



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

March 2008

Issue 53

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

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This is a photo of the classrooms at Oakleigh Barracks set up ready for our Widows and Life Members Luncheon. Can you see what is missing?



(See Page 3 for the answer)

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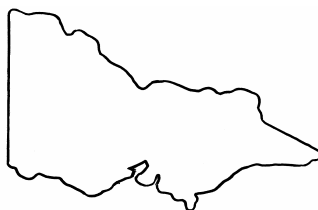
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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

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

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

DISCLAIMER

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

Let's hear from you!

Deadline for August Flash
Monday 14 July 2008

Items to Pat Marley,
Sec. Gus Allen
Peter Cartledge

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presidents Report February 2008

We had the honour of The Corps Centrepiece at our Corps Birthday Dinner last November at East Malvern RSL, and our thanks go to the RSL and their caterers for the fine meal they put on for us.

For this coming Birthday Dinner I am in the process of requesting The Corps Banner so we can parade it in the manner that is appropriate, I have several serving volunteers and a couple of pipers only too willing to see that it is all carried out correctly. I do trust we are successful in our request for "The Prince Philip Banner" as I would take it as a great honour to have The Corps Banner in our midst at a Dinner to celebrate The Corps Birthday.

Our Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance was attended by close to 50 people, with the Service conducted by 4 Brigade Chaplain David Horne. Wreaths were laid at the Memorial Stone in the Sanctuary, and again at the RAEME Tree together with "crosses" naming some of our departed members. "Our" tree was again blessed by The Chaplain.

Looking forward, may I commend the ANZAC Dawn commemoration service held at Oakleigh Barracks at 0600hrs on 25th April. This is a very moving service with each RSM adding his own twist as to how it is done.

Following the service, breakfast is served in the Gymnasium, and a Coach is available for transport to and from the March. If you don't think you are "up to it" for the March, 3 Recovery Coy kindly puts on a Toyota Coach to transport you into and through the March, and return to Oakleigh Barracks in our Coach to pick up your car.

I would like to see everybody who is able to make the effort to attend the March this year as our numbers have fallen disappointingly low. Let us try to reverse this trend.

Peter Cartledge,
President

Dear Members,

The photo on the front page is a room at Oakleigh Barracks set up ready for our Widows and Life Members Luncheon.

Can you see what is missing?

"YOU ARE"

I have moved this edition of The 'Flash forward in an attempt to remind you all that this luncheon is put on to honour our Widows and Life Members. They are *our guests* however, as you all well know "there is no such thing as a free lunch." We need YOU to come along and enjoy a lunch and to "chew the fat " with them in the Sergeants Mess afterwards, and in turn, defray the cost of the function. Without YOU this is not possible!

Our numbers for this lunch at going to press are 31. Very poor don't you think? Considering that, including ordinary, associates life and honorary members, we have over 400 members on our roll.

We included a "tear off" and a "program of events" in the last "Flash." Perhaps, some of you may have forgotten it was there. You could have taken this out of the 'Flash and stuck it to the fridge with a magnet or somewhere conspicuous. Then you could refer to it and remind you of what your Association conducting in the future.

I have a large letter box so don't worry about it getting too full with your replies!!!

There is another "program of events" included with this 'Flash please remove it and use it as a reference.

Arte et Marte,

Peter Cartledge
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Of recent times the Committee of Management has varied the venue of our committee meetings. Indeed we have been quite adventurous.

We have held meetings away from our usual venue (Oakleigh Barracks) to places such as the Dandenong RSL, the Police Academy, Watsonia RSL and the Box Hill RSL. These changes in venues share out the travelling for the members of the committee, most of whom reside in the Eastern Suburbs, however some live in other areas.

Our latest adventure was to David & Sonnyia Maddick's home "Muffetts Plum" near Tallarook. This was a full Saturday outing.

The successful meeting was held outside under cover in great country surroundings. To make the travelling easier 3 Rec.Coy provided the transport along with a most able driver CPL Peter Zimmerman. This venue enabled members from the Seymour and Bandiana Chapter's to more easily attend our meeting. After the formalities a BBQ lunch was enjoyed.

A big thank you to David & Sonnyia for their country hospitality.

Gus Allen, Secretary

WELFARE REPORT

Ron Lorimer is home and has finished with chemo

Barry Ridgway had another operation last week home but is far from fit

Phil Cook home and just managing with the aid of Home Help

Fred Greenway having treatment for his eyes

Murray Lewis looking at an operation on his knee

**From David Maddick
(Seymour/Puckapunyal Chapter)**
Michael Latimer in hospital with pancreatitis

Paul Mills being treated for leukaemia

Reg Cox, Welfare Officer

BRUCE DITTMAR

*OC 1 Independent Armoured Squadron Workshop RAEME
PUCKAPUNYAL & NUI DAT*

OC 1 Armoured Squadron Workshop RAEME NUI DAT

I wish to advise the peaceful passing of Bruce Dittmar in a Canberra nursing home.

