

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

July 2014

Issue 76

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc. *Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z* *ABN: 96 873 522 994*
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Anzac Day 2014



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last quarter of the year has been hectic for both the executive and the committee as we have participated in the activities during this period.

First, the Anzac Reunion which was held at the Clayton RSL in the members lounge, and to which a good number of members and their partners attended. A great deal of reminiscing took place over drinks and the nibbles provided by the Association. As the time extended over the lunch period we also enjoyed a variety of meals from the bistro menu. We had members from WW2, BCOF, Solomon Islands and past and serving members of the reserve.

All enjoyed the company and meals and extended their stay until late afternoon.

Anzac Day was well attended with 30 personnel marching, including Doug Brazier in a wheelchair pushed by members of his family whilst the grandchildren cheered along the route.

Some members not able to march rode in the bus provided by the Recovery Unit. Our Patron Konrad Ermert joined us for the complete journey from Collins Street to the Shrine. Some problems were experienced due to us being between two different bands and keeping in step took great concentration. Two members of the Corps who recently moved into the state made enquiries as to how they could join us. Alan as always prepared produced membership forms from his bag.

The Presidents Lunch held to honour our widows was a pleasant day by all who attended including the three widows. Gaylene Duncan from the RSL Womens Section accompanied Pat Nevill to the luncheon and after complemented the Association on the way the function

was organised and how she had enjoyed the day and said she would be back next year.

Our activity with Alkira College continues and Pat Marley has reported on the prize that the Association won for our involvement last year.

Recently Pat and I attended Alkira College for the presentation day on the Discovery Box Project having prepared a box of memorabilia earlier in the year. The students are now preparing for the visit to the Shrine and the conducting of a service at the RAEME Tree.

As my time as President comes to end in August at the AGM it has reminded me that it will be almost 58 years since I joined the Corps as a National Serviceman and I have been active in both the Association and the Corps over many years despite having held several non corps postings and commanded RAEME units attached to other Corps. The early days with Geoff Maggs, John Scott and Harry Binaise were a great way to learn despite there being no formal committee structure.

The Cup Eve Dances at Chapel Street Depot saw the team come together including Max Moore Norm Curtis and many others to turn the Sgts Mess into a floral delight. All done by a simple phone call from Geoff.

These were the GOOD OLD DAYS!

To the committee and the members who have supported me over the past five years, I thank you all as it is not possible to do it alone. To my successor - all the best for the future.

Arte et Marte

John Boothroyd
President



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Anzac Day attendance was a little down on last year however it was great to see Doug Brazier's family were there in support of Doug with Rod taking over as the chief cinematographer. This year was the 1st time our updated Banner was on Parade.

The after-March function was held at the Palace Hotel South Melb, arranged by the Victoria Barracks Chapter. Our thanks to WO1 Paul Gibbs & WO1 Alex Birrell (Rtd) for a great day, it was good to see family members in attendance. We also gained several new Members on the day

This year the Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Melbourne Shrine Birdwood Ave St Kilda on 24th August 2014 to commence at 1030hrs with a light luncheon after (Members will be required to book for the Lunch - see flyer and Booking Slip in this issue)

Members wishing to nominate for Committee of Management. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary & must be returned no later than 17th August 2014. Nominations after this date will not be accepted.

The Association has over the last few years forwarded to our Deployed troops in Afghanistan & Timor 30 packs of Magazines, Books & three boxes of RAEME 70th Birthday Commemorative pens, Beanies, Gloves & Scarves made by the Burnside women's auxiliary.

Previously a donation of \$2000-00 was forwarded to RAEME Association QLD towards Spanner Pack.

A new Craftsman of the Year Perpetual Award has been produced and will be presented to the Victorian Craftsman of the Year at 2014 RAEME Birthday Dinner. The award is in the shape of a shield (produced by WO2 Sean Halley) with the Corps Badge (Harry the Horse) in the centre.

