 June.

Rex served in Malaysia with 28 Comwel Bde LAD 66/68 . He later served in SVN with B Sqn 1 Armd Regt in 69. He retired as a WO1 in 1979.

His son Rex Jnr has been in the Army for 25 years and is currently serving as a WO2 with 5/7 RAR. Rex was a good Bloke and will be missed by all who knew him.

Rest in Peace.

### Peter Pinkerton

*Memberships  
RAEME Association Qld*

### Bill Hanson

It is my sad duty to announce to the Association the passing of Rev Fr. Bill Hanson on Wednesday 31 May 2006 at Busselton, WA.

Bill was a National Serviceman, born 1945, who served in Vietnam with 1 Armd Sqn Wksp between 29.04.68 and 13.10.68 and then was one of the founding members of 106 Fd Wksp serving between 14.10.68 and 12.11.68.

While Bill was a member of 106 for only a short period, he would have been one of those hard-working soldiers who did their normal job as well as doing the hard yakka getting the Armd Sqn Wksp site area upgraded for the "new" workshop.

When Bill returned to Australia his Vietnam experience moved him to become an Anglican Catholic Priest, his final position was the rector of St Peters Busselton WA. Bill also served as a chaplain for the Western Australian Vietnam Veterans and for the RAEME Association of Western Australia Inc.

*(Bill Hanson Cont'd)*

Bill had a Heart Transplant about 5 years ago and it was recognised that his service in Vietnam caused the disease that precipitated the Heart transplant. It was during the DVA advocacy work that Bill offered himself as the chaplain for the Association. Our other chaplain is now in the ARA and serves in Townsville. During one of Bill's visits to Perth he told me that the Good Lord found a new Heart for him because He still had work for Bill to do.

Right throughout the recovery stage of his heart transplant, Bill firmly believed this and it helped immeasurably with his recovery.

On a personal note, Bill would visit Clare and I each time he came to Perth for a check up with the Cardiologist. The debates and arguments we had around our kitchen table, particularly about religion, endeared Bill to both of us. At one of our debating sessions, it became so intense that Bill actually forgot to go to the Bishop's home for dinner. Clare and I will miss the camaraderie that we shared with Bill.

He was a gentle man who cared for his fellow man and never had a harsh word for anyone. He often said to Clare and I that when the Lord decided his work was done on earth, He would call Bill home. We are both sure that he received a rousing welcome when he got "Home".

A funeral service for Bill took place at Bunbury Crematorium on Friday 9th of June 2006 at 1400 hours.

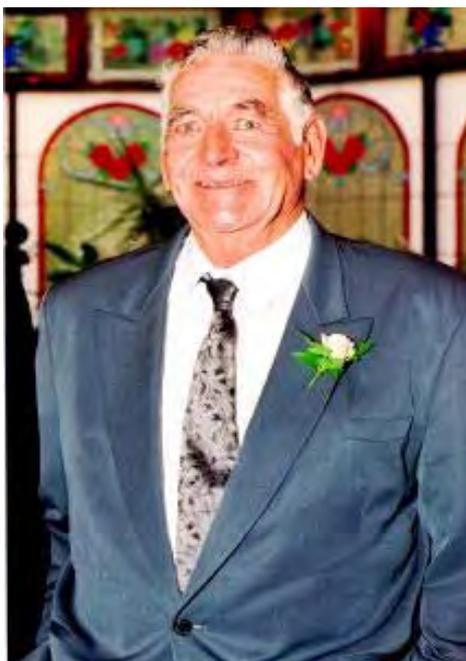
You can send a message of sympathy to:  
The Hanson Family (or Mrs Gillian Hanson)  
17 Prowse Way, Dunsborough W.A 6281

Rest in Peace, Bill.  
Lest We Forget.

### John Curtis

*(via the 106 Fd Wksp Website Message Log)*

## Dennis Oakley



**S/Sgt Dennis Arnold Oakley**, better known to all his friends in the Army as “**Annie.**” Being a fitter - armourer and a sharp shooter he became known to us all in the terms of endearment as “**Annie Oakley**”.

Dennis was born on the 12th April 1930 in Melbourne, Victoria and passed away suddenly on the 7th April 2006 aged 75 and as you will note only 5 days before his 76th birthday.

He commenced his Military Career in the **A.R.A.** on the 7 July 1948 in **RAEME** and was posted to Southern Command Workshop initially, then to 3 Base Wksp Broadmeadows on the 21st September 1953, later to 20 NS Battalion on the 26th March 1956, then Bandianna Area Workshop, 13 August 1956 and finally Pucka Area Workshop on the 3rd September 1958.

Dennis's Employment Duties consisted of: Six months Recruit Training at Pucka, he then went on to qualify as a blacksmith and small arms fitter and that became his trade Posting.

He was Promoted to:

T/Cpl with 20 NS Trg Battalion 22 June 1956  
Cpl also with 20 NS Battalion 10 August 1956  
T/Sgt at Area Wksp Pucka 29 October 1958  
Sgt also at Pucka Area Wksp 1st January 1959.

Dennis discharged on completion of his A.R.A service on the 13th July 1960 as a substantive Sergeant and later joined the CMF (Now Army Reserve)

Dennis loving **RAEME** decided to stay with the Corp and transfer to the CMF and went along and Joined 3 Base Wksp (CMF Component) on the 9th December 1960.

For some reason un-be known to the writer he was enlisted as a Corporal and promoted Sergeant that same day, but only soon after he again was promoted to S/Sgt, possibly he should have marched into the CMF as T/WO 2 as his substantive ARA Rank was Sergeant. However, it was so long ago maybe I could stand corrected.

Once again Dennis in his CMF life supported mostly RAASC units within the Transport Workshops Companies (Now RACT) and they were as follows: 7 Coy RAASC, Coburg, 33 & 15 Tpt Coy RAASC Sth Melbourne and in 1970 he returned to Chapel East St Kilda where he served with the following RAEME units, 105 Fld Wksp & again 3 Base Wksp (CMF Component) towards the end of his career he moved to Gapsted in Victoria finishing his time at Pucka Area Wksp. He discharged in 1974.

Dennis's military career spanned 25 years and even up to his death **RAEME** was never out of his thoughts. He joined the RAEME Association Victoria and was a member for many years and when the occasion arose he came along to various functions especially those that were held in the North East of Victoria in the later years and was thrilled to be amongst his service friends. After his service life Dennis moved from Melbourne and married his charming lady Margaret and they moved to Gapsted later purchasing a small property in Whorouly Victoria and finally moving to Myrtleford where he resided until his passing.