In 1967 Bruce was the OC Armd Regt LAD. On the announcement that Cents would go to SVN Bruce was posted as OC 1 Independent Armoured Squadron Workshop. Along with his senior NCO's they slogged long and hard to establish the unit, receive 95 odd march ins draw 100% of the units equipment from 1 COD Bandiana - prepare it for export and have it on Sydney Docks within 60 days of the unit's forming. The troops on march-in had to be processed - sent to JTC for three weeks then home across Australia on Pre- em leave for a week plus travelling time and be back ready for deployment to Nui Dat in around sixty days.

Bruce arrived with the unit Advance Party of 25 in Nui Dat on 28 Dec 67. Across the next month the Wksp Adv Pty allocated a plot of rubber and banana plantation set about building defences on two separate TF perimeters Armd Regt & Wksp, laying 45,000 sandbags, building unit facilities, messes, theatre, tent lines, hot water systems, perimeter fencing and finally establishment in conjunction with 17 Const Sqn the Workshop facilities particularly a little later the building that became known as the Opera House and the centre piece of the later 106 Fld Wksp.

In late January the Wksp Main Body a party of 55 arrived from Australia two days before the South Vietnam nation erupted with the 68 Tet Offensive and Nui Dat came under assault and for a time 24 hr Stand To was the plan. Bruce Dittmar was OC Wksp throughout this period in fact the unit was the largest Unit Workshop ever raised in the history of the corp.

What was achieved in high pressure time frames, from the time the unit was raised in Puckapunyal until the unit began its role of supporting the Centurions in SVN following their arrival in late Feb 68 was a great credit to those who made it happen and Bruce Dittmar was the OC coordinating that accomplishment.

In Nui Dat the endless walking about on rough surface aggravated Bruce's amputated toe stump (put his foot under a lawn mower in a PNG Wksp) and the MO declared him unfit for Nui Dat duty hence his transfer to 102 Fld Wksp (vice Brian Coulter) in mid 68.

Bruce served as Cfn in Korea and later saw service in PNG, Adelaide, RTC Bandiana Veh Wng, 1 Armd Regt LAD, SVN, 4 Base Wksp Bandiana then Corp transferred to RAAOC for his final posting as a Major in 31 Sup Bn Bandiana. Retirement saw him work in Howlong for a number of years before moving to Canberra after his civilian retirement.

Farewell Bruce - you always did your best- Rest in Peace old Soldier.

Norm Wells

1 Armd Sqn Wksp RAEME

SOCIAL REPORT

A most enjoyable Corps Birthday Dinner was held at East Malvern RSL at the end of November with members gathering from all areas.

The Shrine Service 3rd February 2008 was well attended with nearly 50 people in attendance. This service was preceded by a tour of The Shrine, and after it was completed, our Guide, Arthur Johnson joined our Group and informed me that he was a Member of our Association and showed me his Membership card.

A number of Members and friends then adjourned to The Emerald Hill Hotel in Clarendon St for some lunch and to “chew the fat,” *being careful to keep their heads down to avoid stray “shells or bullets”!!*

Functions on the horizon are of course the Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members which I have already talked about on the front page of this “Flash”.

I am looking forward to seeing you ALL there! Please send back the tear off in this or the last ‘Flash’. Our ANZAC Reunion on Sunday 20th April at Oakleigh Barracks Sergeants Mess will be in the form of a Barbeque, as usual, with our Ladies will once again provide salads and desserts etc to round off a good day.

On ANZAC Day a Gunfire Breakfast at 0530hrs will get the blood flowing for the Dawn service at 0600hrs. This will be followed by breakfast in the Gymnasium, and Coach will take us into the March. Let’s make an effort this year at the March.

You will find a “Calendar of Events” in this ‘Flash’ and I urge you to remove it and keep it handy. See what your Association is doing, and what you can join into, with the rest of our Members.

May I point out to you all, the Reserve Forces Day March and service on Sunday 6th July 2008 is a short march from Princes Bridge, along the service road, to the Shrine.

This has been very disappointing in recent years taking our Association Banner in there only to find nobody attending to make up a “contingent.” Let us show “them” this year what RAEME can do!!

Peter Cartledge
Social Co-ordinator.

From the Daughter of an Australian Soldier

Last week I was in Melbourne attending a conference.

