

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**April 2013**

**Issue 71**

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## **Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Walk High Street, Seymour**

*Official Opening 9 March 2013*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first quarter of the year has started well with the annual pilgrimage to the shrine being well attended and the weather being kind to us by not being too hot. The committee held the first meeting at Pyalong at David Maddick's place and members of all Chapters were present.

### *Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Walk*

After the usual BBQ lunch we journeyed to Seymour to visit the Vietnam Commemorative Walk which was not complete and due to be opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2013. The President of the Committee gave a briefing on the origins of this memorial and the hopes for the future in acquiring a helicopter, 105 howitzer and an APC, they already have a centurion tank donated by the Grollo family.

Despite the refusal of the Govt to allow them to import rubber trees they have used native Australian tree to represent the jungle of Vietnam. The Memorial Walk consists of glass panels depicting scenes from many aspects of those who served in all services, and which contain the names of all those who served both military and civil (doctors, nurses etc) are listed on the panels which are divided into the three services and the civil attachments. A further panel listing those killed was still to be erected.

If you are in Seymour it is worthy of a visit.

### *Alkira Secondary College - RAEME Association Link*

The project with Alkira College has moved into the next phase and several members are in communication with the students to enable them to compile a history of their service either by computer or by face to face contact.

The college is organising a memorial garden and is planning to hold an Anzac ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> April, at which time some students will present their histories.

### *Presidents Lunch.*

To be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Clayton RSL. Details will be advised later but please mark this day in your diary. Remember this is the day we honour the widows of Association members.

**John Boothroyd**  
**President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another year has begun with several functions planned for 2013 which are noted in the calendar of functions which has now been forwarded to Members

### *Shrine Pilgrimage;*

This was another successful day with attending members enjoying the light luncheon after the service although numbers were less than last year, this was considered to mainly be due to the hot weather & the long weekend, to that point at the last Committee meeting a decision was made to move the date to a later date 16 March 2014. Our thanks to Dennis Clarke made the crosses that were laid out in front of the Association Plaques at which attending Members were able to place a poppy on each cross.

### *ANZAC Day Reunion*

To be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 1100hrs – 1500hrs at Clayton RSL

### *ANZAC DAY March*

25<sup>th</sup> April. Over the years our numbers are dwindling due to a problem that we all seem to suffer from (AGING!) it would be great if serving & recently retired members (Regular & Reserve) of our great Corps could participate in the March under the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc Banner. After March celebrations to be at the Southern Cross Hotel Cecil St South Melbourne.

### *Presidents Lunch*

19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 Clayton RSL 1100hrs for 1200hrs, with a presentation to Jason Cassar.

### *Successful Committee Meeting*

Held at Dave Maddick's home on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Thanks to Dave & Sonnyia for their hospitality and to the Seymour Chapter ladies for providing the lunch.

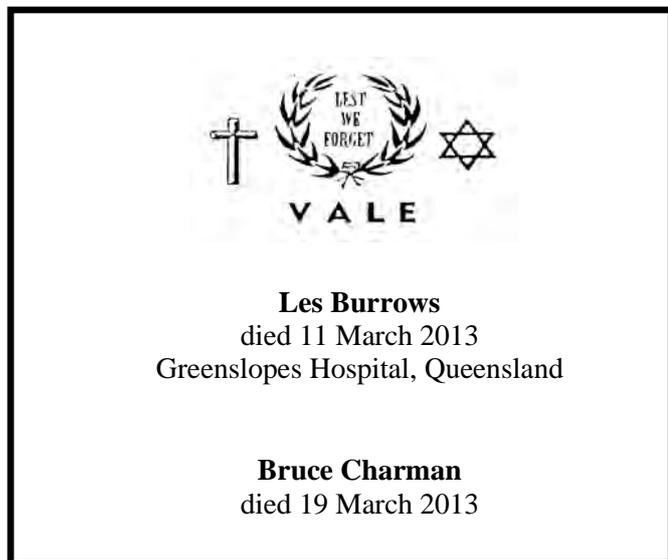
3 Rec Coy provided transport for the Melbourne members with Peter Zimmerman as our driver. Members of the Committee were given a tour of the walk by Seymour Chapter members John Phoenix & John Blackwell.

For those who haven't seen the Commemorative Walk a trip to Seymour would be well worth doing. The Walk is nothing short of magnificent, the organizers should be congratulated on this Commemoration to the Vietnam Veterans.

**Alan Rogers**  
**Secretary**

## WELFARE REPORT

The Funeral Service for Bruce Charman was held in the Renowden Chapel of the Springvale Crematorium Princes Hwy Springvale on Friday 22 March 2013.



### *Major Ted Richards - Photos??*

I received a call the other day from the daughter of the late Major Ted Richards.

The family have realised - now that he is gone - that they have very little in the way of photographic memories of Ted; especially over the period of his RAEME Career.

I worked with Ted during the latter years of his career and found him a wonderful bloke and a fine Officer. I would like to think we would do something to perpetuate his memory within his family.

