



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

July 2010

Issue 60

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc. Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994
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Reserve Forces Day – 4 July 2010 at The Shrine, Melbourne
President John Boothroyd with Keith Payne VC and the Association Banner
Peter Cartledge (on right) is the Standard Bearer for the new Association Standard

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Only one month to go, until the AGM on 28th August! Where did the last year go?

Our submission to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for a grant to purchase laptop computers and related equipment was partly successful in that we received about a third of the amount applied for, but this still enabled us to purchase equipment to improve our communications and bring myself into the 21st century.

Our application for a subsidy for the annual coach trip has been submitted and we await a reply from DVA.

Our Anzac reunion was poorly attended, although the few who gathered together enjoyed the day. Maybe it was too close to Anzac Day, or clashed with other Anzac activities. Do we have it the week before or the week after? Give us your thoughts on this activity.

The President's luncheon held on 23rd May at the South Eastern Masonic Centre was very well attended, with 52 participating including seven widows and many apologies being received. The aim of changing the name was to increase participation by members and we certainly achieved this. Please keep this in mind for next year's event.

Our tree at the Shrine has been replaced, and we await the replacement of the bronze plaques by the Shrine Trustees. As this shows our Corps name as "The Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers", we will need to have another plaque made to reflect the new title of "The Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers". The Committee is investigating this now, and details will be advised in a later "Lightning Flash".

Several of the Committee supported me at the RAASC/RACF pilgrimage on 6th June, and John Davidson (Petroleum Platoon OC) thanked us for the continuing support from RAEME.

Other activities included the Reserve Forces Day Government House Reception (*see separate report*)

Future activities which my wife Robina and I will attend to represent the Association are the MAYGAR DINNER on 24th July conducted by 4CSSB,

and I have received approval to attend the Corps Conference at Bandiana on 15th-16th September.

John Boothroyd
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

ANZAC Day Reunion; The Reunion this year was held at the South Eastern Masonic Centre this was mainly due to the difficulty we are having gaining access to Oakleigh Barracks in not being able to have access to the kitchen and having to pay a day's pay for a SGT or above to open the Depot and to man the SGTs mess.

While the day was down in numbers those members that participated had an enjoyable day. That being said the numbers were disappointing which will put doubt in whether a Reunion should be continued.

Feedback would be appreciated as to whether members still want an Anzac Day reunion; if so which day should it be held on, before or after Anzac Day?

Presidents Luncheon; The many members who attended enjoyed a great 3 course meal and the comradeship after with old mates. Our widows were guests of the President along with the latest inductee as a life member Past President Peter Cartledge and wife Leonie. It is hoped more members will attend future Presidents Luncheons to enjoy the company of fellow members and to honour the Widows of deceased members.

Reserve Forces Parade; What a great day with 29 members of the Corps attending the parade with several members being presented with a ribbon of recognition of having overseas service and receiving a medal for that service.

Keith Payne VC met the members attending and presented a ribbon to the entitled participants with Neil Charter and John Lee being the lucky recipients to receive his ribbon from the VC winner. Those members unable to attend certainly missed a well organized and a great day.

Alan Rogers
Secretary

WELFARE REPORT

Michael Lappin has been in hospital in intensive care after two major operations on his bowel. He was in a coma for a week. He was in the Epworth Hospital.

Secretary Alan Rogers was hospitalised with arrhythmia

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The response to the recent mailout seeking payment of dues is heartening, however there are some members that have not yet attended to their obligation. I know some members pay their dues at the Annual General Meeting.

Should any member be unsure about their financial status, feel free to contact me regarding their financial status. Chapter members should direct any concerns to their Chapter Committee".

My email contact is gus_allen@bigpond.com.

If you are not on line my phone contact is:
9802 5460

Gus Allen
Membership Officer



Brian Britain: 13 June 2010

Don Brown: 22 June 2010

Several members attended the funeral, Association President John Boothroyd presenting Judith with a condolence card and the Australian Flag

RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE 4 JULY 2010 AT THE SHRINE

Starting in April, Vice President Bruce Williams, Secretary Alan Rogers and myself attended meetings held at the Defence Plaza in the city to organise this activity, including the purchase of a RAEME Association of Victoria standard (a flag with gold tassels around it).

Brigadier Neil Bavington was the Chairman, and he ran very efficient and effective meetings. Because we supplied detailed art-work for the design of the standard (thanks to Pat Marley) we were rewarded with \$200 towards the cost of \$400. (The Army tells us they only have flags and banners.)

Immediate Past President Peter Cartledge was the Standard Bearer on the Parade, and looked smart in his beret, blazer and white gloves. Thank you, Peter.

Twenty-six members attended, plus three others who marched with the National Service Association and several others who took photos and joined the crowd. It was a great day and a fine representation from RAEME. John Lee and Neil Charter received ribbons for overseas service on the parade and we were honoured by a visit from Keith Payne VC prior to the parade.

Well done.