While I was in the airport, returning home, I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen.

Moving through the terminal was a group of soldiers in their uniforms, as they began heading to their gate everyone (well almost everyone) was abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering.

When I saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, it hit me. I'm not alone I'm not the only red blooded Australian who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families Of course I immediately stopped and began clapping for these young unsung heroes who are putting their lives on the line everyday for us so we can go to school, work, and enjoy our home without fear or reprisal.

Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers.

He knelt down and said 'Hi,' the little girl then asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her. The young soldier didn't look any older than maybe 22 himself, said he would try and what did she want to give to her daddy. Suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek.

The mother of the little girl, who said her daughters name was Courtney, told the young soldier that her husband was a Corporal and had been in Afghanistan for 5 months now.

As the mum was explaining how much her daughter, Courtney, missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up. When this temporarily single mum was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second. Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it.

After about 10-15 seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, 'I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you.'

He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying 'Your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon.'

The mum at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet he saluted Courtney and her mum. I was standing no more than 6 feet away as this entire event unfolded.

As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause. As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own. That young soldier in one last act of moment turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek.

We need to remember everyday all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices.

CORPS REMEMBRANCE DAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2008

Some of the group with Member and Shrine Guide
Arthur Johnson



Forming up at the Shrine

1st ARMoured REGIMENT

VIETNAM 1968 - 1972



MAJ Bruce Dittmar

WO2 Joe Harlow BEM

LT COL Frank Parker

A belated Christmas Message from Don Horsley in W.A.

Dear Peter,
On behalf of myself and my wife, Ruth, could you please pass on Christmas greetings to all members of The RAEME Association [Victoria] Inc.

In particular the following people, **Leonie and yourself Peter**, congratulations on another great year as President,

The Patron of the Association, **Brigadier Conrad Ermert**, who I had the pleasure to serve with in Viet Nam,

the Secretary, **Gus Allen** who I have known for that many years that I can not remember just how many it is; the

Colonel Commandant [RAEME] – Victoria & Tasmanian Region, **Terry Beaton** to whom I would like to add to my Christmas greetings, my congratulations, for how much he achieved in the short period that he was in office,

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

To all the other members of the Victorian RAEME Association I hope this Xmas is one of the best.

Regards

Don Horsley
Life Member
RAEME Association [W.A. Branch]

Help Sought for Missing Person

Hi All,

I have had a request to see if we can find the widow of a member of 7RAR KIA 27 Jan 1968. His name is Paul **Zigmund TRZECINSKI (Reg. No. 216115)**. He was killed just at the start of the Tet Offensive.

I know that he was a grunt, but the person looking for her is a member of the Association. Her married name was Charleen Trzecinski and the last Darby heard of her she was living in or around Coffs Harbour.

She has two children, Paul Junior and Shelley. Paul Senior was a National Serviceman and was possibly an Acting Corporal when he was killed.

If someone has access to the Electoral Rolls it may be worth having a look there. You may have to look for Charleen's son Paul and we would be able to trace her from there.

Unfortunately, in the West we do not have access to the Eastern Electoral Rolls.

Any advice or help would be gratefully accepted.

Best Wishes,
John Curtis

RED FRIDAYS

Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing Red every Friday. The reason?

Australians who support our troops used to be called the 'silent majority'. We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for Country and home in record breaking numbers.

We are not organized, boisterous or over-bearing. We get no liberal media coverage on TV, to reflect our message or our opinions. Many Australians, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Australia supports our troops.

Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this Friday and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that every Australian who supports our men and women afar will wear something red. By word of mouth, press, TV -- let's make Australia on every Friday a sea of red much like a homecoming football team

If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family, it will not be long before Australia is covered in RED and it will let our troops know the once 'silent' majority is on their side more than ever, certainly more than the media lets on.

The first thing a soldier says when asked 'What can we do to make things better for you?' is...'We need your support and your prayers'.

Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example; and wear something red every Friday.

Lest We Forget.

BLUEBELL

News from R.A.E.M.E. Veterans Southern Chapter

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The Annual General Meeting held at Legacy House on the 05-12-07 nominated and selected the new Committee as shown above.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Jim Saddington and Bob Fuller for all their assistance as members of the outgoing committee.

Andy Treffrey kindly donated a RAEME Viet Nam Plaque to The Chapter, and after adding an inscription was presented to the Geelong RSL in appreciation of our last regional meeting held there. Thank you Andy.



Our next regional meeting is to be held on Saturday, 15th March, 2008 at 1015hrs at Traralgon RSL located at 109 – 115 Grey Street, Traralgon Melways Map 628 D7.