Would you be able to spread the word through the national association for anyone who might have suitable photos of Major Ted Richards; could they forward a copy to me on email address:

[brendan.robertson8@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.robertson8@gmail.com)

**Brendan Robertson**  
RAEME Association NSW Inc.

## BLUEBELL VIETNAM VETERANS SOUTHERN

A number of our Chapter members attended the Military Heritage weekend at Seymour for Stage 2 Opening of the Commemorative Walk located at High Street. Along the length of the Walk are walls consisting of digi-glass panels with the name for every Serviceman and Servicewoman who served in their various capacities.

The names will be separated only by the Service in which they served in alphabetical order. Behind the names is a picture story of the Vietnam conflict. The plinths on which the panels stand will have holes for the Poppies: the effect is to have a field of Poppies under the names. There will be areas of contemplation for people to use along the length of this walk and Military artefacts of the period, an Iroquois helicopter, M2A2 howitzers, M113 Armoured Personal Carriers and a Centurion tank.

The walk is a meandering red earth path set in native trees that resemble rubber trees and grasses that look like rice paddies. The Commemorative Walk is not to memorialise those who served in Vietnam and or those who paid the ultimate price, but to commemorate the service of all who played their part in what was a tumultuous part of Australia's history. There was an excellent display of past Military vehicles.

Another "Bike Ride" took place at Mytleford on the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Apparently the ride was not well planned and attracted fewer participants due to alpine terrain type hills. Our own Jim Coghlan State VVAA Vice President was assisting as always with the Event.

We are also supporting the Edwards Family Treasure Chest who, are helping educate 70 street kids from South Vietnam. Dennis Edwards has moved to Vietnam to oversee the Program. We will be looking to hold a fund raiser at some stage to support Treasure Chest.

ANZAC Day is fast approaching and this year we will form up in on the south east side Collins Street where we used to congregate with other Vietnam Units. It has taken a number of ESO meetings to achieve this result. We "Step Off" at 1130 hrs.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is holding a two day conference with a heading titled “Choppers”, which will cover Helicopters and the Vietnam War. Whether operating as slicks [troop carriers], gunships, medevac, heavy lift, observation or aerial trucks choppers became the ubiquitous symbol of the Vietnam War.

One of the conference speakers will be Tom Jobling [RAEME], who is President of the 161 Recce Association.

### **VIETNAM: LOOKING BACK AT THE AMERICAN FACTS**

In the Korean War, Major General William F Dean, commander of the 24th Infantry Division, was taken prisoner of war [POW]. In Vietnam no US generals, much less division commanders were ever taken prisoner.

During the Korean War the US Army was forced into the longest retreat in its history. A catastrophic 275 mile withdrawal from the Yalu River, all the way to Pyontack, 45 miles south of Seoul. In the process they later lost the capital city of Seoul. The US Military in Vietnam was never compelled into a major retreat nor did it ever abandon Saigon to the enemy.

The 1st US Marine Division from the Chosin Reservoir was forced into an emergency evacuation from the Korean part of Hungnam. There they were joined by other US Army and South Korean soldiers. The US Navy eventually evacuated 105,000 Allied troops from that port. In Vietnam there was never any mass evacuation of US Marine, South Vietnamese or Allied troop Units.

Other Items: Only 25% of the US Military who served in Vietnam were draftees. During WW 2, 66% of the troops were draftees. The Vietnam force contained three times as many college graduates as did WW 2 force. The average education level of the US enlisted man in Vietnam was 13 years, equivalent to one year of College/University. Of those who enlisted, 79% had high school diplomas. This at a time when only 65% of the military age males in the general American population were high school graduates. The average age of the military men who died in Vietnam was 22.8 years old. Of the one hundred and one 18 year old draftees who died in Vietnam; seven of them were Afro-American. Afro-Americans accounted for 10.5% of the combat deaths in Vietnam. At that time Afro-American males of military age constituted 13.5% of the American population.

The charge that the “poor” died in disproportionate numbers is also a myth. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology study of Vietnam rates, conducted by Professor Arnold Barnett, revealed that servicemen from the richest 10% of the nation’s communities exceeded the national average in three of the four, and when the four were added together and averaged, that number also exceeded the national average.

*To be continued.*

RAEME National recently released a paper outlining their constructive role in support of the Corps and Associations.

We held our last meeting, which involved our AGM at Sunbury RSL. We would like to thank the President Graeme Williams [Corps of Survey] for hosting us on the day.

### **UNIT REUNIONS**

1Field Squadron Workshop 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Melbourne 2013

Contact Dennis Clarke H 9848 6757 M 0409 518744  
[eastern.auto@optusnet.com.au](mailto:eastern.auto@optusnet.com.au)  
Noel Cooper H 9802 7161 M 0419 397871  
[cooperfamily@westnet.com.au](mailto:cooperfamily@westnet.com.au)

17 Construction Squadron Workshop 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>  
September 2013

Clare Valley South Australia  
Contact Garry Whykes H 08 9276 1920 M 0411  
810077  
[gwhykes@gmail.com](mailto:gwhykes@gmail.com)

102 Field Workshop September 2013  
‘Avondale’ 601 Bray’s Rd Gannawarra  
Contact Noel Lake 03 5456 9246

1 Armoured Regiment LAD  
Mudgee 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> October  
Contact Russell Cunningham  
H 03 5766 2413 M 0437 834089  
[bungie12@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bungie12@bigpond.net.au)