Arte et Marte

John Boothroyd
President

Billy Holmes received RSL Life Membership with Gold Bar (the highest award the RSL can offer to its members) at the RSL conference.

A number of RAEME Association members attended.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29th August 2010

To commence at 1130hrs

Clayton RSL

Carinish Rd Clayton

Opposite Clayton Railway Station

NOTICE of MOTIONS

RULES

MOTION TO AMEND 2006 RULES

Revised Association Rules Version 6.0 as in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act 1981; Copies will be available on the day. Members wishing a copy prior should contact the Secretary.

MOTION TO CHANGE TRUSTEES

BENEVOLENT PATRIOTIC FUND

The Officers of the Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers Association
(Victoria) Inc Benevolent Patriotic Fund

CAV Reference No V0000451Y Historic Fund No W2510

Accept the resignation of the current trustees namely;

John Lee Col (Rtd) of 3 Verbena Crt Mordialloc 3195 LM

John Edelston Lt Col of 5 Anne Crt Golden Square 3555 OM

And that

The Trustees of the aforementioned fund shall be the
Officers of the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc; namely

The President

The Vice President

The Secretary

The Treasurer

as elected at an Annual General Meeting

Agenda items should be forwarded to the Secretary in writing
(stating the agenda item and a description of the item) 14 days prior to the AGM

A BBQ LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED;

Drinks at BAR prices

**The RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated
Incorporation Reg No A 0022655Z
Notice of 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
and ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS; 1130HRS
Sunday 29th August 2010
CLAYTON RSL CARINISH Rd CLAYTON
OPPOSITE CLAYTON RAILWAY STATION**

AGENDA

- 1 ATTENDANCE
- 2 APOLOGIES
- 3 SILENT TRIBUTE
- 4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM 2009 AGM MINUTES
- 5 CONFIRMATION of 19TH AGM 30TH AUGUST 2009
- 6 PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT/CHAPTER REPORTS as
TABLED
- 7 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT as TABLED
(IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 8.(4b))
- 8 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS AS TABLED
(IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 8.(4b))
- 9 ADMINISTRATION of PATRIOTIC FUND;
CHANGE of TRUSTEES; MOTION; PRESIDENT JOHN
BOOTHROYD
- 10 APPOINTMENT of AUDITOR
- 11 AMENDMENT to 2006 RULES; MOTION; BRUCE WILLIAMS
- 12 AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED
- 13 GENERAL BUSINESS
- 14 ELECTION of COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT for YEAR 2010-
2011
- 15 DATE for 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011
- 16 CLOSURE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

***ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS and COMMITTEE POSITIONS
WILL BE HELD WITHIN 14 DAYS of THE 2010 AGM***

**TO ASSIST IN CATERING; I _____ M/Ship
No _____**

WILL/WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE 2010 AGM
REPLY to the SECRETARY PO BOX 2118 FOUNTAIN GATE 3805
EMAIL; raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com
PHONE (03) 9704 6700
By the 23rd AUGUST 2010



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, **(Second)** 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..... accept the above nomination.
(Given Name) (Surname)

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:/...../.....

BLUEBELL RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS – SOUTHERN

President: Dennis Clarke
H: 98486757 M 0409 518744
Vice – President: Ross Smith
H: 5983 1647
Secretary: Dennis Meek
H: 9798 3452 M 0409 907192
Treasurer: Fred Greenaway
H: 9874 7806

The Battle of Binh Ba Operation Hammer

Forty One years ago on the 6th of June 1969 the sixth battalion RAR/NZ was on operation 16 Kilometres north of 1ATF Base at Nui Dat. Four Troop B squadron 1 Armoured Regiment were in support of the 6th Battalion. The tank troop commander was injured. A replacement tank was sent from Nui Dat accompanied by the RAEME armoured recovery vehicle Callsign 28 was sent north up Route 2. As the tank Callsign 20E approached Binh Ba at 1810 hrs it was struck by an RPG7 wounding the operator who slumped across the main armament. The turret could not be traversed so the commander engaged the house from where the RPG had been fired from, using his flexible .30 flexible machine gun. The ARV also opened up with its two .30 machine guns.

Lance – Corporal John Harvey pressed on north past the village to the Duc Than Regional Force Post, while the “ARV” withdrew to the south.

The 1 ATF ready re-action force was deployed from Nui Dat with rocket fire coming from Binh Bah village directed against a replacement tank supported by the RAEME armoured recovery vehicle. The force comprised D Company of the 5th Battalion mounted in personal carriers from the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and supported by tanks from a composite troop of B Squadron the 1st Armoured Regiment. The village was less than ten kilometers north of Nui Dat.

Within hours the force was engaged in fighting of an intensity rarely matched in Australia’s experience of the Viet Nam War. It was quickly apparent that the enemy force comprised both main force elements of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

The two day battle involved several sweeps through the village and some vicious close quarter fighting. B Company 5RAR were added to the undermanned 65-men-strong D Company. Helicopter, artillery and engineer support was utilised in a powerful and

disciplined combined arms attack to drive the enemy from the village. One Australian Private Wayne Teeling, was killed and 11 were wounded. Enemy KIA were well in excess of 100.