Martha and I attended the RAEME Association Corps Birthday Dinner along with seven other Veterans. Great to catch up with Brian Tingwell who made the trip down from Tangambalanga [near Wodonga] for the Dinner. Urge all you Bluebells to plan to be at the next one to be held on 27th November, 2008 at East Malvern RSL. It's a great night.

ANNUAL CORPS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A Commemoration Service in honour of our past comrades was held at The Shrine and The RAEME Memorial Tree on Sunday, 3rd February, 2008, and would like to thank Reverend David Horne, who led us in prayer as well as all those in attendance. A special thanks to Peter Cartledge for organizing this event.

RAEME ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

I would like to thank David and Sonya Maddick for hosting the recent RAEME Association Committee Meeting at their property in Tallarook, which was followed by a hearty B-B-Que. Thanks also to Peter Cartledge for organizing transport.

VALE

Viet Nam Veterans:

Bruce Barnett, Joe Harlow and Bruce Dittmar.

Bruce Barnett [21175] born 13-12-1927 was ASM 1 Fld Squadron Workshop from 1-04-1968 to 9-4-1969.

Apart from overseeing and organizing the day to day tasks of the workshop at Nui Dat and in the field at a number of different locations, Bruce initiated the development of a mine clearing apparatus attached to the front of a Centurion tank to assist the Squadron Engineers in their endless task.

On his RTA Bruce was based at the Northern Workshops Bulimba along with Michael Leonard who also served with 1Fld.Wkshp. He was to return to Viet Nam in 1971 as 1 Field Workshop O C.

JOHN GILLESPIE'S FUNERAL

Attended Medic John Gillespie's, Funeral Service at Glenhantly followed by a Wake which was held at Noble Park RSL, and well organised by the VVAA Noble Park.

RE-UNIONS

1 Field Squadron Workshop is proposing to hold a Re-Union in Tasmania on Anzac Day 2009. As more information becomes available we will forward it on. In the mean time contact John Forster on 9306 9030.

17 Construction Workshop are holding a re-union in Alice Springs during June – July 2009.
Contact Eddie Ermanis on 9716 2000.

21 Engineer Support Troop are holding a three day re-union from October 24th to 26th., 2008 at Lake Hume Resort.
Contact John Goss on 03 9758 3665 or email sgt48@bigpond.net.au

SICK LIST

Michael Latimer has been in Jesse McPherson hospital for several weeks and is now able to have visitors.
Peter Bassett and Paul Mills are not well. We wish them all speedy recovery.

2008 ANZAC DAY

RAEME Viet Nam Banner will be located in Collins Street before the March.

After march re-union to be held at Emerald Hill Hotel located at 415 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne. Tram in St. Kilda Road will take you to the front door. We have an area reserved for us there for lunch. See You There.

Dennis Clarke

President

RAEME Veterans – Southern Chapter

ASLO

Working title of “The Army School of Logistics (ASLO) is alive and well” or Guys attendance at the Logistic Officers Intermediate Course (LOIC - RAEME) during Feb 08.



The Officers Mess accommodation was basic but livable, except the spider that had taken up residence in my room and was soon told to leave the house, which he did after jumping on my chest first (he was about the size of my hand!).

As with most Army Reserve course we started on Friday night moving into our rooms and then reported for first lessons at 8:00 am on Saturday morning.

There were about 30 starters on the weekend; most were reserves and some late starting regulars, each from all over the country and from every kind of officer. RAEME, RACT, RAAOC, Medical were all represented, we had armourers, movers, RAEME-aviation, lawyers, caterers, a vet and every trade in between, all in the form of 75 odd logistic officers.

The first couple of lessons on the weekend were to bring us up to speed with the remainder of the course (regulars who had started a week earlier). So there after we were “belt fed” the first week over the weekend. And then there was homework!!

Fortunately I was with a group of likeminded individuals in my ‘accommodation block’ and there was time for study, homework, humour and the odd cleansing ale.

The instructors were all great, of particular note, the SI (MAJ Scott Bradford – RAEME) was excellent and led us on an ‘adult learning path’ which meant we played a more active role in all of the classes. We were also fortunate enough to have him in the second week for our Special To CORPS (STC) phase, where we developed the RAEME key information for the TEWT and briefing series, including Critical Logistic Events (CLEs) and Culminating Points. All of this helped us get the most from the short time we had.

MAJ Ian Anfruns was another one of our RAEME Instructors (and a reserve on contract to ASLO) and he was able to spread a good deal of direct and passionate speech our way during the sessions, including us being part of the teaching process, which made for entertaining lessons and memorable learning, mixed with a good dose of solid humour.