1 Div S&T / 5 Coy Workshop  
Around May-August Darwin  
Contact Trevor Smith

106 Field Workshop  
Hobart 2014  
Contact TBA

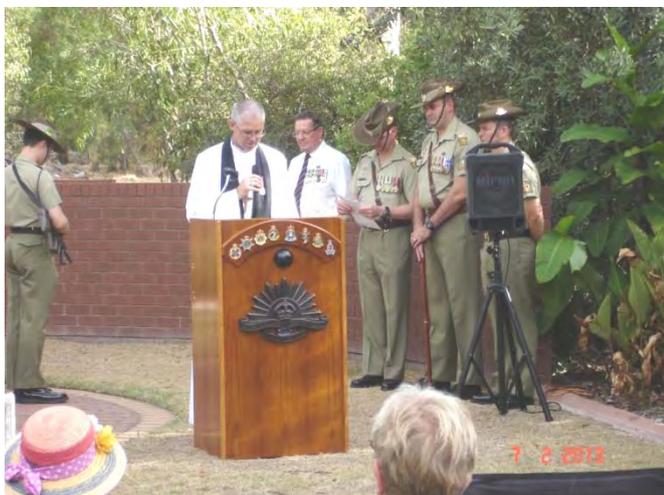
**Dennis Clarke**  
**President**  
**Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter**

**BANDIANA CHAPTER**

Chaplain Rick Tilden led the eighth Remembrance Service held by the Bandiana Chapter of the RAEME Association of Victoria. It was a very hot, inland, February day yet attendance was still good at the twilight service at the Craftsman Memorial Bandiana.



We had an address by the CO / CI, of Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, LTCOL David Phillips. ASEME also provided support with the catafalque party, and advice from the Corps RSM WO1 Craig Webb.



Chaplain Rick Tilden leading our service. Our Corps Prayer was recited by the newly-appointed Corps RSM, WO1 Craig Webb and the Ode to Remembrance by our Secretary George Reid.

A new feature of our service this year was the inclusion of the laying of a wreath by Neil Russell, President of the National Servicemens' Association.

Wreaths were also laid by those organisations which have RAEME office holders; Wodonga RSL Vice President – Rodney Bolt, Murray Border Association of Vietnam Veterans President – Gary Treeve and Rutherglen RSL President David Martin OAM. Yvonne Atkins laid a wreath on behalf of our Chapter and Barbara Prenter on behalf of our widows.



*Gary Treeve, Rodney Bolt, Yvonne Atkins, Barbara Prenter and David Martin OAM.*

Names of any RAEME craftsmen known to have passed during the year were read out.



After the Service many gather at the “Stump” Hotel to catch up over dinner.

**Andy Turner**  
**President**  
**Bandiana Chapter**

## CORPS HISTORY PROJECT

I am taking the liberty of asking you directly to pass on this email to all your RAEME colleagues on your 'Mafia' email lists. I am not sure if you have seen anything from your local RAEME Association, but just in case, I wanted you to know personally that this is the sort of solicitation I have been sending to as many members of the Corps as I can personally, asking them to contribute to the Corps History Project Book. I am starting to have some success, with many promises of stories and photos, and with the forthcoming launch of a competition by Nick Rees and Paul Gibbs to find the best story and photos shortly, I am hopeful we will get a considerable boost in contributions.

I cannot recall if I previously sent you any promotional material explaining the purpose of the book, seeking stories or indicating the time line, but I think you are aware I am after stories of what individuals did at some stage during service in the Corps, which can be placed in a pictorial history of RAEME to be published later this year.

I am asking you because of you have access to many talented people, who have had recent and not so recent operational and non-operational service, all of which should be recorded and stored for posterity. More importantly, their stories should be eligible candidates for the subject book. If they have their own ideas for stories, I am keen to capture them also. If you are able to oblige, the attached documents provide detail about our project, and will help them set down the story, in either 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person, and the size of contribution required. Photos of the events being depicted are also important, but if not available, we can source relevant photos from the War Memorial.

The two back issues of the RAEME Association – Queensland newsletter have a couple of interesting stories on the CHP on page 4 respectively, while the Article for the 'Craftsman' magazine provides a bit more detail on the technical requirements and where to send your contribution – [raemebookproject@hotmail.com](mailto:raemebookproject@hotmail.com).

The flyer can be passed around your circle of friends and colleagues in your area, as can the other material for that matter.

**I'd like their contribution(s) by 1 April 13 so that we can meet the schedule of publishing by 1 December 13, the Corps 71<sup>st</sup> Birthday.**

The other reason I'd very much like their stories is because they provide examples of the breadth of employability and talent of our officers, senior ranks and craftsmen, and with the passing of time, few such stories have been captured and retained. This is a situation the current Head of Corps (HOC), BRIG Andrew Mathewson, and the two previous Heads of Corps (BRIGs Dave McGahey and Dave Creagh) are keen to remedy.

If I haven't provided enough background, to the requirement, please feel free to get in touch, or if you feel unable to assist, I understand.

I trust you are keeping good health and still enjoying life in Melbourne – I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

**Ross L.G. Grant**

### Operation Spanner Pack Thank You letters

*The latest few thankyou letters below from our RAEME soldiers on operations*

**Raymond Norman**

**President: RAEME National Association,**

“Raymond

I just wanted to drop you a quick line as I was, yesterday, in receipt of a RAEME Association Spanner Pack.