Congratulations to Association Member Major Mat Slocombe on his promotion to the rank of Major and being appointed 2IC 4CSSB at the same time.

Arte et Marte

Alan Rogers
Secretary

RAEME Association (Vic) Inc Functions 2014

<i>July 2014</i>	<p><i>Aug 2014</i></p> <p>8th Spanner Club 1700hr Palace Hotel 505 City Rd South Melb</p> <p>15th Viet Vets Day Heidelberg Repat 1030h</p> <p>24th 2014 AGM Melbourne Shrine 1030hrs Light Lunch after</p>	<i>Sept 2014</i>
<i>Oct 2014</i>	<p><i>Nov 2014</i></p> <p>11th Remembrance Day Clayton RSL 1100h</p> <p>15th Bandiana Annual Dinner</p> <p>RAEME Birthday Dinner 29th Clayton RSL</p>	<i>Dec 2014</i>



Kath Harlow

Widow of the late WO2 Joe Harlow
(Armd Regt LAD and School of Armour)
19 June 2014

WO1 John (Skeeta) Ryan (Rtd)

12th Intake Army Apprentice F & T
9 July 2014
Accidentally drowned while fishing
with his young grandson
in Toowoomba



ANZAC Day 2014

Doug Brazier, Life Member and Elder Statesman of the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc, with his Family



**Sean Maggs, Great-Grandson of Geoff Maggs
(former President of the RAEME Association of Victoria)
carrying the RAEME Banner in the Anzac Day Parade at Jarradale, WA**

BLUEBELL
Vietnam Veterans Southern

**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**
Monday 18 August 2014

0930 – 1100 hrs *Gunfire Breakfast*
 1030 – 1130 hrs Marchers gather at
 Northern Forecourt.
 RAEME Banner.
 1130 hrs Marchers form up at northern
 Forecourt
 1200 hrs March Step Off.
 Official Commemoration Service.
 1300 hrs Formalities conclude.

Vietnam Veterans Day is a day to commemorate lives lost during Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War: 1962 - 1975.

All arms of the Australian Defence Force come together on this day, united as one and remember that efforts, their sacrifices, were that others would have a better life.

Lest We Forget

Honour the dead but Fight like Hell for the Living

After march, RAEME Reunion will be held at Prahran RSL Club located at 301 High Street Prahran. It has recently been fully renovated. Tram route 6 will convey you there from Saint Kilda Road beyond the Shrine.

Last meeting was held at Box Hill RSL. The Committee are arranging a Cruise to New Zealand in early 2015 for all RAEME Vietnam Veterans from all States. There will also be a bus trip to the Seymour Commemorative Walk, including an overnight stop-over. Further information regarding these tours will be forthcoming.

RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

1 Field Squadron Workshop
 Adelaide Sth. Australia Final Date TBA 2016
 Contact Don Grieveson
greiveson@internode.on.net

17 Construction Squadron Workshop October 2015
 Bendigo Victoria
 Contact Garry Whykes H 08 9276 1920 M 0411 810077
gwhykes@gmail.com

102 Field Workshop September 2015
 "Avondale" 601 Bray's Rd Gannawarra
 Contact Noel Lake 03 5456 9246

1 Armoured Regiment LAD
 Halls Gap Victoria 2015
 Contact Russell Cunningham H 03 5766 2413 M 0437 834089
bungie12@bigpond.net.au

1 Div. S&T / 5 Coy. Workshop
 Darwin 15th 16th 17th August 2014
 Contact Trevor Smith H 08 8985 4116 M 0408 033380
trevor.smith13@bigpond.com

106 Field Workshop
 Wrest Point Casino Hobart 3rd 4th 5th October 2014
 Contact Patrick Downey H 03 244 2508

***Vietnam: LOOKING BACK AT THE
 AMERICAN FACTS***

Author K.G. Sears, PhD.

I would like to stress this how an American viewed the Vietnam War. Not necessarily an Australian View.

