



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Issue 57

August 2009

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Patron: Brigadier Conrad Ermert. MSc FIEAust CPEng

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

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**John Lee** (RAEME Association of Victoria Rules & By-Laws Sub-Committee Member) was presented with a Gold Life RSL Members Badge by the State President of the Victorian Branch of the RSL MAJ GEN (Retd) David McLachlan AO (right) with Hon. Alan Griffin Minister for Veterans' Affairs (left).

This is the highest award that can be offered to an RSL member for services to the RSL and can only be offered by the State President and approved by the National organization of the RSL, at the request of the State Branch President.

**CONGRATULATIONS JOHN from all our Members.**



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(Vic) Inc.**

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**ECHUCA/SHEPPARTON**

Vacant **We are looking for a new  
Representative. (Help Please)**  
*(due to the recent sad passing of  
Harry Ross)*

**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 &  
PORTARLINGTON**

**We are looking for a new  
Representative. (Help Please)**

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

**Bill Slegers**  
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☎ 5625 2232 Mobile: 041 913 6149

**CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA  
& WELSHPOOL**

**Kevin Moon**  
1 Hawkins St,  
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☎ 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 12th October 2009**

**Items to Pat Marley,  
Sec. Gus Allen  
Peter Cartledge**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I guess it is an "open secret" that I will not be standing for re-election as Association President at the next AGM in August. I have enjoyed my 13 years as President of our Association but feel I have "run my race" and become stale and think it is well time to hand over to another person to enjoy the position.

Some of the high points of my time as President have been in representing our Association at various functions, the forming of our Chapters particularly welcoming into the "fold" our Vietnam Vets, the ANZAC Day commemorations and March, our times away with members and friends on Cup Weekend trips, our Widow and Life Members luncheons, the Corps Birthday Dinners particularly the last two having first The Corps Centrepiece and finally last year I was so proud that our Association was granted the privilege of parading The Corps Prince Phillip Banner.

There are many people who have been most helpful during my term as President. Firstly my wife Leonie, without her help, I would have found it much more difficult to carry on.

I would like to thank also the various Units who have supported us along the way and hope that they will continue to do so in the future.

There are too many people to thank personally here however, I wish to mention the various committee members I have served with over the years and to particularly mention a few Max Moore, Geoff Maggs and Ron Clifford all sadly departed and John Lee who talked me into this position in the first place!!

I know there were many other helpers and may I say thankyou to them all.

I would like to remain on your committee for a further year (if re-elected) to assist the incoming President in a smooth changeover and assist in the Social activities.

Speaking of our committee for the coming year there will be three vacancies to be filled, so please think hard about YOU "taking a turn" on the committee. It is not a difficult role and as the saying goes "many hands make light work" so please "give it a go"!

Once again thank you for the honour of being your President and I wish to see our most successful Association go from strength to strength,

Arte et Marte

**Peter Cartledge**  
President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since our last publication of our newsletter we have five new members:

**Tom Maggs**  
**Kevin Batchelor**  
**David Pratt**  
**David Buckland**  
**David O'Brien.**

*We welcome you all*

At the other end of the spectrum we have lost some well known members.

Over the past few months the stalwarts listed in the "VALE" below have passed on.

It is always a sad duty to place the notices in the daily papers on the death of a member, especially those that are known well and with whom one has served.

**Gus Allen**  
Secretary



<b>Jean Mack</b>	<b>3 March 2009</b>
<b>Dennis Mayor</b>	<b>7 April 2009</b>
<b>Tom Lowndes</b>	<b>24 May 2009</b>
<b>David Wallis</b>	<b>1 July 2009</b>
<b>Harry Ross</b>	<b>12 July 2009</b>
<b>Thomas Thomsen</b>	<b>25 Feb 2009</b>
<b>Lance Turner</b>	<b>(RAEME Assoc of NSW)</b>

*Also (not RAEME)*

**Pte John Ross** – the last Australian First World War 1 Veteran – on **3 June 2009**

**Pte Ted Kenna VC** – the last Australian World War 2 VC holder – on **8 July 2009**

## WELFARE REPORT

A call to Phil Cook who is in semi care and has just had treatment to his legs and shoulders. Phil is progressing OK on a walking frame.