I just want to say Thank You to the Association via yourself, the biscuits are particularly welcome and the 'star item' appears to be the Stubby Cooler (even though beer to fill it is in very short supply.....!).

Cheers,

Regards,

Mick (RAEME)

Serving *somewhere* in Afghanistan”

“Raymond

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the RAEME Corps Association very much for the Christmas parcels recently received by members of the Technical Support Troop (TST), including myself, on 10 November 2012. TST support the Black Hawk helicopters within Timor Leste Aviation Group (TLAG) 18. At this time of our deployment, your kind thoughts and actions are appreciated, as we are not at home with our loved ones and families. As for the content of the packs, it was a nice change from the repeated mess menu, especially the red frogs which did not last long! All the members of the TLAG 18 TST wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Craftsman

Technical Support Troop; Timor Leste Aviation Group 18”

## Have you heard about PLAN BEERSHEBA?

What is PLAN BEERSHEBA? Plan BEERSHEBA is a phased program to adjust Army's force structure, so optimal capability is generated in line with strategic guidance and contemporary threats. The plan ensures our Nation's Army is robust and relevant into the third decade of the Century. It considers Army's place in the ADF, Whole-of-Government and Coalition frameworks and assesses the capabilities of the Total Force of Army.

Total Force implies no separation between Regular and Reserve. It sees the two as fully complementary to deliver capability in a timely and affordable way.

Plan BEERSHEBA places a significantly greater emphasis on operational capability from the Reserve.

Plan BEERSHEBA will see Multi-role Manoeuvre Brigades (MMB) based on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Brigades, fundamentally 'alike' for sustaining operations via the 36 month Army Force Generation Cycle.

2<sup>nd</sup> Division will align with the Army Force Generation Cycle (FGC) and provide defined capability outputs in direct support of MMBs.

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Division – Plan Beersheba*

For the members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, Plan BEERSHEBA is important, indeed very important, for the future. The Plan however does NOT represent widespread upheaval. All Reservists within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division will have defined roles that contribute to Army's total force capability. As with all plans of this scale, there are a number of impacts that soldiers will need to fully understand.

As an organisation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division will retain its Divisional headquarters and six Brigades, just as it has under current arrangements.

Reserve Brigades, in pairs, will form habitual relationships with an MMB, within Army's 36 month readiness cycle (Reset, Ready, and Ready – explained later).

The role and tasks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division were developed in 2011 through a series of Reserve Modernisation Workshops (RMW) and Army Modernisation Steering Groups (AMSG).

Senior Army Reserve Commanders participated extensively with their regular counter-parts in the development of Plan BEERSHEBA. Reserve Commanders were key members of the RMW and AMSG as the role, tasks and organisation of the Reserve were developed for Plan BEERSHEBA. Reserve advocacy groups and others were consulted.

**Role** *“To deliver specified capability to support and sustain ADF preparedness and operations”*

**Tasks** There are four core tasks and 14 supporting tasks. A Reserve Battle Group will include a 'library of capability bricks' i.e. Platoon sized protected mobility, construction engineers, transport, RAEME, catering, medical and signals elements.

### *What happens in each phase of the 36 month cycle?*

Plan BEERSHEBA sees each pair of Reserve Brigades aligning with an MMB, and aligning training priorities and activities with its phase of the 36 month FGC.

The FGC has three phases:

**Reset Phase.** Forces returning from operations or after the ready phase will focus on reconstitution, regeneration, building on individual training, and conducting necessary administration and start redeveloping collective capabilities.

**Readying Phase.** After achieving reset as a foundation, specified collective capability will be progressively developed to higher training levels in a foundation warfighting setting. Capabilities will be evaluated against directed training levels and standards, including in major exercise settings such as Exercise HAMEL.

**Ready Phase.** After evaluation in readying phase, force elements required for operations commence pre-deployment training. Those not deploying, including those maintaining contingency operational readiness will continue to train to keep their collective capability at required training levels and support mission preparation.

Paired ARES Brigades and habitually related MMB are proposed to be as follows:

- **1 BDE MMB – 4 BDE and 9 BDE**
- **3 BDE MMB – 11BDE and 13BDE**
- **7 BDE MMB – 5 BDE and 8BDE**

It will take time for tasks and activities for ARES Brigades to progressively synchronise to align with the FGC of the habitually related MMB. Synchronisation with the MMB FGCs will largely be achieved by the end of 2013.

To support geographic regions, some contingency forces, such as Ready Reaction Forces (RRFs) and Defence Assistance to Civil Community (DACC), must remain “ready” across all phases of the FORGEN cycle.

### *What will happen to my Corps?*

Combat Arms Corps will be impacted in a variety of ways – (too detailed for inclusion in this article).

Plan BEERSHEBA includes an Engineer Regiment in each of 4 Bde, 5 Bde, 8 Bde and 11 Bde. A new Engineer Regiment will be established within 11 Bde. It is anticipated that the HQ of 21 and 22 Construction Regiments will be disestablished.

Combat Service Support Corps (CSS) within Plan BEERSHEBA gives greater prominence to CSS capabilities from 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and CSSBs in each Bde will continue to generate CSS capabilities.