Parallel Point

During its Normandy battles in 1944 the US 90th Infantry division, [roughly 15,000 plus men] over a six week period, had to replace 150% of its officers and more than 100% of its men. The 173rd Airborne Brigade [there are three brigades to a division] served in Vietnam for a total of 2,301 days and holds the record for the longest continuous service under fire of any American unit, ever. During, that six year, three month period the "173" lost 1,601 roughly 31% of its men killed in action.

Further Food For Thought

Casualties tell the tale. Again, the US Army War College Library provides numbers. The former South Vietnam was made up of 44 provinces. The province that claimed the most Americans killed was Quang Tri, which bordered on both North Vietnam and Laos. Fifty – four percent of the Americans killed in Vietnam, were in the northern most provinces, which in addition to Quang Tri, were Thua Thien, Quang Nam Quan Tin.

All of them shared borders with Laos. An additional six provinces accounted for 25% of the Americans killed in action [KIA]. These six all shared provinces with either Laos or Cambodia or had contiguous borders that did. The remaining provinces accounted for just 21% of US KIA. These numbers should, dispel the notion that Vietnam was some kind of flaming inferno or a huge cauldron of violent revolutionary dissent.

The overwhelming majority of Americans killed, died in border battles, against regular North Vietnamese units.

Looking back it is now clear that the American military role in Vietnam was in essence, one of defending international borders. Contrary to popular belief, they turned in an outstanding performance and accomplished their mission.

The US military was not driven from Vietnam. They were voted out by US Congress. The same Congress then turned around and abandoned America's former ally, South Vietnam.

Should America feel shame? Yes! Why? For kowtowing to the wishes of those craven hoards of dodgers and for bugging out and abandoning an ally they had promised to protect.

(To Be Continued)



ANZAC COMMEMORATION Alkira Secondary College

On Monday 28 April 2014, the students of Alkira Secondary College held an Anzac Commemoration comprising a tribute to the Anzacs of Gallipoli Landing.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Ersel Ozdemir, the Vice-Consul of the Republic of Turkey, who spoke of the bonds between modern Turkey and Australia

The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc was represented by President John Boothroyd, Secretary Alan Rogers and Pat Marley

Students presented poems depicting the spirit of Anzac and of Simpson and his Donkey.

Wreathes and tributes were laid by the Turkish Vice-Consul, veterans, guests and students, followed by The Ode and the Last Post played by Max Hunter of the Cranbourne Lions Club., the Minute Silence followed by the Rouse, the raising of the Flag and the National Anthem.

AN ANZAC POEM

*by Alkira Secondary College Students
Jessie Pope, Ben Bowler, Tayla Rollens
and Jordan Creely*

Why do we cheer those brown-faced boys with pride,
Why do dense crowds press round on every side,
Why do we throw them flowers, our hearts aglow?
Well-turn a minute to three years ago.

A moonlit beach-a cliff of scrub and bush-
The creeping, crowded boats-a breathless hush-
A crunch of keels -a leap, a shallow splash-
And then inferno, thunder, blaze and crash.

"Straight as a bayonet"-riddled where they fell;
Hacking the wire, across that strip of Hell;
Those untried heroes-husky and blood-drenched-
Hurled back the Turkish outposts -and entrenched!

The thing that was impossible was done!
From the beginning thus have Britons won.
So, year by year, in words of fire and gold,
The Anzacs' glorious landing shall be told.



*Alkira Secondary College 28 April 2014
Anzac Commemoration Veterans, ex-Service and Guests*

SIMPSON AND HIS DONKEY

*by Alkira Secondary College Students
David Smith-White, Jayden Keen and
Aaron Feldman*

On the beaches of Gallipoli,
in the Straits of the Dardenelles.
A man led his stoic donkey,
through blast and bursting shell.
Like the heroes of the ancients,
there are still bards to tell:
how Simpson and his Donkey,
made it a little less like hell.