A call to Ken Kermonde. Alice answered the phone as Ken was asleep at the time. Alice is just home after weeks in hospital. She had extensive operations to her legs, arms and a shoulder replacement. Alice appreciated my phone call to them.

A call to Lawrence Burley who is now admitted into Anglesea Care. Wife Jenny answered the phone.

Others on the sick list but now recovering are Jeff Gould, (back operation), Alan Rogers, (heart surgery), Roma Cox, Pat Marley (spinal surgery) and wife Terri (total knee replacement)

Jack Balsillie has turned eighty and since then has had a few problems firstly he had a minor stroke, later a toe amputated, a heart problem and had a pacemaker fitted. Soon after he had an accident where he had his car written off. He is now doing fine. He is doing the RSL funerals and told Bruce Williams that over the past few years he has attended 90 funerals per annum.

He is quite bright and getting back to a good lifestyle. He was really pleased to hear from Bruce and misses the RAEME March. He is no longer able to travel long distances and no good for coming to Melbourne for Funerals. Jack of course is in Spring Gully - part of Bendigo.

**Reg Cox**  
**Welfare Officer**

## SOCIAL REPORT

We have had talks with LTCOL Smith CO and WO1 Rutledge RSM 22 Const Regt Oakleigh Barracks, who have welcomed us back with some limitations imposed by higher authorities with regard to security and cost cutting.

Our pilgrimage to The Shrine was reasonably well attended last February. The Reunion on Sunday prior to ANZAC Day at Doveton was enjoyed by those attending. ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Mentone RSL was not very successful however next year we will revert to Oakleigh Barracks.

Members attending The ANZAC March were about the same (**would love some more members to take part**) then following the March we were invited to lunch (at own cost) and a "refresher" or three at Victoria Barracks Sergeants Mess which we found very enjoyable with an opportunity to "chew the fat" with the many attendees!

The Widows and Life Members Luncheon held at Doveton was not quite up to our usual number, maybe it was the Venue or the date change, **I would like to hear your comments on this please.**

**Our AGM will be held at Oakleigh Barracks** in the "Slater Room" (once known as the Model Room) on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 1100hrs** and will be followed by a barbeque luncheon and the bar of The Sergeants Mess will be open.

**This year for our Melbourne Cup Weekend trip** we will visit Lakes Entrance, look for more details and booking slip elsewhere in this 'Flash'.

**A Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009** will be conducted at the Clayton RSL Cenotaph in Clayton Rd Clayton. Assembly will be from 10.30 am with the service being conducted from around 10.50am. All members of the "RAEME Association" are cordially invited and welcome at the club rooms upon completion of the Service, they are located approx 300m South East of Clayton Rd in Carinish Rd which is parallel to the railway line. Parking is available at the RSL club.

**Corps Birthday Dinner.** Due to double booking we are "looking" (at time of printing this 'Flash) either Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November or Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November we will advise date and location as soon as this is finalised

**Our Annual pilgrimage to The Shrine** (date to be advised when we hear from other RAEME Unit's commitments) will be again a guided tour of The Shrine @1000 Hrs followed by a short Service and Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary, a Blessing and Wreath Laying at The RAEME Tree. Following this we will retire to The Visitors Centre where finger food and tea or coffee will be available.

**Our Widows and Life Members Luncheon** is back at Oakleigh Barracks again next year with the same service format as this year, which I am sure you appreciated more than "lining up Mess Parade style" for your tucker!

I would like to hear your feedback as to the date for next year as soon as possible, as we need to book the Barracks early, please indicate whether March or May is preferred.

**Peter Cartledge**  
**Social Co-ordinator.**

**BLUEBELL****News from RAEME Viet Nam Veterans  
Southern Chapter**

## Committee

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Three General Meetings have been held since our last "Bluebell". First of the meetings was held at Melton RSL on the 21-02-09. Twelve members were in attendance and we had the pleasure of welcoming one new member, Jim Chohan. It was moved at this meeting that the RAEME Viet Nam Veterans Southern Chapter contribute \$500-00 to the VVAA Bushfire Appeal. A cheque was handed to our member Jim Coghlan, who is Melton VVAA Sub-Branch President. Following the meeting we were joined by some of the members' wives for lunch.