He was a great hobby man and such things as rabbiting & fishing with his friends in Myrtleford were great pass-times for him. In addition Dennis made all sorts of models from beer cans (All Vic Bitter) and some models now grace many of his friends bars and mantel pieces. Later as Dennis became a victim of arthritis he found a new hobby brewing his own beer again he became expert at this. Although Dennis did enjoy his brewing he never missed a visit to his local pub to catch up on all the gossip around town, he played bowls for a while and followed his loved Whorouly football team for many years. During his years at the football club Dennis ran the bar and the story goes that his dry sense of humour and the gags he told during happy Hour bought the locals in each Saturday just to have a laugh with Dennis. Dennis was also a great cook and his Bacon & Eggs skills will be missed by all those friends and relatives that had the pleasure of being catered for by Dennis.

Dennis will be missed by his family & Friends as he was a great example of that Australian Digger.

Arte et Marte

**Bruce Williams**

(Ex-Sgt. 33 Tpt Coy Wksp RAASC  
& 105 Fld Wksp RAEME)

### David Rolphe

On the 7.30 am ABC news from Albury I heard of a 61 year old man from Brisbane riding a Harley Davidson was killed near Toomah Dam on the Cabramurra to Khancoban road.

Later that morning my fears were realised when John Blackwell rang to inform me that David Rolphe a 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic was killed in a motor bike accident. It was Dave's intention to branch away from the group at a later stage of his journey to come to visit John in Seymour.

Below is an extract from Albury's Border Mail 01 Mar 06.

#### Cause of crash 'medical'

BY JOHN CONROY

A QUEENSLAND man who died in a motorbike accident near Khancoban on Monday may have come off the road after suffering a medical problem.

The man, David Rolfe, 61, from McDowall in Queensland, came off his motorbike on a bend 2km north of Toomah Dam on the Cabramurra to Khancoban road.

Sen-Constable Geoff McKenzie from Tumbarumba police said because the man was an experienced rider, the bend was not particularly difficult and speed wasn't involved, it was likely the crash was caused by a medical problem.

#### David Maddick

(12th Intake AAS)

## Colonel Commandant's Mid Year Report

To say that the last six months have been busy for a number of patriotic members is an understatement. The majority of activities have achieved my stated aim of enhancing mateship, welfare to each other and regaining lost "Corps Ethos" through greater awareness and dissemination of information about Corps activities in the Region. My motto for 2006 has been "*To Establish*", which has already been successfully met in a number of areas.

Firstly, the establishment of an annual Regional RAEME Remembrance Service with the highly successful "Inaugural RAEME Day of Remembrance" simultaneously held in Melbourne, Bandiana and Hobart on Sunday, 29 Jan 06, with over 200 members and their families attending the respective services, despite short notice and high temperatures. The project "*Finding RAEME*" continues to slowly add numbers to the Colonel Commandant's lists, but we still have a long way to go with over 2,000 still MIA. A successful reunion at "The Seymour Club" on 1 Feb 06, stimulated the formation of another motivated steering group to join the one in Bandiana, with both working hard to establish new regional Chapters of the RAV. I am most grateful for the self-sacrifice and support given by Andy Turner and his crew "Up North" and by Dave Maddick and his team in Seymour. Sadly it appears that the formation of a group for RAEME Vietnam Veterans has come to a standstill due to internal differences associated with the previously defunct National Association. Until these issues are resolved, it is not expected that there will be any further movement with this group.

Formal visits to four units over the last six months have established greater liaison and awareness of the current maintenance situation. Visits to JLU (V) at Puckapunyal (formerly PWC) on 21 Feb 06 and Bandiana (formerly 4BWB) on 24 Feb 06 revealed the extent of CSP impact from the early 90s, when it was advised that only 15 ARA RAEME personnel are now responsible for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> line repairs in Victoria.



Moreover, with nine attached to provide technical support for the School of Artillery, this means that only 6 ARA personnel are supervising contractual maintenance throughout Victoria compared to more than 1,000 in 1988. On 22 Feb 06 a Corps History presentation was given to a number of newly graduated RAEME Officers attending their LOBC Course. The opportunity to meet our future leaders was invaluable to hopefully instill "Esprit de Corps" plus reinforce that the Corps' future was in their hands.

I am grateful to COL Jim Phasey for permitting a visit to DTR-A on 17 Mar 06, as well as supporting the drive to increase Corps Ethos by the appointment on LTCOL Mick Buldo as the new Regional RAEME Rep. A downside to the excellent visit to 26 Tpt Sqn Wksp on 30 Mar 06, accompanied by LTCOL Buldo, was the revelation by CAPT Matt Brodie that this last remaining ARA Land Command unit in Victoria was moving north to Brisbane from mid 2007.

On 19 Mar 06 a Burma railway presentation was given as a prelude to the RAEME Widows Luncheon organised by the RAV at Oakleigh Barracks. The ANZAC pilgrimage to Thailand and Burma enabled wreaths to the 84 AEME POWs, who died during or after construction of the Burma railway, to be formally laid at both ends of the line. On a prorata basis, the loss of life by the Corps was therefore equivalent to that for 8<sup>th</sup> Division Infantry Units. Regrettably, these Corps tributes were the first by a senior RAEME officer, in over 63 years. The honour of laying wreaths was further enhanced by the presence of 84 year old CFN Douglas Brazier (AEME and RAV member) who fought in the Pacific Islands in WW2 and is the last surviving member of his unit.

On 5 May 06 Jeff Bruhn held the annual Mafia Formal Dinner at the Vic Bks SGT's Mess attended by 65 members and guests. Due to my unfortunate absence in Burma, both BRIG David McGahey and LTCOL Mick Buldo confirmed that it had been a very enjoyable night and a rare opportunity to regain past pleasures for former serving members.

A "welcome safely home from Burma" function at home on 21 May 06 was attended by 17 members and their wives or companions, who braved the cold to enjoy friendship mixed with the tastes of Asia provide by Sheila and myself. It also provided key members from different RAEME organisations the opportunity to establish new friendships or renew old ones for future activities. A trip to Townsville on 25-29 May 06 permitted a visit to Billabong Sanctuary to check on the well-being of CPL Soult "Snappa" Crock in her 21<sup>st</sup> year of service in RAEME as official mascot to 102 Fd Wksp (Lt). Re-granting of workshop names in CSSBs has guaranteed her ongoing career. Did anyone sign her up for DFRDB in 1985?

Apart from attending the re-vitalised RAT's Corps Birthday celebrations in Hobart on 11 Dec 06, I have just had the honour to attend the RAT's very successful "Inaugural Mixed Formal Dining -In Night" held at the Claremont RSL on 24 Jun 06. An attendance of 41 from less than 80 members spread throughout Tassie, is exceptional in these days of growing apathy. The tables were decked out at the RSL to a high standard equivalent to any Mess due the efforts of "Pop" Barrett and his "backroom" helpers. After hours of hard work, John "Lurch" Lennox provided fascinating entertainment throughout the night with an impressive lite-pro show of historical RAEME pictures from bygone days in Tasmania.