Although soldiers of many Corps will be part of changes to capabilities under Plan BEERSHEBA, their Corps itself will not be fundamentally affected. I am happy to report that RAEME has not been fundamentally impacted upon by Plan BEERSHEBA.

*(Information for this article has been derived from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Division information brochure)*

**MAJ Mike Newbond**

## Luscombe Bowl – The Concert Stage

*Until now, the history of the Luscombe Bowl has never been recorded, its importance almost forgotten. With the help of veterans all over Australia, I have been able to piece together the story of the Luscombe Bowl for the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk here in Seymour, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank every one of those veterans for assisting me so enthusiastically with their information, memories and photos. I could not have achieved this without you. Please share it, add to it, and never let the history be lost again.*

*Carolyne Burgess*

### **Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk High Street, Seymour, Victoria, Australia**

<http://www.vietnamvetwalk.org.au/>

A replica of the Luscombe Bowl was completed in March 2011 as part of Stage One of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour. In wanting to find out more about The Bowl, I discovered that its history hadn't been recorded. And so the search for information began .....



### **Excavation of The Luscombe Bowl Amphitheatre**



Photo courtesy Bob Nash, 6 Ordnance Field Park (Det)

Luscombe Airfield was constructed in 1966, with allowance being made for an over-run at the eastern end which could later be converted to extra runway, should it be required.

In the first half of 1967, the plant operators of 21 Engineer Support Troop, attached to 1 Field Squadron, RAE, excavated the eastern end of Luscombe Airfield to create a massive amphitheatre which was to be used as an aircraft over-run and turning circle. Under orders from Task Force HQ, Major Brian Florence, OC of 1 Field Squadron, had the amphitheatre enlarged during the excavation to allow for the building of a concert stage on its southern perimeter, and requested that the embankment be specifically shaped in order to accommodate an audience of more than 1,000 troops. 1 Field Squadron's diaries note the airfield over-run as being 100% completed on 23 July 1967. The amphitheatre soon came to be known as Luscombe Bowl.

### Building of The Luscombe Bowl Stage



Photo courtesy D.M. Omond

During April/May 1967 Capt Graeme Hellyer, Florence's 2IC and a qualified engineer, did the structural design for the stage then handed this on to Sapper Jim Collett, a qualified architectural designer and draftsman, to produce the working drawings for the construction of the stage.

(Hellyer was never to see the stage completed as he was severely injured in a helicopter accident on 2 June 1967 and medevac'd home to Australia.) Under the supervision of S/Sgt "Darby" Munro, 9 & 10 Troops of 17 Construction Squadron, as well as tradesmen from 1 Field Squadron when available from operational duties, began building the concert stage in late July 1967, with the pine and Oregon timbers being supplied by the US Military. 1 Field Squadron's diaries first mention the stage in their work sheets on 27 July 1967 as "Concert Stage 5%" (complete).

*"...the construction was boxed beamed portal frame at the front with boxed beams spanning from rear to front. Timber purloins went across the beams to take the corrugated iron sheeting. The intermediate wall gave mid-span support to the beams."*

*Fred Abbot, 9 Tp, 17 Const Sqn*

The frame was then lined with ply, weatherboards used to finish the exterior, and the stage floorboards polished until they shone like mirrors.

*"... I remember standing on the roof of the stage when two gunships 'buzzed' us. We nearly fell off the roof in fright."*

*Alan Rothwell, 17 Const Sqn*

*"The stage took awhile to build",. "We had many other jobs to complete during that time at the Dat".*

*Peter Allen recalls*

*Alan Rothwell* also remembers the stage being low priority, to be used as a "filler" when other jobs couldn't be carried out.

Brian Florence recalls that the entertainers had certain requirements for their acts: special lighting and some other amenities had to be flown out from Australia via the Engineers in Vung Tau, in order to put the finishing touches to the Luscombe Bowl concert stage. As a result, it took almost eight weeks to build the stage, with 1 Field Squadron's diaries recording it completed on 18 September 1967. The water tank and toilet facility were added at a later date.

The concert stage very quickly came to be named after the Luscombe Bowl amphitheatre in which it resided, although the troops promptly nick-named it "The Dust Bowl" due to the thick red clay dust which blanketed the area during summer.

The first concert was held on the stage the very next month - October 1967.

### **The Entertainers**

Hundreds of Australian entertainers volunteered to go to South Vietnam and they brought a few hours of normality, and a taste of home, to our troops. Although the entertainers received security, transport and basic accommodation, their time in Vietnam could be very difficult. Conditions were often dirty and uncomfortable, the humidity rotted their clothes and equipment and the pace was arduous, with several performances each day interspersed with long trips by road or air. In addition, travel orders had to be correct and were rigidly enforced by the Vietnamese Military Police who were in charge of all civil matters. The concerts, however, were greatly appreciated by the troops, giving them badly needed respite from the stresses of war. They could be sure to see a variety of acts, including bands, dancing girls, comedians, jugglers and singers.

Prior to the building of the Luscombe Bowl stage, most concerts at Nui Dat were held on the back of flatbed trucks or on a canvas-covered, impromptu stage in an area close to what would become the Luscombe Bowl amphitheatre. This was where the Col Joye/Little Patti concert was being held on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1966 when the Battle of Long Tan took place.