Second Meeting was held at picturesque Warrnambool. A great opportunity for a weekend away. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Rhonda Meek, (Dennis's wife) presented us with a beautiful chocolate mud cake adorned with the RAEME insignia. Thirteen members were in attendance. A luncheon followed in the bistro with our better halves joining us. Some members met later that evening at the Museum for the Loch Ard Ship light show and dinner, which explains the history of the loss of the Ship on that rugged coastline. The following day we took a trip down to the Warrnambool Dairy complex, which also has an extensive display of stationary engines manufactured from both local and all corners of the world.

Third meeting was held at the stately Mentone RSL, which has had an enormous amount of work put into it.

One of our life members has restored the Library and additional rear extensions of the bistro and outdoor area with an array of photos depicting the history of Australians at war adorning the walls. Great to see Andy Treffrey, Harold and Margaret Baker, Rex and Chris Dumensy attending meetings, considering how far they have to travel.

RAEME Association of Vic AGM will be our next meeting, as mentioned in the Lightning Flash. Be There!!!

**ANZAC Day March**

RAEME Viet Nam Banner was followed by 1 Fld Wksp, 106 Fld Wksp and 102 Fld Wksp banners in the march. A most successful after March Re-union was held this year in the Victoria Barrack's Sergeant's Mess. Food and drink prices were very reasonable. For Security Reasons, we have to submit all the names of those attending a month prior to the March. We will forward all RAEME Association members names who will be attending for next year. Thank you, Bruce Williams and Alan Rogers for your assistance in this matter.

For members not receiving the "Craftsman" they can contact:-

G.M.Anderson

Major

SO To HOC- RAEME

HOC Cell

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Bandiana, Vic,3694

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**REUNIONS****1 Armoured Regiment LAD**

Gold Coast 6/8 August 2009

**102 Field Workshop**

Koondrook Avondale

Noel & Una Lake 2/4<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Cavalry Units LADs & Attached**

Re-Union & Plaque Dedication

Canberra 30<sup>th</sup> October/2<sup>nd</sup> November

**1 Field Squadron Workshop**

Tasmania Hobart

Anzac Day 2010 23/25th April 2009

**For more details of any of these reunions,  
contact Dennis Clarke (03) 9848 6757**

Thomas Keeran Thomsen  
RAE - RAEME

6-05-31 – 25-02-09  
Borneo - Viet Nam

Thomas, along with his mother and older brother Ernest spent his younger years cross navigating the Port Phillip Bay waters between Geelong and Melbourne on a collier captained by their father, who was of Swedish descent. The Family later shifted to Fitzroy, where they became devout "Lions" Supporters, watching many games at the Brunswick Street Oval, where "Thommoes" Grandfather had played. He served his apprenticeship with MacDonald Rollers in Bridge Road Richmond. On finishing his time He set off around Australia, to help develop his skills further in the Earthmoving World, later following his brother in joining the Army in Queensland.

Originally with RAE as a "C" Vehicles specialist Sergeant Thomsen moved to RAEME after being posted to 1 Fld Sqdn Wkshp in charge of the plant workshop. Not only was he a skilled mechanic, but also most competent plant operator. He was a quiet man, who genuinely cared about his men and gained job satisfaction while imparting his ample range of skills. A great leader, as he set a high standard by his own reliable example. He will be missed not only by his Family, but also by his Army Family. May He Rest In Peace.

**Lest We Forget**



**AVOCA RSL  
VIETNAM VETERANS  
MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

**From John Hurdle  
President - RSL Avoca Sub-Branch**

*This year the Avoca RSL has decided to honour the Vietnam Veterans by initiating a Memorial Ceremony on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2009.*

With this in mind I would ask you to put us in touch with Vietnam Veterans Groups in Bendigo, Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough and any other groups located in our vicinity.

It is the intent of the Avoca Sub-Branch to inform Veterans of our Inaugural Memorial Ceremony.

Invite the local groups to consider sending a representative to join us as we remember the part the Vietnam Veterans played in continuing the Australian tradition in the Anzac Spirit.

Thanking you in advance for any assistance you are able to extend to us.