Ongoing promotion of "**The Craftsman of the Year**" Award over recent months seems to be bearing fruit with indications that a greater number of nominations will be made in 2006 than in the last few years. For example, 2 FSB have already indicated they will be nominating for both ARA and GRES categories.

Yours – "With Skill"

**Colonel Terry Beaton**  
COLCOMD

## RAEME Assoc. (Vic.) Inc. Bandiana Chapter

We started informally six months ago and responses to gatherings, especially RAEME Remembrance Day at the RAEME Craftsman Memorial clearly showed us the need to organise. The Bandiana Chapter was formed at our Inaugural General Meeting on 21 March held at the Stump.

Office bearers are:

**President:** Andy Turner,  
**Treasurer:** Mike Kusternig  
**Secretary:** George Reid,  
**Committee:**  
 Phil Stephenson and Alex Wolf.  
**Head of Corps Representative**  
 Maj. Graham Anderson

We adopted the Statement of Purposes and Rules of Association of RAV and sought Charter as a Chapter which has been accepted will be formally presented at a social occasion with RAV in Beechworth in November. Mike has opened our account with Bendigo Bank with the Pres., Sec., and Treas., as signatories and membership is building.

### Membership Renewals;

For those existing members who reside in this area and have not been contacted can renew their membership through this Chapter.

Your committee has met three times already and a calendar is emerging:

**19 Aug 2006 106 Fd Wksp Assoc. Back to the Heartland Reunion** including a **BBQ at Bandiana** an opportunity to meet with Corps Members from out of town.

### 18 Oct 2006 RAEME Corps Conference

#### Welcoming BBQ 18 Oct.

**3 5 Nov 2006 Charter Presentation** Beechworth with RAV on their annual weekend.

#### 4 Feb 2007 RAEME Remembrance Day Service.

First Sunday in February. A twilight service, followed by a social gathering.

**2007 Annual Formal Dinner** possibly August 2007. Format and venue being decided.

**2007 Family Day** Details being decided from several good suggestions.

**2006/2007 Four "Spanner Club" gatherings** during the coming year. Dates will be advised. This is the serving members' club at Bandiana and we will be invited to attend and perhaps play a role of some sort.

#### T-shirts:

Ian Deegan has been researching for us and has done well with a quality, polo style, shirt in white or blue. It has a quality, embroidered Corp Badge and the word "Bandiana" on the pocket. More information soon.

#### Thanks

To get this far we have many people to thank including:

- Our Colonel Commandant Victoria & Tasmania Region COL Terry Beaton.
- Peter Cartledge, Max Moore and all of our comrades in RAV
- The Steering Committee
- The Elected Committee
- Deputy Head of Corps LTCOL Andy Adams and HOC Rep. MAJ Graham Anderson
- And you, the inaugural members, of course.

### Andy Turner

*President Bandiana Chapter*

## SEYMOUR/PUCKAPUNYAL CHAPTER

A group of ex-RAEME members got together at The Seymour Club, the home of the Seymour R&SL Club on Wednesday night 01 Mar 06 and approved the formation of the Seymour Chapter of "The RAEME Association (Vic) Incorporated".

The Charter document for the Seymour/ Puckapunyal and Bandiana Chapters were signed on the 08 May 2006 and a copy sent to us from which we can now operate legally. The larger and framed version is to be presented to us at a later date. When it is proposed to hold a similar gathering of the Clan to the successful get together we had early this year, and with the possibility of the inclusion of two more important events

Much work is yet to be done within the Chapter to enable us to operate smoothly on the Administration side, such as Bank Accounts, Cheque Books, Receipt Books, and Stamps etc.

We already have eight new members signed up and paid their Subscriptions. (Just enough for a committee)

The old "3MD RAEME WO's and SNCO's" Association Craftsman of the Year Award was finally found, all be it in a broken and sad state. Thanks to Terry Beaton it was returned to John Phoenix, who has pains takingly taken many hours to restore it to its former glory. **Thanks John for a job well done.**



It is now in a glass case on its original wooden plinth and bears its new name, **“ARA CRAFTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD”**.

It still retains its old name under the glass case. **The Third Military District, RAEME WO's / SNCO's, Association Award**

For those interested and if you are travelling past or through Seymour, it can, for the time being be viewed at John's business **“Seymour Industrial Supplies”** Emily Street (the old Hume Highway) which is easily found behind the **RAEME** tac sign and badge fixed to the front verandah post.

### **Mid Year R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter “BLUEBELL”**

R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veterans Southern is now a Chapter of the R.A.E.M.E. Association Victoria Incorporated, which was as a result of a survey of financial members. Due to the enormous support from R.A.E.M.E. Association Victoria this clearly is the way ahead. The Committee would like to thank the past R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam President, Brian Kelly, for his assistance.

The Committee of R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veterans will be holding meetings in regional centres across the State.

The Committee has formatted a new membership form and will forward it to all Vietnam Bluebell.

We would also like to hear from any one not receiving “The Craftsman” magazine. Please ring Dennis Clarke on 9848 6757.

R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veterans Southern will be attending “The Shrine Of Remembrance” on Vietnam Day, which is the fortieth anniversary of “The Battle Of Long Tan”. The day will start with a “GUNFIRE BREAKFAST” which will

be available from 0900 Hrs till 1100 Hrs. Assemble behind The Banner at the start of the forecourt at 11.45 Hrs. There will also be a display of 105 HOWITZER ARTILLERY and CARRIERS from 4th/19th ARMoured in the grounds of “The Shrine”. A replica of the “LONG TAN CROSS”, made by original builder, will be set in the forecourt of “The Shrine” with an “Honour Guard” comprising of the ANZAC DAY winners and two pipers. Denise Drysdale and Marcia Jones have been invited to sing. After march rendezvous is at The Lewis Family “EMERALD HOTEL” in Clarendon Street South Melbourne.

“106 FIELD WORKSHOP RE-UNION” is being held over the VIETNAM DAY weekend. Phil Bond is the man to contact on 07 326 38222. Meet and greet – Registration on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Morning March on the 18<sup>th</sup> “LONG TAN DAY” followed by a tour of Latchford Barracks in the afternoon - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, a static display and tour of the Army Museum Bandiana. A Dinner dance is to be held on the Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Winery Tour on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> which completes the weekend.