We had some great RAEME lessons and entertainment, confirming that the spirit in training is far from dead.

We had a chance to see the new M1A1 tank, now that is a piece of military art. 60+ tonnes and more than 60 kph, wow, that is motoring. We were able to climb around and look at the outside, they are a formidable sight when they are going fast!!



The SO2 RAEME CORPS MAJ Haley presented a number of issues to us to consider and most of them revolve around keeping the punch in the fist of the Army. We discussed the retention issues facing most trades and also discussed the RAEME CORPS Conference on 16-17 Oct 08 this year, which all current servicing (regular and reserve members of the RAEME CORP are invited to, so I think it's time

we make an effort to go this year, at least to hear the latest adventures of our CORPS in every corner of the world.

As the course continued we were separated into smaller groups. In the TEWT phase in week 2, the group was a mixture of regulars and reserves and we had the privilege of having MAJ Anfruns as our DS. It was such a thorough learning experience, I am sure it was the best we could have had and funny, you have no idea !!!!

So throughout the 2 weeks, we wrote out Movement orders, we had open book tests, we had closed book tests, we did PT, so it was on for young and old throughout the 16 days we were there.



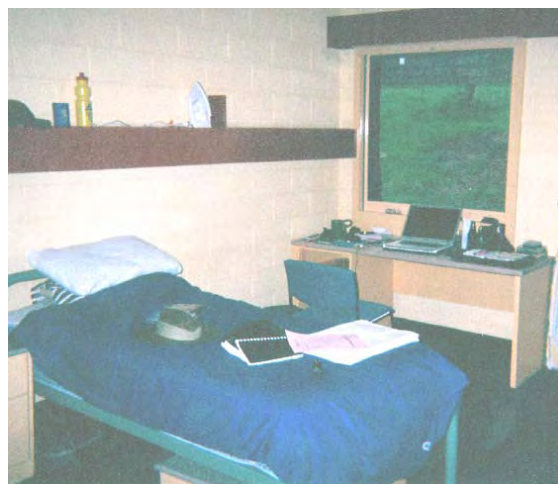
I had an opportunity to see the Army Museum again at Bandiana and I was able to visit the CFN Memorial and to see all of the development work that has been happening in the museum. I had a very special private tour with the staff of the museum and I bought a ton of memorabilia (thanks for your efforts Phil).

I noted that the RAEME Stained Glass window still has pride of place looking into the sunset in the western corner of the ASLO SGTS Mess.



MAJ Graham Anderson (SO2 Heritage) made a special visit to the TEWT site to personally deliver a RAEME Banner Miniature for me, which I really appreciate (thanks Sir). And the news is that they are now getting into the last of the supplies as the company who made them is unlikely to do them again. (See the website for the order form).

I also had a chance to pay my CORPS subscriptions and now proudly wear my St Ignatius badge where ever I go (do you??).



So in the second week we did more homework, more tests, drew diagrams, wrote more CLEs and parts of instructions. Then we were out in the TEWT series saving the close training area in the area that used to be 311 SUP Bn. We then graduated to the Golf course and saved that from the descending hordes, which was then finished off in the Barambogie State Forest. It was a great experience to do and as luck had it, the team I was in were a great bunch of people (thanks Terry, Stretch, Mitch and Shandy).

Overall it was a lot of lessons, a lot of very good instruction by the ASLO team, a lot of learning, a bit of socializing, a great chance to see the Army Museum again and such a pleasure to visit the home of the RAEME CORPS.

The trip home was again a relaxed train ride, but I can report most of the time I was smiling, remembering the good times we had shared in such a short space of time.

Arte et Marte
CAPT Guy Langford

Bandiana Chapter Update Remembrance Service 4 February



The Craftsman Memorial, Catafalque Party, Padre David Grulke, LTCOL Nick Stanton and Chapter President Andy Turner.

Numbers increasing due to good publicity

A larger crowd of around seventy people attended our twilight service this year and the evening shade cooled everyone as the "Craftsman looked on". A great article in the Border Mail helped attendance.

Widows Honoured

This year we particularly honoured widows of craftsmen. A number of widows were present and one, Barbara Prenter, laid a wreath.

Padre David Grulke ran an excellent service and formed a duo with Andy to sing the National Anthem. LTCOL Nick Stanton our Deputy Head of Corps delivered an address particularly about current craftsmen of the Army carrying on Corps traditions. He mentioned the places around the World where the Australian Army is currently deployed and reminded us that all have Craftsmen in support.

New Corps RSM,

WO1 Martin Burgess, the new Corps RSM, attended with his CO.