*Adrian Roberts, OC of 3 Tp, 1APC Squadron at the time, recalls:*

*"... heavy artillery fire beginning just to the right and almost over the top of the troops in the concert audience" He then slipped away to find out what was going on. He remembers having to pull his men away from the concert when he was ordered to pick up A Coy, 6RAR in his APCs and go to the aid of D Coy, 6RAR on the battlefield.*

Some of the other famous performers of the time include Johnny O'Keefe, the ABC Show Band and Dinah Lee. A couple of the more popular songs with the troops were 'These Boots Were Made for Walking' and 'We Gotta Get Outta This Place', and Lorrae Desmond was well-known for her soulful rendition of 'Leaving On A Jet Plane'. The entertainers also made time to give small, intimate performances to the sick and injured in the hospitals.

*"One of the interesting things I remember about The Bowl was that everyone took a chair ... and their rifle!"*  
*Gordon Taylor*

*"... we sat on the ground in the heat/rain/monsoonal weather just to attach one-self to a bit of Aussie!"*  
*Person Unknown*

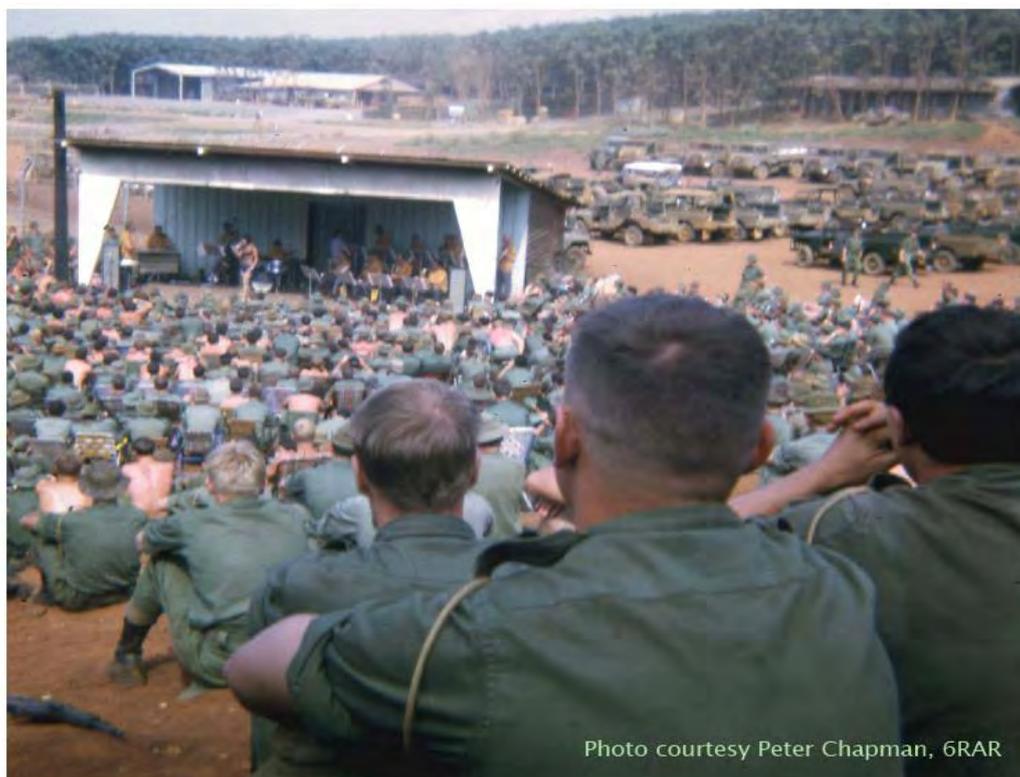


Photo courtesy Peter Chapman, 6RAR

### Other Uses of The Luscombe Bowl

Luscombe Bowl also served other purposes, as well. It was used for the awarding of military medals and citations at the end of tours, and many veterans have memories of Christmas Mass held at the Luscombe Bowl by the Task Force Chaplains. Vin "Jerry" Neale remembers Christmas '69 when hundreds of men attended, weapon in one hand, folding chair in the other and a couple of cold ones, as well.

*"What a sight! There were drunken diggers all over the stage and all around the altar (... taking communion)  
Some were serious in their befuddled intent, and others just following the crowd.  
But it was all goodhearted... the Spirit of Christmas in all its forms was in ample supply."*

Luscombe Bowl, the concerts, the entertainers ... hold wonderful memories for Vietnam Veterans. By their very presence, the entertainers lifted the morale of the Australian troops and reminded them that they were supported by their families and friends back home.

### Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk High Street, Seymour, Victoria, Australia

<http://www.vietnamvetswalk.org.au/>



Stage Two of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. The photo above shows just a small part of the 80 metre long, 2 metre high, double-sided curving digiglass wall which showcases a photographic history of the Vietnam War along with the name of every Australian veteran who served in Vietnam. The Wall is framed by trees and gardens representative of rubber plantations and rice paddies, with winding paths and various interesting artefacts and storyboards throughout.