History of 1st [Independent] Armoured Squadron Workshop

October 1967- Parliament Announces that a tank Squadron is to be sent to Viet Nam.

October 17th 1967- Harold Holt announces that a third infantry battalion is to be deployed to Viet Nam, with a further 8 helicopters for No.9 Sqdn.

A squadron of Centurion tanks with 250 personal will also deployed. Australia’s commitment is now 8,000.

November 1967 – Whilst beset with problems the 1st Armd Regiment commences to centralize enough troops for deployment.

December 1967 – RAEME become quite active in raising the unit to support C Sqdn 1st Armd Regt with 1 Indep Armd Sqdn Wksp and quickly started organizing key personnel and the following is a list of these people.

OC: Capt Bruce Reginald Dittmar

2IC: Lt Kenneth Henry Jones was serving with 1Fld Sqdn Wksp 2

Feb 1967

ASM: WO1 Donald Alwin Juers

CSM: WO2 Laurence Walter Lilley

TQMS: WO2 Peter Gallagher

Also there were some very good tradesmen represented by Ole Jensen; Frank Maxwell; Edward Naughton; Robin Pettet; William Taylor; Richard Garcia – WO2 Allen Roy Jackson [RAAOC]

Jan 1968 – C Sqdn farewell parade prior to departure.

Feb 1968 – Major Peter Badman and a half Squadron arrive in South Viet Nam consisting of 1 and 2 troops.

Feb 2 1968- was the last day of operating service for the 1 Indep Armd Sqdn Wksp and remains as a unit until 14 Nov 68; later absorbed by 106 Fld Wksp [15 Nov 68 to 7 Oct 71] While 106 Fld Wksp was officially added to the Orbat on 1st Nov 68.

RAEME continued its presence directly with the tanks by the support given by the LADs and their dates of squadron support are:-

C Sqn Sect LAD under OC Capt Alfred James Lee was posted in 5th Oct from HQ Aust Force Viet Nam Army Component where he had served since 23 Apr 68.

B Sqdn Sect LAD service was from 11 Feb 69 until 22 Dec 69

A Sqdn Sect LAD service was from 23 Dec 69 until 16 Dec 70 with this unit re-designated to C Sqdn 1 Armd Regt LAD on 17th Feb 70.

Thanks to Milton Pearson for compiling this information.

Regional Meeting: Shepparton RSL on 10th July

Reunions

1 Field Squadron Workshop held a most successful reunion in Hobart over the ANZAC Week

A big thank you to John & Claudia Walker; Bruce & Jill Davey. Their effort and organization was perfect.

Coming Reunions

106 Field Workshop: Adelaide October 15th 16th
1 Field Squadron Workshop, Melbourne ANZAC Week 2013

17 Construction Squadron Workshop 2011- a 4-day cruise out of Sydney

1 Armoured Regiment LAD Adelaide Glenelg October 2011 Russell Cunningham 5766 2413

102 Field Workshop, Western Australia, November
Contact Chris & Carroll Pickering 08 9061 1604

161 Recce Flight, Townsville, 2010- September 8th & 10th

45th Anniversary Formation
possum45@bigpond.com

Contact :

*Whispers : Spotted an article in the current addition
Unique Cars on RAEME Vet Terry Black's immaculate
Chrysler Windsor.*

A Blast from the Past



Fig 12 - RAEME CMF Officers Mess Formal Dinner Jun 1958 , Farewell to Lt Col H.C. Gunther CREME 3 DIV Sep 1956 - Jun 1958

Back Row L to R: Capt Max Edbrooke, Capt Phil Eventt, Capt Bob Peter, (UK), Capt Reg Langshaw, Lt Noel Bretherton, (UK), Lt K. Leathlean, (UK)

Centre Row L to R: Maj Don Irwin, Capt Derek Snowball, Lt Alf Albrecht, Lt Stuart Geddes, Capt Max o'Bern, Capt Alf Perrott, Capt Alex Cox, Ron Matkin.

Front Row L to R: Maj John Lee, Lt J. Brown, Maj Gil Smith, Capt Bob Asker, Lt Col Hugh Gunther, Maj Don Macleod, Maj Alf Levy, Capt Bill Dunne.

RAEME CRAFTSMAN MAGAZINE on-line

Alex Smithers (RAEME Association of WA) has been scanning the RAEME Craftsman Magazines. They are now available for viewing through the RAEME Association of WA web-site

www.raeme.org.au/wa under the Publications menu.

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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 October 2010

Lightning Flash

Monday 27th September 2010

Items to Pat Marley,

Note:

Items received AFTER the deadline will be held over for the next issue.

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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Is your address shown above correct?
If not please fill in the spaces below and return
This whole sheet in an envelope to:

**The Secretary,
The RAEME Association of Victoria Inc
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805**

Name(Block Letters)

Address

.....Postcode: Ph. No.