Eddie Ermanis reminded us of the “17 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON WORKSHOP L.A.D.” being held in Darwin over the ANZAC period in 2007. This will be followed by a re-union in “MELBOURNE” IN 2010.

Clive De-Jussing informed us of a “101 FIELD WORKSHOP DARWIN RE-UNION” to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. This date will be the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF 101 FIELD WORKSHOP. It features a barbecue, dinner on preceding days and March on Anzac Day. Contact Fred Greenway on 9874.7806

Murray Lewis has informed us of a “102 FIELD WORKSHOP QUEENSLAND RE-UNION” Ron [Noggy] McGlinchey has kindly offered to host this one. It will be held either at his property “Macsland Station” or the Bopulia Rodeo grounds, {depending on numbers} Happening at “BOULIA” which is located 1719 km. from Brisbane, 305 Klm. south of Mt. Isa and 364 km west of Winton Qld. Boulia is a small settlement of approximately 300 people. It is the Administrative Centre for an area covering 61,176 km which boasts a total shire population of less than 600 people. The dates for the re-union will be 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept and 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2006  
For any further information contact Bob Church on 07 5428 1236 or Murray Lewis on 03 8361 0250 or

This Re-union is not to be confused with the “102 FIELD WORKSHOP RE-UNION” which is held at by-yearly at Noel Lake's Koondrook address. This one will occur again on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

Books available; “JUNGLE TRACKS” on Australia Armour in Vietnam by Gary McKay and Graeme Nicholas. “WELL DONE THOSE MEN” by Barry Heard Ex Seven Battalion. Both are a good read.

**Dennis Clarke**  
*President*

## THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

The vital repair and maintenance role for the Australian Army is [provided](#) by the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME).

Although the Corps is “young” it has already developed proud traditions. It is fully combatant and Workshop Units and Corps members have served with distinction during war wherever Australian troops have been involved since the formation of the Corps during World War II. The late Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, in giving praise to the Corps stated:

“They exist to keep the punch in the Army’s fist. They are a new Corps, born in the late war, they have done magnificently and have won their spurs in battle”. The date of the formation of RAEME as a corps was 1 December 1942 however, the evolution of the Corps reaches back into earlier Australian military history and before, even back to earlier armies of England.

With the development of firearms, cannon and mortars the responsibility of Ordnance Officers became more important and their armourers and artificers were tradesmen of particular high skills. Those “craftsmen” started a tradition of skills and pride in their workmanship, which is evident in today’s RAEME soldiers. The name “Craftsman”, a proud and noble designation from the time immemorial, is the rank exclusive to RAEME private soldiers.

From the arrival of the first fleet in 1788 until their withdrawal in 1870, defence of the colonies was entrusted to British troops. Until Federation on 1 January 1901, each of the colonies was responsible for its own defence forces. In Victoria, the Ordnance Commissariat and Transport Corps was formed in 1886 and Richard Harding Esquire, a qualified engineer from England, was appointed the first Inspector of Ordnance Machinery on the 19 September 1888 with the honorary rank of lieutenant and with a staff of 12 Armament Artificers. Present day RAEME professional engineering officers can trace lineage to Richard Harding, the first officer appointed by Australian forces to fill an engineering appointment.

After Federation and the amalgamation of the State Defence Forces, the Ordnance Department of the Commonwealth Military Forces was formed. The Chief Ordnance Officer (COO), a civilian, and civilian storemen were the focal point of Ordnance activity in the military districts. The technical advisor to the COO in each military district was the Ordnance Mechanical Engineer (OME) and in the Army

Headquarters in Melbourne was the Principal Mechanical Engineer (PME) who was technical advisor to the Master General of the Ordnance. Small Ordnance Workshops in each military district were staffed by military members named Australian Army Ordnance Corps (P), (AAOC(P)), and civilian public servants who filled the trade positions of wheelwrights, blacksmiths, saddlers and carpenters.

Artificers were transferred to the Engineering Branch of the Ordnance Department however, those serving with artillery companies or batteries remained attached. The Armament Artificers, known as the “Corps of Armament Artificers” came under the command of the Inspector of Ordnance Machinery. Lieutenant Harding, promoted to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, was appointed to that position in 1909 and remained such until his retirement in 1925.

In 1914, the Corps of Armament Artificers were mobilized for active service and by the time the war had ended their numbers had increased to 55. Corps members distinguished themselves during the war; many of whom served overseas with Australian Artillery units and three were awarded Military cross for bravery.

Between the wars the Army establishments were reduced. However, after the Minich crisis of 1938, limited expansion of the Army was authorised and the Ordnance Workshops undertook the reconditioning of the Army’s mobilisation stores held by the Ordnance Service. The AAOC(P) personnel augmented by temporary civilian tradesmen, upgraded the equipment predominantly of artillery nature. This included adoption of 6 inch Naval guns for land service and modification of 18 pr and 4.5 inch Howitzer field guns for pneumatic tyred wheels. In 1938 the first intake of Army Apprentices were authorised, serving their time in various Military District Ordnance Workshops.

At the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in 1939, the responsibilities of the Mechanical Engineering Branch of the AAOC were more limited compared to later as other Corps such as Engineers, Transport and Signals were also responsible for mechanical maintenance. However, as the war continued, the commitments of the AAOC(P) increased dramatically due to the increasing sophistication of the Army’s technical equipment.

The problem was not unique to the Australian Army and in its endeavour to keep pace with the trend towards machine warfare the British Government commissioned a committee to investigate the various aspects for the best use of skilled tradesmen in the

services. The "Beveridge Report" recommended that a new Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) be formed to assume the responsibilities of the workshop organisation of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as well as certain repair functions of the Royal Army Signals Corps (RASC) and Royal Engineers (RE). This took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942.

The British proposal had been studied by the Australian Army, it was accepted in principle and adapted for Australian requirements. General Routine Order (GRO)G465 authorised the formation of the new Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME) as part of the Master General of the Ordnance Branch.

GRO 0578 ordered the new Corps to take effect in two phases:

Phase 1 of AEME to be the transfer of personnel of the Mechanical Engineering Branch of the AAOC on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1942; and Phase 2 of AEME to be the transfer of unit maintenance tradesmen on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1943.

Until victory in 1945, AEME units and personnel were involved in all phases of war. They served in Egypt, Palestine, Libya, Cyrenacia, Greece and Crete, Syria, Malaya, New Guinea and South West Pacific.

In recognition of service during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War a numbers of Corps including AEME were granted the title of "Royal" by King George VI on the 10 November 1948.

The Corps today continues to be responsible for ensuring the Army's equipment operates reliably and efficiently and is expeditiously restored to useful condition after failure or damage.

With rapidly changing technology and ever increasing operational requirements of the battlefield the Corps will continue to have heavy demands placed on it.