We look forward to observing this day of remembrance in the presence of members of the Vietnam Veterans Communities

**John Hurdle**                      **Noel Walsh**  
**President**                              **Secretary**

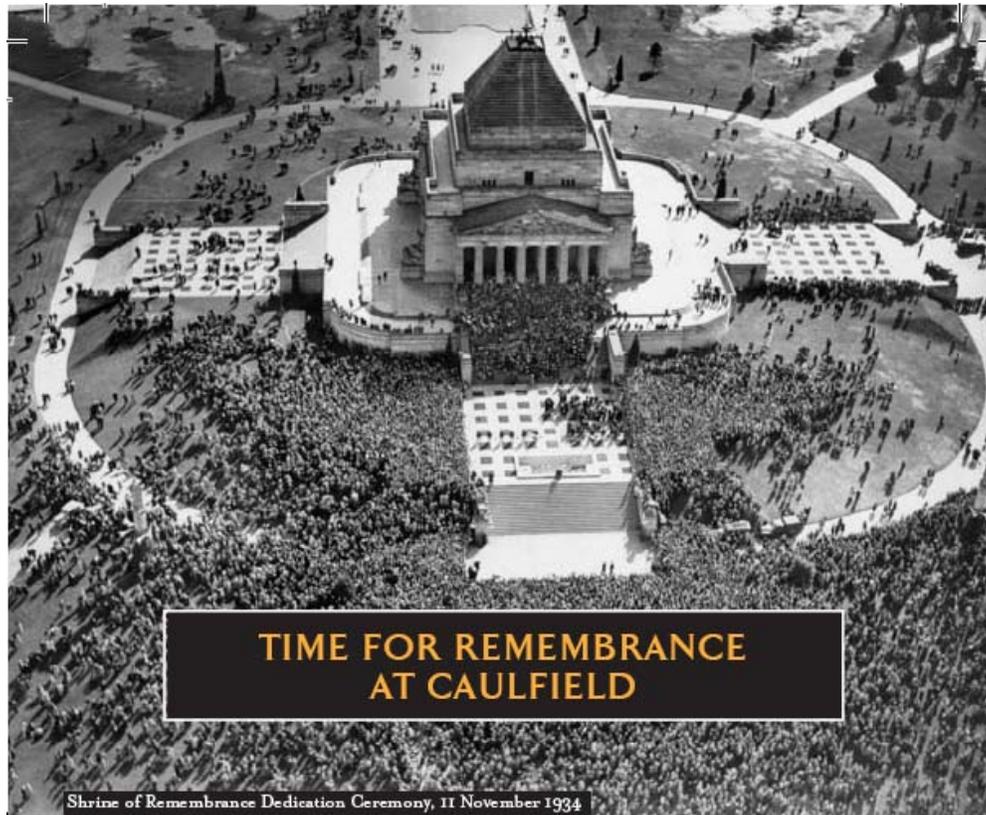
**Avoca RSL-Sub Branch**

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## J.J. LISTON STAKES DAY SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

To commemorate **Back To Caulfield** and the 75 Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance, Caulfield will be holding the 15 Legacy Lone Pine Ceremony, as well as various Military Displays including Military Vehicles, Royal Australian Air Force Band and more.

**Date:** Saturday, 15 August 2009  
**Times:** Gates Open at 10.30am  
 Lone Pine Ceremony at 11.00am  
**Location:** Rear of Rupert Clarke Grandstand  
 Caulfield Racecourse

Everyone is Welcome. Admission is **FREE** for War Veterans, Members of Legacy, RSL, War Widows, Nurses and Nursing Associations, the Defence Forces and Corps of Commissionaires in uniform, Shrine of Remembrance staff, Trustees, volunteers and guards and children under the age of 14 accompanied by an adult.

For further information phone Melbourne Racing Club: (03) 9257 7200  
[contact@melbournerracingclub.net.au](mailto:contact@melbournerracingclub.net.au)



## HAPPENINGS AT OAKLEIGH BARRACKS.

Many of our members would be wondering what is happening at the Oakleigh Barracks where we have been in limbo for some time. As members know we have moved some of our functions from there to other locations during the past months.

The outcome of those discussions are ongoing with the CO & RSM of the Barracks and the good news is, at the time of this publication, we have been able to confirm with them that we can once again have functions at the Barracks.