*We'd love to have you visit!*

## Engine Change in the Field on Operation Leeton 1967 Vietnam



**A SQN 3 CAV LAD changing an M113 APC engine on Operation Leeton May 1967**

Operation Leeton continued in phases in Vietnam from 6 March to 1 Jun 1967 and involved the construction of a 10 km long barrier minefield between the “Horseshoe” and the South China Sea near Long Hai. Engineers laid mines, Infantry and Cavalry patrolled out from the field and carried materiel from choppers, while local Regional forces assisted.

Pictured here in May 1967 are CPL Bill Caswell, CFN Rob Batten, CPL Andy Turner and CFN Brent Willing changing an engine on an M113 APC. The LAD Fitters track 98A, “Alfie” is lifting the engine.

It was not strictly the LAD role to change an engine, especially in the field, however if it could be running by “Stand To” it was permitted or it had to be in tow for possible night movement.

They are in the sand dunes at the southern end of the mine field and a close look shows they have put out concertina wire to one flank. Two other APCs of the Troop Section and 98 “Mandrake” are with them and jointly (including the stricken APC) they are also supporting an infantry mortar platoon.

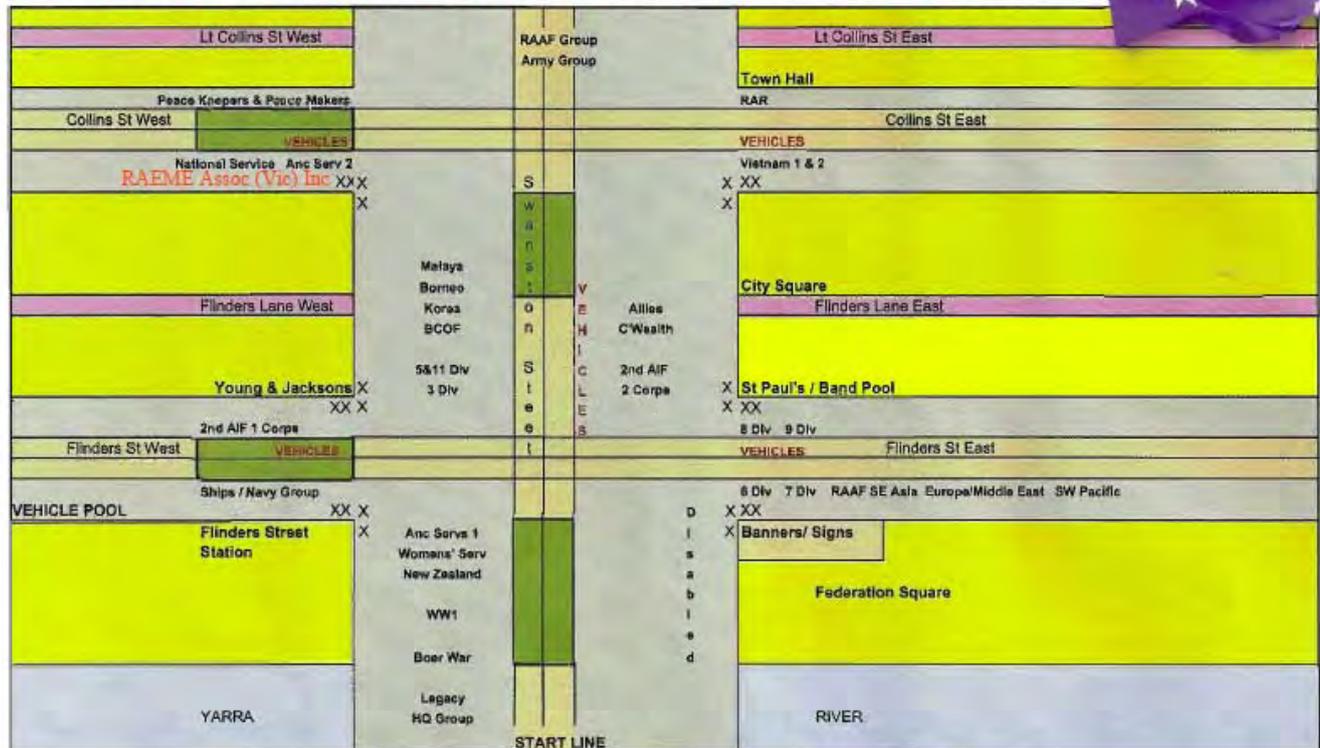
The APC section joined their Troop before “Stand To” with the engine change complete.

**MAJ Andy Turner (Rtd)**

ANZAC DAY 2013



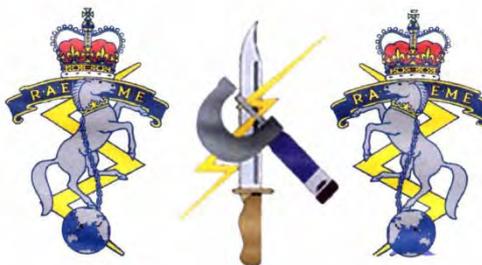
ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION MARCH ASSEMBLY PLAN 2013