The foundations laid by the members of the Corp in its short history provide a sound basis for meeting these future challenges.

**Bruce Williams**

## ***"COMPO - Never Too Young"***

by Terry Beaton (Pensions Advocate)

Confused about your entitlements or how to claim compensation for your service caused disabilities - then join the long queue!! This article is therefore essential reading to provide a simplified explanation of both *Military* and *Veteran Compensation* entitlements.

**Crucial** It is imperative that all readers realise that you are "**never too young**" to make a claim for compensation or to at least ensure that all service related injuries, diseases or incidents are recorded - at the time of occurrence - especially on your medical records. It is even more advisable these days to maintain your own personal file with copies of all incident reports, routine orders (authorising the participation in civilian and service competitions), as well as copies of all related medical reports. Without such documentation or relevant entries, future claims may be rejected solely due to the lack of supporting evidence on your records, *unless you can produce your own copy*. Unlike the beneficial legislation of the *Veterans' Entitlement Act (1986)* - where veterans with operational service are given the "*benefit of the doubt*" for any reasonable assertion, the new 2004 legislation has removed the provision to "**presume**" that the injury, disease or death is service related. Onus is now on the claimant to prove it happened, beyond reasonable doubt.

**Background** On 1 Jul 2004 the Government introduced the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (commonly called MRCA 04). It's purpose was to create a single, tri-service specific compensation scheme to meet the unique circumstances facing personnel serving in the current and future ADF. MRCA 04 represented the Government's response to the detrimental findings of the Inquiry into the Black Hawk disaster of Jun 96 and the lack of "just" compensation to victims, as a result of the controversial introduction of the Military Compensation Act in 1994. MCA (1994) not only depreciated the prior provisions of *the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act of 1988 (SRCA (1988))*, but more significantly it totally removed the legislated entitlement of ADF personnel to claim compensation under the "*Eligible Defence Service*" provision of *Veterans Entitlement Act (1986)*, originally awarded by the Whitlam Government on 7 Dec 72. The fallout from the lesser benefits then available to the victims of the Blackhawk disaster, forced the 1997 Inquiry into Military Compensation, followed by the Tanzer Review in Mar 99. The latter investigated the wide criticism about the adequacy, equity between existing Acts and relevance of the existing compensation arrangements for the ADF in line with modern civilian compensation principles. It recommended the formulation of a single compensation system for the coverage of all types of ADF service and the removal of the dual eligibility under both *Veteran* and *Military Compensation*.

In simple terms, the passing of MRCA 04 by Parliament effectively terminated **any** access to **all prior** forms of *Military* and *Veteran Compensation* to **any person** joining the ADF, or for any injury, disease and death **as of 1 Jul**

**04.** MRCA 04 is largely based on the provisions of *SRCA (1988)*, plus key beneficial elements of the *VEA (1986)*. In short, although MRCA is “superior” to all previous forms of *Military Compensation*, it is not as good as the *Veterans’ Compensation* under the *VEA (1986)*, due to politically imposed cost reducing directives.

**VEA Bonus** MRCA 04 has however, had a significant benefit for anybody who had enlisted in the ADF prior to **7 Apr 1991**, in that it has retrospectively re-granted entitlement to the “*Eligible Defence Service*” provision of the *VEA (1986)* previously removed by *MCA (1994)*. In other words, if you enlisted before 7 Apr 91, any service related injuries, diseases or death which occurred before 1 Jul 04, can now also be claimed under the *VEA (1986)*.

**Date** In other words, the critical issue is “*the date of injury, onset of disease or resulting death*”. The date will determine which of the above Acts for *Military or Veterans Compensation* is applicable for your claim. Remember, only a claim for clinical worsening or aggravation of a service-related condition sustained **prior to 1 Jul 04**, can be claimed under MRCA 04, **not** the incapacity resulting from the date of clinical onset. As such, a claim for aggravation may be detrimental to those with eligibility under the *VEA (1986)*. It is suggested you seek “informed” advice prior to making your “once only offered” election. It can therefore be seen that “*Eligibility*” is a very complex issue and should be discussed with an Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Pension Officer in your local region, who has undertaken training under the Training Information Program (TIP) sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

**Entitlement** In the simplest terms, everybody who served or is currently serving in the ADF, has a right to receive compensation through the “*Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme*” (MCRS) for any condition where liability has been accepted under any form of legislation for *Military Compensation*. However, for those who served prior to 6 Apr 94 and that service has been deemed “*Operational or Peacekeeping*” service, or who served in the ADF from “*7 Dec 72 to 6 Apr 94*” - they have an additional entitlement to claim their disabilities under the *VEA (1986)*.

After the introduction of MRCA 04, those who served between “*7 Apr 91 to 30 Jun 04*” have retrospectively eligibility to claim under the *VEA (1986)*, but can also claim under *SRCA (1988)* for conditions sustained 7 Apr 91 – 6 Apr 94 and *MCA (1994)* for conditions occurring 7 Apr 94 – 30 Jun 04. From 1 Jul 04 all new injuries, diseases or death can only be claimed against MRCA 04.

**Dual Eligibility** Recapping - all former members who had ADF service after 7 Dec 72 and discharged prior to 6 Apr 94, still have an entitlement to claim any service caused disabilities under **both** the *VEA (1986)* and *SRCA (1988)*. This also applies to a dependant in the case of a death. Moreover, those who enlisted prior to 7 Apr 91 and are either still serving or had discharged between **1994 and 30 Jun 04** – now have an entitlement to claim under **both** the *VEA (1986)* and *MCA (1994)*.

**Single Eligibility** Any condition or death suffered after **1 Jul 04** can now only be claimed against the single entitlement offered by the new Act (MRCA 04).

**One Benefit** Dual eligibility can be a **trap** to the uninformed. Personnel with such an entitlement may legally claim for the “*same condition*” under both the *VEA (1986)* and *SRCA (1988)*, or *MCA (1994)*, but any such claim **will be adjusted** to result in the same “total financial” benefit - had the claim been made solely against the *VEA*. In other words, “***you can’t double dip***”. Any lump sum payment made by MCRS will be deducted from the grand “*predicted*” total and your *VEA* disability pension payments will be reduced accordingly to offset monies “*already received*”. Hence the reason why some veterans awarded a disability pension at the Special Rate (commonly called T&PI) under the *VEA*, suddenly find themselves on a **Part** Special Rate Pension, once a lump sum has also been paid out for the same claimed condition/s under MCRS. This could have major financial implications for future livelihood due to the loss of monies resulting from CPI increases on a reduced total. Lump sum payments are practical when funds are immediately required to provide future domestic security to offset reduced earning capability due to physical incapacity.