LEST WE FORGET

*by Alkira Secondary College Students
Teighan Felton and Jordan Millar*

Lest we forget, pay our respects.
To the women and men who served our land.
They heard the call, they marched in time.
For our country gave their lives lest we forget.

Going from their homes and families they saw a job.
That needed to be done, away in distant lands.
For the sake of freedom, freedom everywhere.
The sons and daughters of Australia were there.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

JOHN BOOTHROYD

PRESIDENT OF RAEME



ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF AT
ALKIRA SECONDARY COLLEGE,

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE
ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY ON MONDAY THE 28TH APRIL 2014



Alkira
Secondary College

Signature

Ian McKenzie - College Principal

Date

28/4/2014

VCAL AWARD

On 17 June 2014, the RAEME Association Victoria was presented a

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning Partnership Award

by the Victorian Minister for Education,
Hon, Martin Dixon MP.

This Award is in recognition of the contribution of the RAEME Association (Vic) to the program "In Their Footsteps" undertaken by Year 11 Students at Alkira Secondary College during 2013.

The award was accepted by the President John Boothroyd, accompanied by Pat Marley.





2013 VCAL Achievement Award

For excellence in the category of
PARTNER – VCAL PARTNERSHIPS
RAEME Association Victoria

With congratulations from the
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Dixon'.

Hon Martin Dixon, MP
Minister for Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Firth'.

John Firth, CEO
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Wardlaw'.

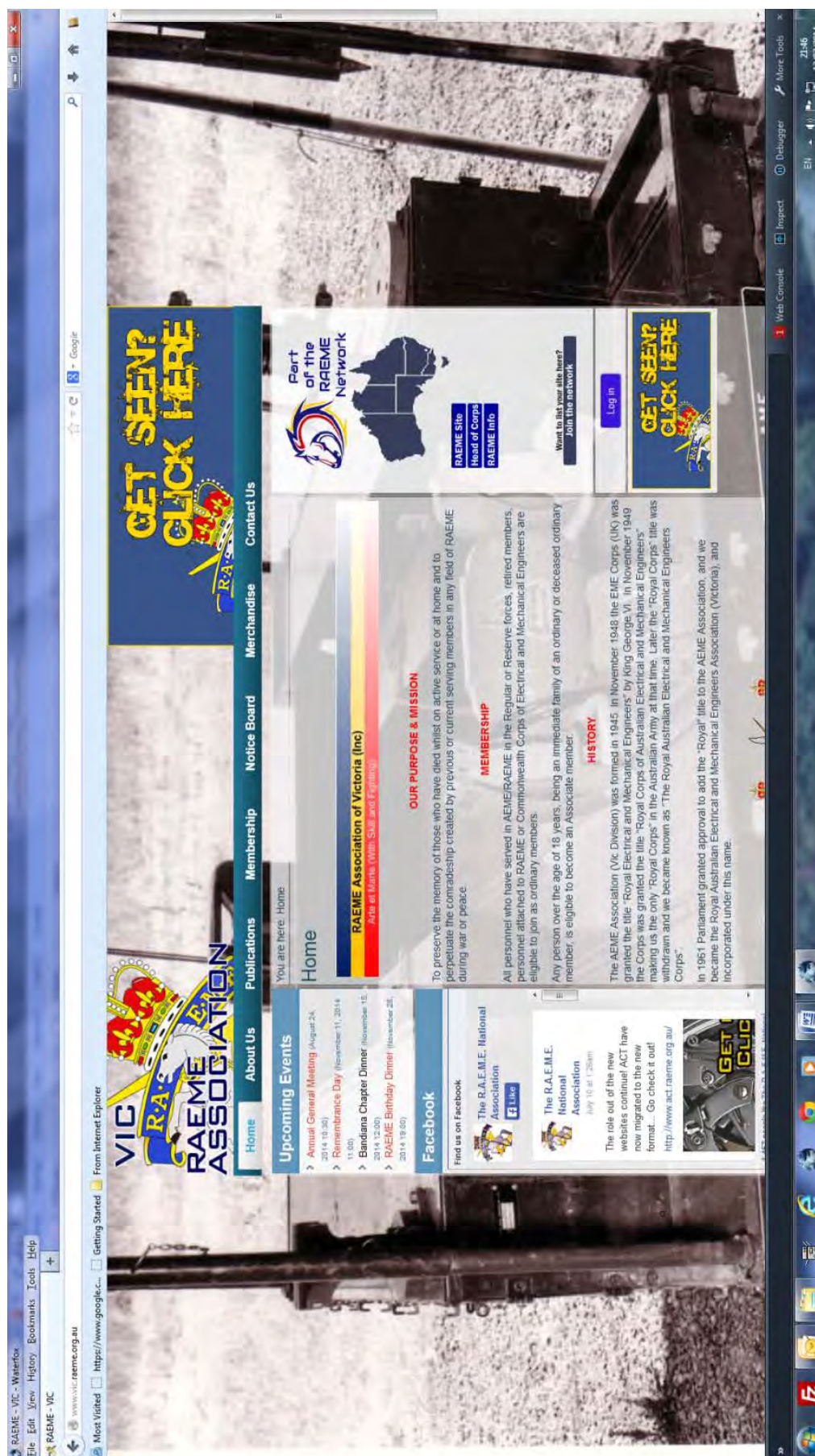
Doug Wardlaw, Chair
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority



The Certificate awarded to the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.

OUR NEW WEBSITE

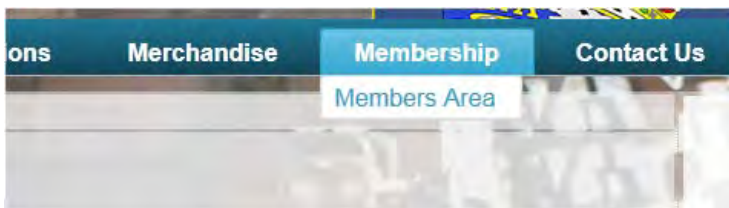
www.vic.raeme.org.au



The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc has joined with other State/Territory Associations and the RAEME National Association in a common appearance and certain common features, while each State/Territory Association maintains its own unique local content.

To access the secure Members area, click the purple "Log-in" button on the right, and in the box that appears, enter the Username and Password you were given with your Membership Renewal Receipt.

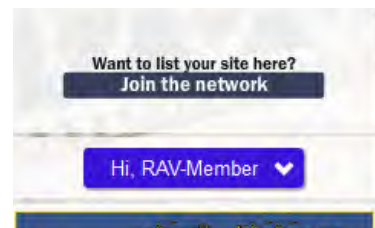
A previously hidden sub-menu item "Members Area" is now active from the "Membership" menu item.

A screenshot of a login form titled 'LOGIN TO YOUR ACCOUNT' with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains two input fields: 'Username *' and 'Password *'. Below the password field is a checkbox labeled 'Remember Me'. A purple 'Log in' button is positioned below the inputs. At the bottom, there are two links: 'Forgot your password?' and 'Forgot your username?'.

Note also that the button that was "Log in" now shows: "Hi, RAV-Member". To log out, click the down-arrow "v" on the right of that greeting. A purple "log out" button appears.



Click this button to log out.