Wreaths were placed for our Association and the presidents of local RSLs and the Murray Border Association of Vietnam Veterans. Importantly a wreath was placed by a widow.

Our Oldest Artificer Wally Swingler recited the ODE

Wally is 85 and was in the AIF serving in the Middle East when the Corps formed as AEME in 1942. He continued serving our Corps for 37 years. It was an honour to have him recite the Ode for us.

The Catafalque Guard,

The Guard and orderlies came from SEME and were commanded by SGT Graham Dade. One of the Craftsmen, Chris Romano, is a local and his mother and father were present.

— Army's engineers to recall training origins —

MEMORIAL
By SHANNON CRANE

A MEMORIAL service in honour of former army craftsmen will be held at their "spiritual home" on Monday.

The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association at Bandiana encourages members, former members and widows of craftsmen to attend.

Association president Andrew Turner said the efforts should be recognised and remembered.

"The men have shown a lot of camaraderie over the years and most of the RAEME craftsmen served for many years together in different parts all over the place," he said.

"But this is the home of the corps, with the school being here — a lot of them call it their spiritual home."

The event marks the 55th anniversary of the signing of the order to form the training centre.

Mr Turner said the service would be held by Chaplain David Grulke and include an honour guard and wreath-laying.

The 6pm service will be held at the Craftsman Memorial statue at South Bandiana.



● Andrew Turner and George Reid at the statue where the service will be held on Monday. Picture: SIMON DALLINGER

His father, Frank Romano served in the Corps for many years. The Guard, of course, marched off to the tune of the RAEME Corps March and our applause. It was pleasingly to the committee that a large group met after at the Stump for dinner and refreshments.



● Wodonga's Barbara Prenter, 72, paid respect for her late husband, Major Bill Prenter yesterday. Picture: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

Ceremony remembers craftsmen of the army

MEMORIAL
By SHANNON CRANE

WODONGA'S Barbara Prenter was one of many proud locals remembering the courage and discipline of army craftsmen, including her late husband Bill, yesterday.

Mrs Prenter, 72, laid a wreath at a memorial ceremony at South Bandiana's Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers training centre — something Bill would not have liked. "He hated flowers," she joked.

"When his ashes were laid (at the craftsmen memorial), all the nice blue flowers died — and I reckon he had something to do with it.

"I come down and see him and bring him some gum leaves instead."

Major Prenter died in October 1997 at the age of 64, after serving as an army craftsmen for 33 years.

The mother-of-five enjoyed meeting her husband's friends at the annual service, which marked the formation of RAEME training centres in 1951.

RAEME Association president Andrew Turner said camaraderie was the ceremony's focus, which drew about 80 people, some from as far as Brisbane.

Lt Col Nick Stanton reflected on the past year at the ceremony and said in the past 65 years the army's mission had not changed.

"It's important to keep the tradition going for RAEME, and for the guys who served in the army and who are overseas," Mrs Prenter said.

The Border Mail followed with another good article on Tuesday.

BANDIANA Chapter AGM

We will hold our Annual General Meeting on Friday, 4 April 2008, at the STUMP at 1900 hrs.

Family BBQ

Sunday 6 April we will have a family BBQ at the Memorial Park at South Bandiana.

Andy Turner

President - Bandiana Chapter

Dictionary

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are this year's winners. Each is an artificial word with only one letter altered to form a real word. Some are terrifically innovative:

1. **Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
2. **Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
3. **Bozone (n.):** The substance surrounding stupid people, that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The Bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
4. **Cashtration (n.):** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
5. **Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
6. **Sarchasm :** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
7. **Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
8. **Hipatitis:** Terminal coolness.
9. **Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
10. **Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
11. **Decafalon (n.):** The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
12. **Glibido:** All talk and no action.
13. **Ignoramus:** A person who's both stupid and an a*sehole.

EULOGY
JOSEPH HAROLD HARLOW
Read by: Mr. Rex Harris



Joe was born and raised in the Port Melbourne area and was a typical Port boy. He played both cricket and football and believed that that VFA was the only decent football played in Victoria or any where else for that matter. He was often heard to quote that the only kick that VFL players would get in the VFA would be a kick in the bum.

Joe and Kath were married for fifty seven years and have three loving daughters' six grand children and eleven great grand children. Joe was proud of each and every one of them. Although he did mention when the Great Grandies started to arrive "I think I might be getting a bit old. Only might be mind you."

Joe joined the Army on 30 Sep 1946 and was discharged on the 8 Jul 1978. A career which contained 3 regimental numbers and three different Armies, the AIF - Interim Army, A.R.A. Special Reserve and the A.R.A. Prior to the Army was a brief stint with the RAAF, but we forgave him for that. You will see from the record of service the wide range and diversity of the units in which Joe served. Looking at this wide ranging experience it was no wonder that he was a font of knowledge for all of the younger soldiers. Joe was always available to lend a hand or give some timely advice.