**Rehabilitation** MRCA 04 is constantly being revised following its formulation over several years (since 2000) through extensive consultation with ESOs and the ADF. As stated, it has taken the most beneficial elements of the *SRCA (1988)* and many, but not all, of the beneficial legislation of the *VEA (1986)*. The major difference between the *VEA* and *MCRCA 04*, is that the latter has an increased focus on “**rehabilitation**” for those whose capacity for work is affected by conditions for which liability has been accepted under MRCA. In addition, all members assessed for medical discharge will be individually case-managed through the transition to civilian life. Early feedback on the Transition Management Service (TMS) suggests that this civilianised service is having teething problems. However, this is still a significant development in light of difficulties experienced by many former ADF personnel who were previously medically discharged with little or no assistance after discharged. As such, they had to rely heavily on ESOs and Service Associations for support to adjust to civilian life or claiming for just compensation.

**Payment** It is important to note that MRCA 04 has adopted the *SRCA* model of providing compensation payments, not the *VEA* model of a disability pension; - despite adopting the *VEA* processing system using the objectivity of the Statement of Principles (SOPs) issued by the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) to establish the vital linkage between service and the claimed condition. MRCA is therefore based on economic and non-economic loss payments, not on payments to compensate for reduced lifestyle and physical incapacity due to service reasons - even though they may have little effect on a veteran’s ability to work and may not be permanent. Under MRCA, similar non-economic loss payments can be awarded once liability has been accepted for a claim, **but only** after the condition or impairment has been diagnosed to be

*permanent and has stabilised* to allow determination of the level of compensation. Most importantly, any such determination will be periodically reviewed and may be reduced or lost entirely (due to rehabilitative treatment). Whereas under the *VEA (1986)*, accepted disabilities are not reviewed until a veteran lodges a claim for a new condition or an Application For Increased (AFI) Pension for an accepted disability.

**Notification** Another significant difference is that under MRCA 04, receipt of all claims by MRCS must be notified to the representative appointed by each Service Chief. This is obviously to provide greater visibility of the physical incapacity of all serving ADF personnel, so that individuals are not deployed with unknown claimed disabilities, as previously occurred under *VEA (1986)* or *SRCA (1988)*.

**Claiming** Terminology has also changed in MRCA 04. Now "Wartime (WW2)" "Operational" and "Peacekeeping/Peacemaking" service have been redefined as "*Warlike*" and "*Non-Warlike*". Moreover "Eligible Defence Service" is now define as "*Peacetime Service*". Consequently, due to the changes in terminology and the complexity of the eligibility criteria for each new type of service, **it is strongly recommended that anybody wishing to make a claim, does not do it by themselves - but seeks professional support through a TIP trained Pensions Officer.** Those serving in Victoria have the ability to visit one of the 23 Veteran Centres, which have been established in this State to assist all serving and former ADF personnel with their claims, regardless of their eligibility to either *Military* or *Veteran Compensation*. Too often, through lack of knowledge, individuals badly "stuff" their own case, making it difficult or even impossible for trained volunteers to rectify. The golden rule is – "*don't do it yourself, seek TIP trained assistance*"

**Reduction** Lastly, should any condition be accepted under *VEA (1986)*, and a disability pension received, once you discharge, your superannuation payment (DFRDB or MSBS) **will have no** affect on your disability pension. Under MCRA 04, once you receive your superannuation payments, any weekly disability payment received will be reduced by 60 percent, as the Government in 2004 deemed that future receipt of both superannuation and disability payments was "*double dipping*".

### 101 FD WKSP VIETNAM

I am looking for the following members all from 101 FD WKSP and went to Vietnam:

Cfn Goldman                      Cfn Graeme Laycock  
Cpl Kustenig (or Kudnik)      Cfn Kowolski  
Sgt Ballantyne                    Sgt West  
(*Ballantine & West Transport Hq Platoon*)  
Cpl A (*Lofty*) Cook                Cpl G (*Buck*) Rogers

If any body can help me, this is an urgent case and these gentlemen are needed to help another member of 101. If you where any of these people are please let me know as soon as possible.

John Curtis <[curtisj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:curtisj@bigpond.net.au)>

## Requests for Help

### RAEME CORPS SERGEANTS' MESS

When it was announced that the RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess was to close in favour of the Area mess, that year, the last Corps Dinner was held at the Corps Bastion on the Hill at Bandiana at ALTC.

One enterprising Sergeant at the time took some photos of the front of the mess, the Stained Glass window (by Ivan Vrankovic), the Mick Kolpac Bar, the Reg Wildermuth Bar and several other photos throughout the mess. The Sergeant then made collectors edition brochures as memorabilia and sold them at the last dinner.

As I was the improvement member for four and half years and built the Reg Wildermuth Bar, I purchased a copy of this photo collection but it appears that this has been lost during my last move.

I am interested in anyone who has a copy of this photo collection or even better, if the Sergeant who's name escapes me could contact me if he still has the negatives (how novel, photos from other than a memory card). If anyone has information on this it would be greatly appreciated.

**Shane Layt**

*OH&S EMEI Editor Professional Service  
Provider (PSP) to Chief Engineer (CE) Section*

### ARMY APPRENTICE VEHICLE MECHANICS

I am after Apprentice intake photos for Vehicle Technology Wing for the following intakes:  
1 through to 9, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 29, 34, 36 to 39, 44 and 46.

The intake photos have just been refurbished/re-scanned and there are a number of photos that are missing and I wish to try and have all intakes up on the wall with a photo.

So, if you have a photo or know of where there is one please let me know or please send it to me for scanning (please enclose a return address).

If you know someone who would be interested or may have information, please forward this email on to them.

Thanks to all who can/do help

**SGT Darrin Wright (44 Class VM)**  
*Latchford Barracks Bonegilla VIC 3691*

Ph (02) 6055 4394

Fax (02) 6055 4152

**ARMY APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA  
Frank Poole, Inaugural President**

I had hoped (I know, I'm naïve!) that I would be swamped by volunteers seeking to serve on the Committee. This wasn't the case and although a number of positions have been filled for which I am grateful to those listed below, the Secretary and Treasurer slots must still be filled before we can proceed. It would be foolish to proceed further until we have these two essential office bearers in place.