The Functions that have now been locked in are: the coming AGM on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, our Widows & Life Members Luncheon next year and our ANZAC Re-union. At this point until we meet with them further we do not have commitments to hold any other meetings or functions there at the time of going to press.

The phone conversation that I had recently with LTCOL Smith, CO of the depot, informed me that he would welcome us back and during that conversation he indicated that he and the RSM would meet with us in the short term and discuss our future functions and security responsibilities within the Barracks.

At the last Committee meeting it was decided to utilize both the Monash Barracks at Dandenong South (this is the only RAEME Unit in Victoria) as all other RAEME people are distributed throughout the State, some at Broadmeadows, others at Watsonia with both having elements of 105 Fld Wksp (Not sure of the correct title of 105 nowadays) and of course the Oakleigh Barracks, which has been our home since 1991 when the Barracks was officially opened, and RAEME was very active at Oakleigh. However there are no RAEME elements there currently, and after further talks with the CO at the Barracks, we would hope that our RAEME Association remains there and is ongoing at Oakleigh for many years to come.

We also had a very successful “after March” function on ANZAC Day which was held at “Victoria Barracks Sergeants Mess”. All those that attended have requested that we return again after our March next ANZAC Day. I believe at this time our **AFTER MARCH FUNCTION** will be at Victoria Barracks, as the location is a popular one for all our members to get to.

I have also just recently had a sign writer look at our Honour Boards and they will be brought up to date in the near future.

You will also read about the following in other parts of this newsletter and that it is time once again to consider Committee positions for 2009/2010.

There will be retirements I hear and other happenings and all I can do is encourage all to consider being active at Committee level. Nominate, and become involved in what is considered to be one of the best managed and largest Associations in the State.

**Bruce Williams**  
**Vice-President**

### Gentle Thoughts for the Day

Birds of a feather flock together,  
and then crap on your car.

A penny saved is a government  
oversight.

The real art of conversation is not  
only to say the right thing at the  
right time, but also to leave unsaid  
the wrong thing at the tempting  
moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is  
to lose weight, because by then your  
body and your fat have become  
really good friends.



## RAEME Bulimba Memorial

This memorial will be dedicated to all RAEME soldiers, both Regular and Reserve who have served within the **RAEME Units** stationed at **Bulimba Barracks Queensland** since 1945.

- **Location** Tugalawa Park- Apollo Road Bulimba  
Adjacent to the entrance of Bulimba Barracks
- **Dedication Date** 1000hrs Saturday 28th November 2009



Computer generated design

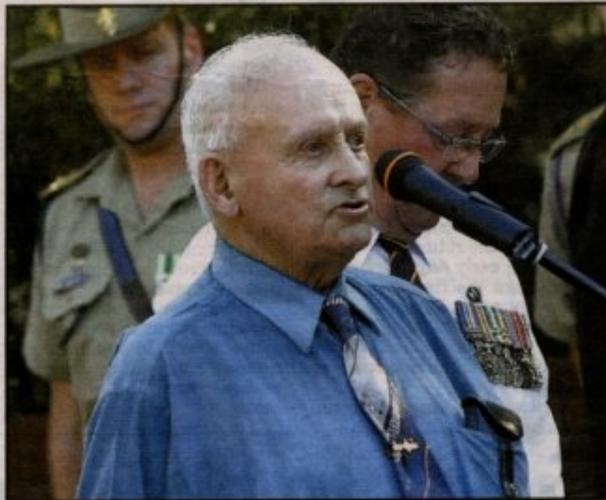
- Open invitation to the RAEME Family
- RSVP's are requested
- Further information to be released closer to the date

**Point of contact is the Secretary, RAEME Association Queensland  
PO Box 11 Cannon Hill QLD 4170, [secretary@raemeqld.org](mailto:secretary@raemeqld.org)**

## RAEME Association of Vic – Bandiana Chapter Remembrance Day – February 2009



● Andy Turner, president of Bandiana RAEME Association, lays a wreath at the memorial. Picture: RAY HUNT



● Alan French recites the *Ode to the Fallen*.

## RAEME honoured

### MILITARY

By VICTORIA MACDONALD

FORMER army tradesmen gathered at their "spiritual home" at Bandiana South last night to honour their fallen comrades.