Joe was always firm but fair with the soldiers under his control.

Although maintaining a facade as a tough WO in reality he was pretty soft in the middle. I remember at 1st Armd Regt a "crafty" being late for the RSM's parade Joe saying I will deal with him.

Later he was heard to say he won't do that again, I let him have a good blast. When I asked the lad what had happened he told me Joe asked him why he was late, and he said "my wife had morning sickness". He was told in no uncertain terms OK but let me know next time.

In 1969 Joe was posted SVN. I was on the same flight. As we had a lot of spare time on the day of departure we had partaken of a few fizzy drinks by the time the plane took off. To our horror the plane had only Courage beer on board, so we decided to have a sleep and then have some more ales in Darwin. On landing in Darwin I went to the little boys' room and Joe went to the bar to get our drinks. On returning from my visit all I could hear was a very familiar voice telling the inn keeper that "I do not wish to buy your bloody air port all I want is two stubbies, you can stick them where the sun doesn't shine. I quickly said what about mine Joe, and he replied "at that price he can stick yours too".

I will tell you a short story, not a "warrie" but factual. After a clash with the bad guys one of the vehicles in my APC section was not going and had to be recovered. The recovery team arrived and out stepped Joe "I heard it was your section so I thought I would come up and see how you were". I might add that he also brought a bottle of tonic to help calm our nerves. Joe was a backbone member of the RSL Sub branch and club. He was the appeals member for the Sub branch for many years and the money that he and his band raised is in the hundreds of thousands bracket.

Joe was the purchasing officer for the RSL club and that also included ordering the stock, receiving, stocking the fridges and serving behind the bar. The club awarded him life membership in gratitude for all of his efforts although this was small rewards for the countless hours he unselfishly gave. Joe was also a life member the RAAC museum.

Joe was also a long serving member of the Seymour Legacy group and gave up his time freely in the care of the widows and children entrusted to the care of Legacy.

Joe loved to run raffles and would start selling tickets at the drop of a hat. Once on bus trip returning from Shepparton he started selling raffle tickets, when reminded that we did not have anything for a prize "no worries" was all we heard. All tickets sold, crunched up in a small box, Joe called for someone to draw the winning ticket. Holding the box up towards the roof of the bus, directly under the fresh air vent, all the tickets were sucked out through the top of the bus. Alas we didn't need a prize as we had no winner.

I promised to keep this eulogy short, but how can you abbreviate such an active and dedicated life span such as this one? Joe will be sadly missed by a great number of people all over this wide country of ours but most of all by those gathered here to-day. To Kath and the girls and all of the grand children plus Great Grandies you have the best wishes and deepest sympathy from all of us gathered here today.

Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc.



The following is a summary from Frank Maloney on a proposed anniversary weekend to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Army Apprentices' School at Balcombe.

It is proposed to conduct this event in the Albury/Wodonga/Bandiana location over the weekend of 23 to 26 Oct 2008 and will involve a march through the City of Albury on morning of 24 Oct 08, exercising the right of the Freedom of the City which was bestowed on AAS after it was relocated from Balcombe to Bonegilla.

This matter is still to gain approval of the Albury Council but we are most confident that it will be granted.

A reunion Meet and Greet will be staged in Wodonga on Friday 23 Oct 08, for registration and socializing generally. It will take the form of a BBQ, commencing at 3.00pm and concluding some time later.

A reunion Dinner will be held in the Albury Convention Centre which has a capacity seating of 750. The estimated cost of this activity is \$ 45.00 pp. This will be a spectacular evening and will require booking and prepayment.

On Sunday we plan a service to dedicate the Army Apprentice Memorial (to be constructed) at the Army Museum Bandiana. This is to be the prime activity of the reunion weekend and the Memorial will take the form as described in the President's Update attached.

The Association website, www.austarmyapprentice.org/ will be posting details as they are planned so keep checking there, and don't hesitate to contact me anytime or indeed any other Committee member. We would like to have a Class Orderly to assist with communication etc so volunteers are most welcome.

(Note from Dennis Anspach; I am prepared to be the Class orderly for the 12th. Please express your interest to attend this weekend to me by 31 March 2008)

Please disseminate this information widely so that we are able to present the old "alma mater" in a manner befitting the lifetime influence and development that it had on we the members of the unique "Army Apprentice family", and ensure that its prominent place in Australian Army history is preserved.