To date we have volunteers for the following Committee positions, which will be ratified at the inaugural meetings:

President:	Frank Poole
Vice President:	Jack Westernhagen
Secretary:	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Vacant</i>
Membership Secretary:	Les Sutton
Public Officer:	Greg Mulcahy
Welfare Officer:	<i>Vacant</i>
Heritage Officer:	Chris Moon
Webmaster:	Glen Jones
Legal Officer:	Gib Owen
Committee Members:	Andrew Bishop Dennis Anspach <i>Vacant</i>
Regional Representatives	
NT:	Edward Carpenter
Sth. Qld:	Frank Maloney
Nth. Qld:	Jim van Reyk
East Vic:	Graeme Horne
WA:	Brian Cooper
NSW:	<i>Vacant</i>
ACT :	<i>Vacant</i>
Sth. Vic -	<i>Vacant</i>
Nth. Vic -	<i>Vacant</i>
SA	<i>Vacant</i>
Tas	<i>Vacant</i>

I thank all of the above for offering their services.

WOULD ALL APPRENTICES PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR AVAILABILITY TO FILL THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER SLOTS AND TO ATTEND MEETINGS IN CANBERRA ON 22/23 JULY? PLEASE ADVISE ME IF YOU CAN ASSIST URGENTLY SO THAT AGENDA, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

Frank Poole  
[Frank.Poole@bigpond.com](mailto:Frank.Poole@bigpond.com)

**Member's Son Makes Good!**

*(BRIG Moon is the son of Association Member Kevin Moon)*

**CHANGE OF COMMAND  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

I am pleased to announce that Brigadier Michael Moon has been appointed as the next Commander of the Australian Forces in the Middle East Area of Operations. He takes over from Brigadier Paul Symon, who has held the appointment since November 2005.

Based in Baghdad, Brigadier Moon is commanding around 1700 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel on active service in the Middle East to support Coalition rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brigadier Moon arrives at a time of considerable growth for Australia's operations in the Middle East. Last week the Prime Minister announced details of the Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) to be deployed to Afghanistan later this year.

The RTF will work on reconstruction and community-based projects as part of Australia's commitment to assisting Afghanistan achieve a stable and secure future. This deployment will take the number of personnel under Brigadier Moon's command to around 2000.

I would also like to take this opportunity to praise Brigadier Paul Symon for his command and leadership over the past six months.

Under Brigadier Symon's leadership, our forces have played a key role in the ongoing training and development of the Iraqi Army in Al Muthanna, where 470 ADF personnel are located.

Brigadier Symon has also overseen the completion of several Civil-Military cooperation programs in Iraq, ranging from the construction of mobile health clinics to the provision of irrigation equipment.

Programs such as this have a lasting, positive effect on the future of Iraq and highlight Australia's ongoing commitment to the Iraqi people. In the Middle East area of operations the ADF continues to provide solid support to the Coalition forces in many ways.

HMAS Ballarat continues to conduct maritime interdiction and maritime protection tasks in the Persian Gulf, protecting assets and installations

that are vital to the reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

C-130 Hercules transport aircraft are maintaining an effective air bridge within the Middle East carrying cargo, passengers and conducting Aero-Medical Evacuations.

Our Maritime Patrol aircraft continue to provide invaluable support operating over the Persian Gulf undertaking intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions

The Force Level Logistics Assets in the Middle East are dealing with the everyday problems of sustaining a large force, ensuring properly equipped and carefully inducted forces come into theatre.

In Southern Afghanistan, the Special Forces Task Group is making a significant contribution to the regions stability. Approximately 200 highly trained troops work closely with Coalition forces and the Afghan National Army, operating in difficult conditions, against a fanatical adversary of anti coalition Militia.

The Australian Aviation Task Group based at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan is already receiving high praise from their coalition partners for the professional conduct of the extremely difficult operations which they perform.

The Australian helicopters are providing troop lift capabilities, heavy equipment movement, supply transport and Aero-Medical Evacuation to the Coalition operations.

I have no doubt Brigadier Moon will rise to the challenge of commanding these ADF operations in the Middle East and wish him a safe and fulfilling deployment.

**The Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson**

*Minister for Defence*

*Itinerary for Melb Cup Weekend*



## 3 Recovery Coy First Part of 2006

Continuation from our last communique 3 Recovery Company has maintained the high tempo of activities this year. The company conducted its vehicle navigation and driving exercise Mobile Navigator

Three in March by driving on forestry and fire break tracks in the Yarra Ranges and Lake Eildon National Parks and Cathedral Range State Park. Recently qualified drivers gained excellent experience driving Unimogs and MRVs down steep slippery clay tracks. In the black of Saturday evening soldiers were given the opportunity to use night vision goggles to identify pre positioned familiar objects along a track in the bush. One quickly becomes aware of the relevance of tones of gray, the challenge of object identification at night and the strain night vision goggles place on the eyes. A weekend of inclement weather and scenic mountainous views was enjoyed by all.

In April the company's CFTS Recovery Mechanics shifted a 25 pound gun for the Mentone RSL under the watchful sparkling eyes of COL John Lee. Later that month the company provided 2 x MRVs and 2 x HRVs to hold ground while its soldiers proudly marched in the ANZAC Day parade and formed a catafalque party around the remembrance monument in the adjoining park to the RSL Club Rooms. Soldiers of the company appreciated participation in the ceremony, as it was one of the few occasions where the company was on parade and in the public eye.



This year the company provided a team in the annual 9 FSB Mil Skills competition held at Puckapunyal. The team achieved prowess by winning the shooting competition. Overall winner of the competition was one of the two teams from 26 Tpt Sqn. Cfn Fleming identified for his skill, humour and determination, was a member of the 9FSB team that participated in the LSF MilSkills competition held in Townsville in July. The 9 FSB team were successful in coming forth.

For May our OPS WO Sean Lee organised collective training involving sand driving for soldiers of 1st Petroleum

Company, 15 Tpt Squadron and the Company at Swan Lake in Western Victoria. Soldiers were provided the rare opportunity of driving land drovers, land cruisers and Unimogs in the sand dunes without fear or concern of damage to the environment. Self-recovery training in the sand was expertly demonstrated by our LCPL Glen Harris while other soldiers loaded stores on and off vehicles in day light and at night with the aid of night vision goggles in the sand using a Merlo forklift. An excellent training experience where soldiers learnt a different interpretation of correct tyre pressure and the importance of momentum while driving on top of sand.

At HMAS Cerberus in June nineteen soldiers of the company enjoyed the reality of Ex-Sharp Shooter on the MTR. A number of practices were fired to demonstrate the challenges of stabilising the rifle in different firing positions under timed target exposure and different distances while scoring and away from the artificial climate of WTSS. On Sunday morning soldiers completed an abridged version of the RAN swim test before completing the famous Mud Run.



A cool 5 degrees, a trench of chest high muddy stinking stagnant water, the occasional low branch obstacle and mangrove swamp mud the course is aimed to develop team work, mateship and determination. All participants successfully completed the challenge with a smile and knowledge of personal achievement.