The memorial service was timed to mark the founding of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers corps in 1942.

Its successor, the Army School of Electrical Mechanical Engineering, continues at Latchford Barracks and its commanding officer and chief instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel Todd Ashurst, was a guest speaker at the service.

"We're here to pause and re-

member and reflect on those who have come before," he told the crowd assembled at the RAEME Craftsman Memorial.

"I'd like you all to think of this memorial as the spiritual home of the corps."

Among those gathered was Wodonga man Alan French, 90, who joined the corps in 1942.

Mr French was introduced by Colonel Commandant for Victoria-Tasmania Colonel Brian Jones, of Albury, before reading the ode to the fallen.

Representatives from the Tallangatta, Myrtleford and Rutherglen RSL sub-branches laid wreaths at the memorial, as well as Murray Border Vietnam Veterans sub-branch president Gary Treeve.

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

**NOTICE OF 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**and ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 1100hrs Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009**  
**Oakleigh Barracks, 1318 North Road, Oakleigh South**

**A G E N D A**

1. ATTENDANCE
2. APOLOGIES
3. SILENT TRIBUTE – THE ODE
4. BUSINESS ARISING
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 18<sup>th</sup> AGM 31st August 2008
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. ADMINISTRATION OF PATRIOTIC FUND
11. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
12. **Nomination of Life member, and Presentation if Approved**
13. GENERAL BUSINESS:
14. RAEME CORPS SHOP ITEMS
15. ANY OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS AS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY
16. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR YEAR 2009 – 2010
17. DATE OF 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
18. CLOSURE OF MEETING

**Note: A meeting of the 'INCOMING' Committee of Management for the purpose of Election of Office Bearers for Year August 2009 – August 2010 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**



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED**  
 Incorporation Reg No. A0022655Z

**NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER**

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, ..... **(Seconder)** 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: ...../...../.....

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND TRIP

31st October 1st 2nd 3rd November 2009

For those members and their friends who have been on our trips before, you will know what great fun they have been, so please talk about our trips with other members and friends. For those members who have not, think about it and why not "give it a go" I am sure you will enjoy it very much.

Peter Cartledge
Social Co-ordinator.

Saturday 31st October

Depart from Oakleigh Barracks 0800 Hrs Stopping at Yarragon for Morning Tea (cake and coffee or tea in Park included), then on to Bairnsdale to view the beautiful Mural in St Mary's Catholic Church and time to have Lunch (at own expense) After lunch onto Lakes Entrance where we book into Glenara Motel (RSL) to relax before Evening Meal (included)

Sunday 1st November

After Breakfast (included) we head to Lake Tyers for a 2 1/4 hour Cruise (included) around Lake Tyers with Morning Tea served on board. After our Cruise we will head to Metung for a look around the town and have a snack (at own expense) then return to our Motel for Evening Meal (included)

Monday 2nd November

Today we will visit Mingling Water's Wood Carving (included) and a Guided Tour of Nowa-Nowa with Morning Tea, then on to Buchan Caves, returning to Lakes Entrance for Evening Meal (included)

Tuesday 3rd November

We leave Lakes Entrance to arrive early evening back to Oakleigh Barracks via Yarram and Leongatha with Morning and Afternoon tea (included) Lunch at own expense.

There will be of course a Melbourne Cup Sweep conducted in the coach on the way home.

Cost for this trip being \$400.00 (with Single Supplement \$23.00 per night). This costing is based upon 30 people attending.

I/We ..... &.....will / will not be attending the Melbourne Cup Weekend to Lakes Entrance 31st October 1st 2nd 3rd November 2009 and enclose my/our payment of \$..... made payable to RAEME Association.

I understand this cost could change due to numbers attending and no refund can be made if cancelling after 23rd October 2009

Signed..... RSVP by 16th October 2009

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

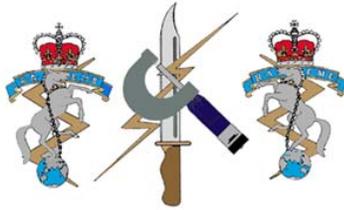
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## PLEASE SAVE WRAPPER (PTO)

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SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

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