Best wishes to all

Frank Maloney (13th Intake Vehicle Mechanic)

RAEME Remembrance Day

The Shrine Sanctuary 3rd February 2008



The Wreath and Crosses at the RAEME Tree

At The Shrine



Calendar of Events 2008 - 2009

Date	Day	Times	Function	Requirements	Remarks
16-Mar-08	Sunday	1130 - 1600	Widows & LM Luncheon	Classrooms 1 & 2 Kitchen Sergeants Mess	Tables, Cloths, Urn, Keys, PMC
17-Apr-08	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
20-Apr-08	Sunday	1130 - 1600	ANZAC Reunion	Sergeants Mess and Covered Area	Barbeque, Tables and Clothes, Keys, PMC
25-Apr-08	Friday	0530 - 1200	ANZAC Day	Join in with Depot function	Carparking whilst at March Keys?
19-Jun-08	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
06-Jul-08	Sunday	TBA	Reserve Forces Day	March in St Kilda Rd to Shrine	Make own arrangements
21-Aug-08	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
31-Aug-08	Sunday	1030 - 1600	Annual General Meeting	Modelroom, Sergeants Mess Kitchen Covered Area	Request PMC PA System Keys
TBA	Saturday	TBA	Committee Meeting	Bandiana Chapter	Arrange transport
1/11-4/11/08	Sat- Tues	0730- 1800	Melb Cup W/E away		Request Depot CO permit to park cars Keys
11-Nov-08	Tuesday	1030 - 1200	Remembrance Day	Join in with Depot function	
20-Nov-08	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
28-Nov-08	Friday	1900 - 2359	Corps Birthday Dinner	East Malvern RSL	
08-Feb-09	Sunday	1000 - 1200	Shrine Service	Shrine of Remembrance St Kilda Rd Melb	Tour,Service in Sanctuary, Service @ Tree
21-Feb-09	Saturday	0800 - 1800	Committee Meeting	David Maddick Home Seymour	Arrange transport
16-Apr-09	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
19-Apr-09	Sunday	1130 - 1600	ANZAC Reunion	Sergeants Mess and Covered Area	Barbeque, Tables and Cloths, Keys, PMC
25-Apr-09	Saturday	0530 - 1200	ANZAC Day	Join in with Depot function	Carparking whilst at March Keys?
03-May-09	Sunday	1130 - 1600	Widows & LM Luncheon	Classrooms 1 & 2 Kitchen Sergeants Mess	Tables, Cloths, Urn, Keys, PMC
18-Jun-09	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
05-Jul-09	Sunday	TBA	Reserve Forces Day	March in St Kilda Rd to Shrine	Make own arrangements
20-Aug-09	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
30-Aug-09	Sunday	1030 - 1600	Annual General Meeting	Model room, Sergeants Mess Kitchen Covered Area	Request PMC PA System Keys
TBA	Saturday	TBA	Committee Meeting	Bandiana Chapter	Arrange transport
31/10 - 3/11/09	Sat - Tue	0730 - 1800	Melb Cup W/E away		Request Depot CO permit to park cars Keys
11-Nov-09	Wednesday	1030 - 1200	Remembrance Day	Join in with Depot function	
19-Nov-09	Thursday	1930 - 2200	Committee Meeting	Conference Room	As set up
27-Nov-09	Friday	1900 2359	Corps Birthday Dinner	East Malvern RSL	

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

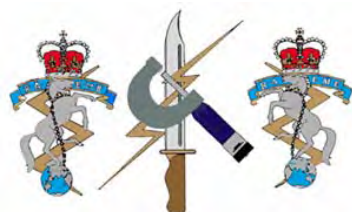
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LUNCHEON TO HONOUR OUR WIDOWS AND LIFE MEMBERS

**Our Annual luncheon to honour our Widows and Life Members will be held at
OAKLEIGH BARRACKS**

On Sunday 16th March 2008

At 1130 hrs for 1200 hrs

Dress Smart Casual please

All Members and Guests are invited

Menu

Succulent roast rump pork and crackling with apple sauce

Tender seasoned leg of lamb with mint sauce

Juicy roast beef with horseradish, mustard and gravy

Roasted jacket potatoes with lashings of sour cream and chives

Gourmet freshly cut, garden green salad

Various other salads including coleslaw, potato, pasta and rice

Baby beets

Buttered breadsticks

A selection of Desserts

Drinks will be available at Sergeants Mess prices

Cost \$30.00 per person

Tear here.....

I.....

I will/will not be attending the Annual Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members

Please find enclosed Cheque/Money order for \$..... being forpersons

My guests names are.....

RSVP to 8 Neera Court Glen Waverley by 10th March 2008 PLEASE!!