With eyes on a different horizon but equally reluctant our enthusiastic and cheerful father of the company Warrant Officer Sean Lee departed in June to discover new opportunities outside of the Army for his recovery mechanic and other range of skills. WO2 Lee was presented with a photo album and CD of some of the activities during his two and half years with us. WO2 Gallagher from ALTC, a familiar face to the company (ex-OPS WO) has willingly agreed to fill the position for the remainder of 2006. Welcome back WO2 Gallagher.

In the coming months the company will improve its soldiers' skills in vehicle navigation and radio communications, participate in adventurous training, relearn infantry minor tactics and enjoy the refinement of mess dining.

Arte et Marte  
**Stephen Fisher Major**  
*Officer Commanding*

**RUNNING REPAIRS VITAL IN VIETNAM***TORRANCEMENDEZ (Westralian)*

More than ever the effectiveness of combat units depends on a small highly-trained corps who can repair weapons and equipment in the heat of battle.

Don Horsley, formerly of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME), remembers the call he got in the Albert Park barracks in Melbourne in 1965, when he was artificer warrant officer in charge of army spare parts.

"We were to collect all the stores required to keep a field force on the go for 12 months," he said. But neither he nor his colleagues were told the destination was Vietnam.

Spare parts were assembled for aircraft, armoured vehicles, weaponry, communications, cooking equipment and even laundry gear.

"We were given a time limit that was to coincide with the task force leaving Australia in February 1965," he said.

The 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment was to be based at Bien Hoa, an air base about 30km east of Saigon (now Ho Chi Min City), where they would support the US 173rd Airborne Brigade, an army unit equipped with helicopters.

"There was a big airfield which we had to protect," Mr Horsley said. "Chinese and Viet Cong surrounded this place and we had to keep it operative."

They circled the airfield with troops to secure it, though mortar attacks peppered the base nightly in an effort to strike one aircraft that might knock out another three in its cluster.

By day, the Australians would join in a hunt of Viet Cong who were well dug-in and used a system of underground tunnels in which they would hide and emerge to launch deadly surprise attacks.

"Our engineers would go in and clear the tunnels and became known as the Tunnel Rats," Mr. Horsley said. American and New Zealand troops also had the Tunnel Rats. "They endured unbelievable conditions like nothing we had ever come up against in warfare before."

Through it all, the reputation of the RAEME was enhanced. "Any unit that

Parts of the action: Don Horsley with his wartime memorabilia Picture: Barry Baker served in Vietnam had nothing but praise for RAEME," Mr Horsley said.

They helped the Australian armed forces relocate their base to Vung Tau, 125km from Saigon, with a forward post at Nui Dat. He recalls that Australian troops were not allowed to take weapons on recreational leave in Saigon, unlike the Americans.

"A lot of the problems the Yanks had was with firearms that went off while people were on leave. We didn't have that problem," he said.

Mr Horsley is from Melbourne and joined the forerunner of the Army Reserves when he was 19 in 1948, before going on to serve in Korea, and embarking on a military career.

He moved to Wanneroo in 1987, partly to be with his late comrade, Dick Pease, after marrying a local girl when widowed.

### **Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.**

#### ***Laughing at yourself is therapeutic.***

I decided to water the lawn. As I turned on the hose in the driveway I look over at my car and decide it needs a wash. As I start toward the garage, I notice there is mail on the porch table that I bought up from the mailbox earlier. I went through the mail before I washed the car. I laid my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my chequebook off the table, and see there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I had been drinking, I'm going to look for my cheques but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye, they need to be watered. I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I'd better put them back on my desk but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote, but first I'll water the flowers. I start to pour some water in the flower, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only one cheque in my cheque book, I can't find my glasses, I can't find the remote and I don't remember what I've done with the car keys. Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.

Do me a favour will you? Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember to whom it has been sent.

Don't laugh – if this isn't your day is coming.

**GROWING OLD IS MANDATORY**

**GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL**

**LAUGHING AT YOURSELF IS THERAPEUTIC**

I hope nobody else is suffering from this debilitating illness.

**Jeff Kerr**

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATION  
*Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z*

**NOTICE OF 16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**and ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 1100hrs Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006**  
**Oakleigh Barracks, 1318 North Road, Oakleigh South**

**A G E N D A**

1. ATTENDANCE
2. APOLOGIES
3. SILENT TRIBUTE – THE ODE
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SGM 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006
- 4a BUSINESS ARISING
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 14<sup>th</sup> AGM 28th August 2005
6. BUSINESS ARISING
7. President's ANNUAL REPORT / Plus Report on Chapters
8. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
(In accordance with Association Rule 8. (4.B.))
9. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS  
(In accordance with Association Rule 8. (4.B.))
10. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
11. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
12. GENERAL BUSINESS:
13. RAEME CORPS SHOP ITEMS
14. ANY OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS AS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY
15. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR YEAR 2006 – 2007
16. DATE OF 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
17. CLOSURE OF MEETING

**Note:** A meeting of the 'INCOMING' Committee of Management for the purpose of Election of Office Bearers for Year August 2006 – August 2007 will be held Immediately after the conclusion of the A.G.M

A light luncheon will be served in the Sergeants Mess with drinks at bar prices.

**Please ensure you have signed the Attendance Book prior to leaving the meeting**



THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

Incorporation Reg No. A0022655Z

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER

SOLDIER AND CRAFTSMAN

I, ..... (Proposer) Membership No.....
(Given Name) (Surname)

Street & Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Signature:.....Date: ...../...../..... Phone No. (... ).....

Hereby nominate: ..... (Nominee)
(Given Name) (Surname)

Date of Birth: ...../...../..... Membership No: .....

Street & Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

for Election as a Committee Member of the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.

I, ..... (Secunder) Membership No.....
(Given Name) (Surname)

Street & Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Signature:.....Date: ...../...../..... Phone No. ( ... ).....

Second the above nomination.

Support reason for consideration: (Please be brief) .....

I, ..... (Nominee) Membership No.....
(Given Name) (Surname) accept the above nomination.

Signature:..... Date: ...../...../..... Phone No. ( ... ).....

Please note: Each member being Nominated or Proposing this nomination, MUST BE financial at the time of submitting this form.

Received for inclusion in AGM Ballot:

Signature of the Secretary:..... Date: ...../...../.....

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

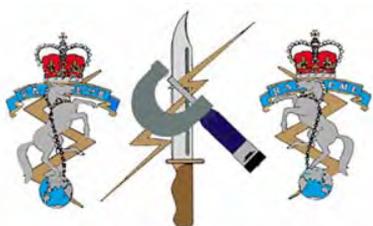
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**SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN**

### Change of Address

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C/- Oakleigh Barracks 1318 North Rd  
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167.**

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