Unit / Association	Form up time	Form-up area	Step off time
Disabled Personnel	0815	Flinders Street East/Princes Bridge	0835
HQ Group	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0900
Legacy	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0901
Boer War	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0903
World War I	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0906
New Zealand	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0907
<b>World War II</b>			
Women's Services	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0910
Ancillary Services 1	0845	Swanston St West (next to Station)	0912
Navy Group	0845	Flinders St West (Station side)	0915
Navy Ships	0900	Flinders St West (Station side)	0920
2AIF, 1 Corps	0915	Flinders St West (North side)	0945
6 Division	0920	Flinders Street East (Fed Sq side)	0950
7 Division	0930	Flinders Street East (Fed Sq side)	1000
8 Division	0945	Flinders St East (St Paul's side)	1015
9 Division	0955	Flinders St East (St Paul's side)	1025
3 Division	1000	Swanston St West between Flinders St/Flinders Ln	1030
5 & 11 Divisions	1000	Swanston St West between Flinders St/Flinders Ln	1035
2AIF, 2 Corps	1010	Swanston St West between Flinders St/Flinders Ln	1040
RAAF South East Asia	1025	Flinders St East (Fed Sq side)	1055
RAAF Europe & Middle East	1025	Flinders St East (Fed Sq side)	1058
RAAF South West Pacific	1035	Flinders St East (Fed Sq side)	1105
<b>Post-World War II</b>			
Army Group	0900	Swanston St opp Town Hall	0935
RAAF Group	1020	Swanston St opp Town Hall	1050
BCOF, Korea, Malaya, Borneo	1045	Swanston St West opp City Sq	1115
Vietnam 1	1055	Collins St East (City Sq side)	1120
Royal Australia Regiment	1100	Collins St East (Town Hall side)	1125
Vietnam 2	1055	Collins St East (City Sq side)	1130
Peace Keepers & Peace Makers, Kuwait, Somalia, Iraq, East Timor, Solomon Islands and Mozambique	1110	Collins St West (North side)	1140
<b>Ancillary Services 2: RAEME Assoc (Vic) Inc</b>	1115	Collins St West (South side)	1145
	1120	Collins St West (South side)	1150
Commonwealth Forces	1125	Swanston St East between Flinders St/Flinders Ln	1200
Allies	1130	Swanston St East between Flinders St/Flinders Ln	1210
Scouts/Marshals	1220	Swanston St West (next to Station)	1230

# *RAEME Association (Vic) Inc*

## *ANZAC Day Reunion*



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013**  
**Clayton RSL Carinish Rd Clayton**  
*Opposite Clayton Railway Station*  
From 1130hrs to 1500hrs  
**Members Lounge**

**Old and Bolds, Vietnam Veterans, Serving Members, Ladies**



*Our young Veterans swapping tales*

Why not come and reminisce with old buddies who you have not seen  
in several years and enjoy each other's company,  
talk about the good old days.

Last year was a great day enjoyed by all so why not come & enjoy the day

***Cheese & Nibbles in Members Bar***  
***Drinks at Bar Prices***  
***Bistro Lunch at own Expense***

***John Boothroyd***  
***President***

**EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS.**

"Since my last report, this employee has reached rock-bottom and has started to dig."

"I would not allow this employee to breed."

"This employee is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definite won't be."

"Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap."

"When she opens her mouth, it seems that it is only to change feet."

"He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle."

"This young lady has delusions of adequacy."

"He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."

"This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."

"This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better."

**Can You Help?**

My name is Greg Sawtell and I see that you've recently published in your December newsletter about my Uncles' passing. It's because of this that I hope you might be able to get hold of some information about my Uncle Reg and his career within the Army. I am looking at putting together something special for his widow Ann and the family, as a nice surprise.

What I'm looking for is his service history i.e Units served within RAEME and durations. Also, and I know that this one could be a long shot, any good pictures of him in uniform (Having served in the Army myself, I'm pretty sure every unit might have a photo archive?).

If you could do that or point me in the right direction of someone who could, that would greatly appreciated.

Please get back to me if you have any questions that you might need answering.

Thank you,

Greg Sawtell

**Can You Help?**

My Portsea OCS Class (Graduated Dec 73) is having a reunion in December this year and we have been unable to contact the following three cadets who went on to RAEME:

Andrew G Marks  
Rod Green  
Ross Halliday

Do you know of their whereabouts, or can you use your network to try and track them down for me please?

Graeme Clare  
[graemeclare@mac.com](mailto:graemeclare@mac.com)  
Mob: 0417 534 383

**Vietnam Tours**

Frank O'Brian is a long standing retired member of the Corps and regularly conducts tours of Vietnam and has done so very successfully for many years. He has two vacancies on his tour commencing 4th April to 21 April and also two vacancies on the second tour commencing 22 April to 9th May.

He is offering a substantial discount to RAEME members on both these tours. You would need to have your passport now ready to go. Frank would organise Visa's on arrival

The total saving per couple is \$2600.00 essentially Frank will pay the airfares to Vietnam which normally is paid by the traveller. He is also offering a 2 person sleeper cabin which normally is four travellers.

Please do not delay as time is short.

Contact Frank direct on email  
[feonsmail@yahoo.com.au](mailto:feonsmail@yahoo.com.au)

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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 July Flash  
Monday 24th June 2013

Items to Pat Marley:

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

or

[pat@patmar.id.au](mailto:pat@patmar.id.au)

**THE LIGHTNING FLASH**

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

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