The secure Members Area contains 2013/2014 issues of the "Lightning Flash", and office-bearers' details

Left Blank for AGM Lunch Order Return Slip

Notice of Annual General Meeting
of
The RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated
Incorporation Reg No A0022655Z
Sunday 24th August 2014 at 1030hrs
Melbourne Shrine St Kilda Rd

Agenda items / Motions to be submitted in writing to the Secretary no later than 10th August 2014

Note; Rule 5.9 (g) Annual Subscriptions shall be paid in advance on or before the 1st July each year (h) A Service or Affiliate member who has not paid their Annual Subscription is not entitled to speak or vote at a meeting including elections, or to hold any office in the Association or a Chapter

Committee of Management Nominations

Members wishing to nominate for the 2014-15 Committee of Management
should contact the Association Secretary for a nomination form.
Completed Nomination forms must be with the Association Secretary no later than August 16th 2014
Nominations after this date will not be accepted
Note: Chapter Presidents or Chapter Nominee automatically hold a position on
the Committee of Management
Association Secretary Address; PO Box 2118 FOUNTAIN GATE 3805
e-mail; secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

NOTE: Telephone Nominations will not be accepted



LIGHT LUNCHEON SUPPLIED

I _____

I _____

WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE 2014 AGM

WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE LUNCH AT THE 2014 AGM

Reply to; Alan Rogers by 10th August 2014 by the following
Email; raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com Mail; PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805
☎ (03) 9704 6700

Note;

**Due to the increasing catering cost the number of meals ordered
will be determined by the returns received.
Failure to confirm lunch attendance, will result in having the meal at own expense.**

Alan Rogers
Association Secretary

Australian Army Slang

After Fives - Refers to the plain black spit polished dress shoe worn by soldiers either with their pollies or after dinner to give their feet a rest from their boots.

A.J. (A Jay) - Army Jerk. Derogatory term often used by civilians in reference to soldiers in townships with large concentrations of soldiers (Particularly Darwin and Townsville). Also often used by soldiers in reference to other soldiers behaving badly in public, for example "He was being a real AJ" or "They were acting like a bunch of real AJ's and giving the rest of us a bad name".

Arc-up - To initiate an engagement against an enemy force with offensive fire. Also to shout at, as in "Sarge arced-up at me for not ironing my DPCUs."

A**e-end Arnold - Used to refer to the person who is guarding the rear in any field patrol formation (typically used only by the infantry corps).

AusCam - The standard camouflage pattern on Australian Military equipment. Derived from AUStralian CAMouflage.

Bachy - Pouch tobacco used to roll your own cigarettes.

Back-ups - Seconds (when having a meal).

Beasting - To 'Beast' means to stand over or monster a subordinate. The expression is more commonly used by officers. For example He copped a beating off the Sergeant Major.

Black Hat - Refers to either Armoured Corps personnel (Black Berets) or to non-SAS personnel posted to the SAS regiment.

Blowies - The term 'Blowie' or 'Blow Fly', refers to Royal Australian Army Medical Corps hygienists.

Blue Orchids - Derogatory term for Air Force personnel (used by soldiers and sailors in reference to their preciousness and scarceness).

Australian Army Slang

Blues - Navy or Air Force (Blue) Service Dress uniform. Also Blue Suiter, a member of the RAAF (Not necessarily wearing blues). Army full dress uniform, commonly used at the RMC. Once issued to all ranks.

Blunt - A derogative term to describe anyone deemed not to be at the 'pointy end' (ie front-line/operational). Always a favourite of fighter pilots, who believe that pretty much anyone that isn't strapped into a chair is a blunt!

Bog roll- Toilet paper

Boggy - Short for bograt, the slang term for a Pilot Officer (the most junior commissioned Air Force Officer rank).

Bongos - In general, equipment; often refers to field equipment carried on the person.
" Pack up your bongos and get on that truck."

Idealist and Pragmatist

The Company Commander and the Company Sergeant-Major were in the field. As they hit the sack for the night, the Sergeant-Major said, "Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"

The CO said, "I see millions of stars."

CSM: "And what does that tell you, sir?"

CO: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Sar'-Major?"

CSM: "Well sir, it tells me that somebody stole our tent."

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc.

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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 October Flash
Monday 29 September 2014
Items to Pat Marley:**

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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PLEASE SAVE WRAPPER

Change of Address

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.

Email: