

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

July 2015

Issue 80

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.
Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994
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ANZAC Day Parade 2015

Our thanks to Cadet Unit of the Melbourne High School Army Cadet Unit for their support in providing Cadets as Banner Bearers for our ANZAC Day Parade. The Cadets did a great job and their efforts were greatly appreciated by our members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Presidents Lunch was attended by 35 people. This included our special guests, Mrs Betty Ridgway and Mrs Roma Cox. The meal was enjoyed by all and a special thank you was extended to the staff at Clayton RSL especially Charles and his team for providing us with this delicious three course lunch! Unfortunately, Charles is leaving the RSL and we wished him success in his new venture.

On Thursday 23rd April, your Secretary Alan Rogers and I helped Clayton RSL sell Anzac Day badges at Monash Medical Centre.

Anzac Day was overcast, and about an hour before we stepped off we had light soaking rain. Due to this inclement weather, an executive decision was made not to unfurl and march behind our new banner. Instead, our older vinyl banner was used as it would not soak up the rain! We were fortunate enough to secure six Banner Bearers from Melbourne High School Army Cadet Unit who did their Cadet Unit proud by doing their utmost to keep 'in step' despite the two bands that were audible from our location in the march. One band, three groups to our front and one band, three groups to our rear and they managed not to play in unison!

On the 23rd March we had six veterans help support Alkira Secondary College year 9 students with their WW1 project. On Monday 27th April, several Association members attended an Anzac Day Remembrance Service at the College, and that afternoon, we moved on to Hillsmeade Primary School for a service conducted by VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) students from Alkira College.

Finally, on behalf of RAEME members from Victoria, I sincerely congratulate MAJ Richard Moyses CSM (President of AEME/RAEME Association of South Australia Inc.) who has recently been awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

A well-deserved recognition, Richard.

The award was for "meritorious achievements as Detachment Commander and Staff Officer Grade 2 Career Advisor, Career Advisory Group – Central, Directorate of Reserve Officer Career Management – Army".

Mike Newbond
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

RAEME Banner Cost

Several Comments have been made relating to the cost of the current Association Banner. The Banner was manufactured by an Australian firm in Blackburn. This firm manufactured the Prince Philip Banner and manufactures many Banners, Flags etc for the Australian Defence Forces. The costing of the Banner of \$8030-00; details \$4700-00 Government Grants & other donations Cost to the Association \$3300-00 including individual carry poles covers, banner and two shoulder carriers. This would similar to the estimated cost from a company overseas for the Banner without the carry poles, individual covers for the poles and banner, the two shoulder carriers. The Committee feel that that actual cost to the Association was more than reasonable.

Committee of Management; Members wishing to nominate for the Committee of Management can obtain nomination forms from the Secretary.

**Forms to be returned to the Secretary by
1800hrs 10th August 2015**

ANZAC Day

30+ RAEME past & present serving members marched on the day which was an increase in the numbers from previous years. 1FSS Doveton provided a vehicle and driver for the march, the vehicle followed behind our marching RAEME members which several members took advantage of in order to be part of the day. After the March several members went back to the Palace Hotel in South Melbourne to join in the ANZAC Day festivities arranged by the Victoria Barracks Chapter. Our thanks to Alex Birrell and other members who assisted. All members enjoyed the day especially the two-up (some members' wallets would be a little lighter)

I understand a considerable amount of money was raised for the Salvation Army on the day. 6 Army Cadets Banner Bearers were supplied by MHSACU, (see front page photo). A letter of appreciation has been forwarded their OC

Alkira Secondary College

27th April ANZAC Remembrance Service was held at Alkira College at 1100hrs with several Association members in attendance (Mike Newbond, Alan Rogers, John Boothroyd) President Mike Newbond addressed the assembly of students in relation to the meaning of ANZAC,

After the Alkira Service the members went to the Hillsmeade Primary School where another service arranged by the VCAL students from Alkira College was carried out.

Year 9 students are studying the history of WW1 Forces this year; the Association has been asked if we can arrange for some WW1 Descendants can attend the College on the 24th August to talk to the Students about their ancestors who fought in WW1.

At the moment we have 5 volunteers and would like another 3 or 4; Members wishing to participate. Contact the Secretary for further details

The Students will be holding a Remembrance Service at the Melbourne Shrine on the 1st September at 1100hrs. All Association Members are invited to attend

BALANCE OF ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONS FOR 2015

JUNE 2015	JULY 2015 5th Reserve Forces Day Parade Melbourne Shrine	AUGUST 2015 30 TH AGM Clayton RSL To commence 1130hrs
SEPTEMBER 2015 1st Akira College Remembrance Day Melb Shrine 1100hrs	OCTOBER 2015	NOVEMBER 2015 Bandiana Annual Dinner RAEME Birthday Dinner Clayton RSL TBA
DECEMBER 2015	MARCH 2016 Shrine Remembrance TBA	

**Annual General Meeting 30th August 2015
Clayton RSL
to commence at 1130hrs
RSL opens at 1100HRS**



VALE

Ray Cuddihy
7th September 2014

Ed Collins (Life Member)
9th October 2014

Ray Pretty
24th March 2015

Ross Hope (Life Member)
9th May 2015

*Interstate "Vale" Notices can be viewed on the Association website here:
www.vic.raeme.org.au/index.php/notice-board/vale*

VALE (A as in father; E as in deign)
Farewell; Goodbye

MEMBERSHIP

All the membership dues accounts have been mailed out to our members.

I am pleased to say there has been a prompt response and members have been forwarding their dues. Most receipts are now sent to the members by email.



A reminder to inform the membership officer or treasurer of any payment by EFT.

A reminder is given to make sure any changes in postal, email addresses or phone/mobile numbers are reported to the Association Secretary (email) secretary@vic.raeme.org.au or post to PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805

We all look forward to prompt attention in payment of the annual dues.

Gus Allen
Membership Officer

BLUEBELL**Vietnam Veterans Southern****NEWS: RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS
VIETNAM LONG TAN DAY**

RAEME VIETNAM will form up
on the path to the forecourt of the SHRINE
**RAEME VIETNAM WILL BE
BEHIND THE NEW BANNER**

AFTER MARCH RE-UNION will be at
**PRAHAN RSL, 301 HIGH STREET
PRAHAN TRAM ROUTE 6** from St. Kilda Road up
from The Shrine

MEETINGS

Our last meeting was held at **WERRIBEE RSL**
Our Next meeting will be at **SEAFORD RSL**

RAEME ACTIVITY IN VIET NAM

Continued from last Bluebell in April Lightning Flash

Vincent Neale crew commander on the carrier "Steele" reported locating the scattered remains of a skeleton, held together by his uniform. Fresh human footprints were still being discovered, in the minefield, particularly around the underground bunkers that were progressively being found, while the clearing operation was underway. A major bogging incident in the southeast of Dat Do during September reconfirmed the existence of NLF sappers living and working in the minefield. During the late afternoon clearing operations a carrier – minesweeper, had fallen through the roof of a sizeable underground bunker in some banana trees within the fence.

A bulldozer attempted to drag the carrier out, but it became bogged. A second dozer went to its aid but also became bogged. The dark of night arrived with the three machines unmovable. A company of infantry were added to the existing force and took their place in the Night Defensive Positions either side of the minefield around the bogged vehicles. During the night the infantry on the eastern side reported some brushing noises coming from inside the minefield. These were put down to the wind. Fortunately the area was approached by 1 Field with their usual caution as the machines and surrounding area had been booby trapped by local VC sappers, again using ordnance stolen from the minefield. They did this within 30 metres of the Australian infantry. This shows how desperate the local VC, were to retain control of their minefield arsenal. It was a credit to Australian Engineers that they were able to clear and secure the immediate without incurring any casualties. The bogged machines were then removed using a daisy chain of Centurion tanks. A few days later not far from this point, another underground bunker was identified by a "Choi Hoi" [VC defector from D445 Battalion] hidden under a tombstone.

This bunker contained 95 M.26 grenades with M5 pressure release switches. Probably product from this bunker was used to booby trap the machines. The enemy activity in the minefield, made the relentless effort, necessary to maintain the clearing operations. The uneven surface of the field and thick vegetation, apart from the interference of the lifting and sometime relocation of mines by "Charlie" made very difficult to account for the mines. Officially, 15872 mines had been laid around the Dat Do and southern sections of the minefield swept during Operation Frangimus 1 & 2.

According to the official count, a total of 9726 mines jumped in the same areas. Some 6146 mines, or 38 per cent of the total laid in those two areas were unaccounted for. A combination of VC mine-lifting and limitations in Australian Minesweeping methods accounted for that discrepancy.

Frangimus 3 saw a change in mine clearing method to the detection and burying of the wretched mines. A Land Clearing Team style Caterpillar D.8 was to be used. Further modifications were made to a D8 where it was completely encased in steel plate around the protective frame [roll cage] with small observation slots cut into the plate with Tank-glass filling them. A radio was inserted for external contact to tower, ground crew etc. It was named Her Majesty's Armoured D8 "Power", after John Power O/C, of 1 Field Squadron Workshop, who was instrumental in the design and up armouring of the mine-clearing carriers. A third Carrier named "George" was modified and added to the team, along with two T.D 15 International 'dozers, which were also up – armoured. The D.8. would dig bull bar blade width slots 2.5 metres wide, by 2.5 metres deep, by 90 metres long, every 100 metres across the mine field and then back fill them with 30-60 centimetres of top soil. The main peril was that the slots opened up a subterranean gallery of M16 mines and anti-lift devices that had gravitated down the slot walls at various angles. Meanwhile the carriers would continue making multiple passes in the other sectors of the field.

One Sapper who operated D.8. Colin Ventry Bowden had this version of "Dante's Inferno". As was standard practice with land clearing the operator wore a "heavy flak jacket" and had to live with the heat from the engine, radiator fan, gearbox, hydraulics and final drive, which all worked overtime due to additional weight of the machine. Of course mines were sticking up out of the ground everywhere, on all kinds of angles and invariably you back over one of these which would be setting of huge explosion and you could hear the shrapnel spraying all over the sides of the dozer. Many times I looked at the metal plating around the cabin and was very grateful, to the guys who did all the welding; another common occurrence was that when you ran over the mine, many times the grouser plates and track chains were blown totally of the machine, which left you incapable of moving and stuck in middle of the minefield. Enter the RAEME Recovery and fitters teams.

To Be Continued

A GUIDE TO WEARING TO WEARING MEDALS AND BADGES

*Reference: A. It's an Honour web site-
www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards*

Introduction

The following guide is designed to remove doubt, which can sometimes arise when having to decide when and how to wear awards. The official guide is to be found in reference A; [much of which is included here],but the following is an attempt to expand this guide as it applies to primarily Viet Nam Veterans and is produce in an effort to ensure uniformity going forward.

Overview

Recipients of awards are granted insignia as a visual expression of the honour conferred on them. For most Australian awards, the presentation box usually contains a range of pieces.:

- A. The full sized medal.
- B. A miniature medal with ribbon
- C. A ribbon bar, and
- D. For some awards, a lapel badge or brooch

How To Wear

Most Australian awards are pinned above the left breast. Multiple medals are mounted on a metal bar in the order set out in the Australian Order Of Wearing, usually done when the medals are professionally mounted or re-mounted.

The Infantry Combat Badge [ICB] and the Army Combat Badge [ACB] is worn central to the medal bar and pinned so that the bottom of the badge is approximately one centimeter [1cm] above the medal bar. They are not to be attached in any way to the medal ribbons. They are not to be polished.

The Returned From Active Service [RAS] Badge is worn on the left jacket lapel positioned near the button hole. The RAS Badge stands alone and not to be worn with any other embellishments including full or miniature medals i.e. when wearing medals the RAS Badge is not to be worn. It is also not to be polished.

Awards of deceased family members may be worn during commemorative events when the wearing of medals is appropriate, eg ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day. These awards are worn on the right breast, to indicate that the awards are not on their own.

Unofficial Medals/Badges

Ideally, unofficial medals should never be worn and definitely not worn at public ceremonial and commemorative events. They are never mixed with official medals. If you really must wear an unofficial medal [one you bought], it must be worn on the right breast.

A list of unofficial [meaning not issued by the Federal Government] badges relevant to veteran members would include the VVAA badge, Long Tan Crosses

Of all designs, Life Membership badges, the RSL badge, the TPI badge, RAR and SASR badges, etc. There is no protocol for the wearing of these badges and they are seen as been commonly worn on the left lapel, however wearing of these badges should be kept to a minimum, particularly on formal occasions.

State Awards

These are not considered 'unofficial' and may be worn on the right breast.

When to wear/not To Wear

The difference insignia pieces are worn according to the type of event.

Day Functions

Full size medals are worn on the left breast at day functions where decorations have been prescribed. This would include:

All Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration services, ANZAC DAY services and Funeral services as requested. Miniature medals, RAS badges and unofficial badges should not be worn on these occasions.

Evening Functions

At events such as evening receptions and formal dinners where decorations have been prescribed, miniature medals and miniature ICB/ACB are generally worn. The RAS badge and unofficial badges are not worn on these occasions.

Everyday Wear

A lapel badge or brooch may be worn on civilian clothes eg. Suit coat or sports jacket, at any time. Only one badge or brooch is worn at a given time. This is the appropriate time to wear the RAS badge, but it is not worn when other insignia eg VVAA badge, RSL badge, are worn.

RAEME Viet Nam Unit Reunions

102 Field Workshop September 2015
"Avondale" 601 Brays Road Gannawarra Victoria
Contact Noel Lake 03 5456 9246

1 Armoured Regiment LAD October
2015 16th 17th 18th
Halls Gap Victoria
Contact Russell Cunningham H 03 5766 2413 M 0437
834089
Bungie12@bigpond.net.au

17 Construction Workshop October
19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd
Bendigo Victoria
Contact Garry Whykes H 08 9726 1920 M 0411 810077
ghwhykes@gmail.com

1 Field Squadron Workshop 2016 Date TBA
Adelaide South Australia
Contact Don Grieveson or Tony Hinton H 08 8449 5945
grieveson@internode.on.net arhinton@hotmail.com

106 Field Workshop 2016 November 18th 19th 20th
Venue: Frankston Football Club Victoria. – The Mighty Dolphins
Note: there is lift access & the function centre seats over 200.
Contact Milton Pearson Tel 03: 5976 8648
csm1066869@gmail.com

**“AVONDALE”
102 FIELD WORKSHOP
R.A.E.M.E REUNION NEWSLETTER
2015**



For more information about any article in this newsletter please contact your State representative from the list below.

<u>STATE</u>	<u>CONTACT NAME</u>	<u>CONTACT PHONE NUMBER</u>
New South Wales	Ian Beveridge	02 4626 6173
Victoria. N. W. Country	Noel Lake	03 5456 9246
Victoria. South Gippsland	Ron Mahoney	03 56331182
Victoria. Metropolitan	Derrick Guye	03 9779 9106
South Australia	Geoff Kohler	08 8642 2274
Western Australia	Chris Pickering	08 9061 1604
Tasmania	David Brough	03 6265 1492

EMAIL If you have not given me your e-mail address or you have changed it recently could you provide me with this information as emailing helps with the mailing costs and you receive information quicker. My email is iandj7@bigpond.net.au

REUNION INFORMATION

WHEN:
Weekend of the 2nd. 3rd. 4th. October 2015,

VENUE:
'Avondale' 601 Brays Road, Gannawarra. Victoria.

COST: Friday evening to Sunday midmorning (including 5 meals, wine, beer, soft drinks tea and coffee)

- Single \$80.00
- Double \$130.00

One day only

- Single \$45.00
- Double \$65.00

CATERING:

While it is not necessary to pay the cost for attending until the day of the Reunion, it is important that numbers are obtained for catering purposes. Please advise of your attendance by phone to Noel Lake, 03 5456 9246 or email Noel on koonda@activ8.net.au

ACCOMMODATION:

There is plenty of room for tents and caravans; however the supply of power to caravans is limited due to the fact that when all additional electrical appliances, e.g air conditioners are used the main fuses tend to blow. For those who like to sleep under the stars; there is also a limited amount of space (under canvas) in the main tent at the conclusion of the evening's program at the venue. All personal needs, including sleeping bags, pillows and covers are not provided and must come with you.

For those who require more personalized comfort there are motels situated a short drive from the venue. The booking of this accommodation is the responsibility of each member personally. Some contacts suggested are:

- Cohuna Motor Inn 03 5456 2974
- Barham Bridge Motor Inn 03 5453 2777
- Barham Club Motor Inn 03 5453 2822

TRANSPORT:

If you are having trouble organizing transport, talk to your State contact they may be able to provide information relating to members who have organized busses, have any vacant seats in their cars coming from your area, or arrange pickups at some airports, Melbourne and Kerang or some railway stations. If you would like to link into any of these suggestions it is important to discuss your needs giving enough time to allow arrangements to be made.

If you require more information please use the contact list above.

Hope to see you all on the first weekend in October.

An Anzac Poem by Erin Marley (age 12)

Grand-daughter of Editor Pat Marley

She wrote this as part of an Anzac Project at Catherine McAuley School, Adelaide.
Erin's Dad John is a RAAF Avionics SGT based at RAAF Base Edinburgh, Adelaide.

Poppies To Remember

I've always known that poppies grow
Beneath the crosses row by row
But I've never really questioned why
They choose to grow where dead men lie
Why choose to thrive where war once reigned
Where the world was full of terror and pain
Where many good men fought and fell
Fighting to survive in that living hell
I questioned why, so now I know
Why they thrive beneath the rows
They don't grow as a garden, not as of yet
They grow as a reminder:

"Lest We Forget"

By Erin Marley - age 12

Catherine McAuley School

OPERATION SPANNER PACK

This report has been lifted from the RAEME Association of SA Newsletter.

It is disappointing that RAEME Association of Vic did not receive a copy.

It should be noted that RAEME Association of Vic forwarded Magazines, DVDs, knitted articles of clothing, novels etc to the RAEME Troops in Afghanistan on a regular basis

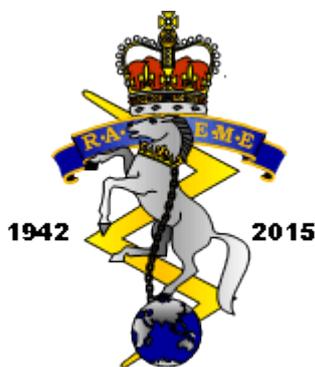
The Spanner Pack operation is still busy keeping in touch with our brothers and sisters on deployed operations and they have recently provided another 50 Spanner Packs to our overseas members.

Please advise Ray Norman if you know of RAEME soldiers being, or who are deployed, to places other than Afghanistan. We need to ensure all deployed RAEME personnel get their packs. Ray would also like to hear from you if you know of anyone or any organisation who would like to donate items to refresh the contents of the packs.

This operation will continue whilst RAEME troops are on deployment, so your continued support is welcome.

They are still valued very much as the following letter suggests!

Raymond G. Norman OAM
Spanner Pack Coordinator
rgnorman1944@gmail.com



ARMY /UNIT UPDATE

Allan Hawkins / Mike Newbond

On Saturday 21 March, our Secretary and I attended the Welcome Home parade for OPERATION SLIPPER that was held at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Vietnam Vets and the Association had our banners displayed on the side, along the route of the parade in support of the diggers. The banners were of interest to some supporters of the march as we were asked if photos could be taken of the banner together with members of the public taking selfies (with the banner in the background)

As of 1 July 2015, the following changes will occur:

- The Defence, Materiel Organisation will be de-listed as an entity and will become the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group within the Department. The only position to be re-named at this stage will be the CEO of the Defence Materiel Organisation which will become the Deputy Secretary Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group. Initially, the new Group will mirror the existing DM0 in structure. This will, however, change over time consistent with the First Principles Review and once the new Group Head is in place.
- Defence Support and Reform Group will be re-named Estate and Infrastructure Group;
- Defence People Group's new structure will commence and will include the Defence Learning Branch;
- Defence Security Agency will be re-named Defence Security and Vetting Service;
- Reform and Corporate Services Division will be re-named Governance and Reform Division; and . Commander Australian Defence College will become Head Joint Enablers Commander Australian Defence College.

The Capability Development Group and the Intelligence and Security Group will continue to operate as groups until around the end of this year or early 2016. Transition to the new arrangements is dependent on the finalisation of the White Paper and designing the new capability development process.

We also agreed a set of leadership behaviours. In developing these signature leadership behaviours, we have considered the Australian Public Service values, the Defence values, Pathway to Change as well as the values of Navy, Army and Air Force.

These are attached for your information. We would welcome any comments.

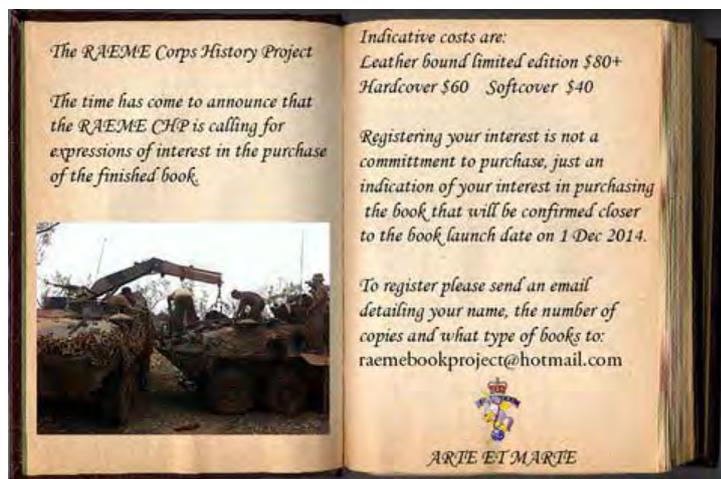
Please send to the Implementation Office - first.principles@2defence.gov.au.

A first draft of the work stream implementation plans were finalised last Friday, 5 June. Over the past week this has been further refined and will be considered by the Implementation Committee on 18 June 2015. Over the next few weeks, we will be finalising the Plan and having discussions with the Minister, the Oversight Board and central agencies. The progress report is attached for your information.

As we are close to the end of the plan development phase and about to move into implementation proper, there will be a Senior Leadership Group meeting on 22 July 2015 as well as a series of town hall meetings to discuss the Implementation Plan. We also intend to continue with our weekly and monthly emails to keep you informed of progress. If you have feedback on any improvements we can make in communicating with you and your staff, please email the Implementation Office at first.principles@defence.gov.au or contact either one of us direct.

Dennis Richardson
Secretary
Ray Griggs
Acting Chief of the Defence Force

RAEME CORPS HISTORY PROJECT Book Launch at Australian War Memorial, Canberra



Colleagues, I can confirm that Wednesday, 9th September is now locked in as the date for the RAEME CHP Book Launch at the Australian War Memorial.

The event will commence from about 4:30pm with the Last Post Ceremony and then moving into the AWM for the official book launch. Further details to follow, but please feel free to promulgate more widely for planning purposes.

Tom Reynolds
Colonel Commandant
RAEME ACT/NSW



(Left Blank for AGM Catering Return Slip)

Notice of Annual General Meeting

of

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated

Incorporation Reg No A0022655Z

**Sunday 30th August 2015 at 1130hrs
Clayton RSL (Opposite Railway Station)
Carinish Rd Clayton**

**Agenda Items / Motions to be submitted in writing to the Secretary no later than
1800hrs Monday 10th August 2015**

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 2015-16 Committee of Management should contact the Association Secretary for a Nomination Form. Completed Nomination Forms must be with the Association Secretary no later than 1800hrs Monday 10th August 2015

Note: Chapter Presidents or Chapter Nominee automatically hold a position on the Committee of Management

Association Secretary Address: PO Box 2118 FOUNTAIN GATE 3805

email: secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

NOTE: Telephone Nominations will not be accepted

✂

Please advise attendance for catering purposes

LIGHT LUNCHEON SUPPLIED-- DRINKS AT MEMBERS EXPENSE

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 16th August 2015 by the following

Email: secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

Mail: PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805

☎ (03) 9704 6700

Note:

Due to the increasing costs catering 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

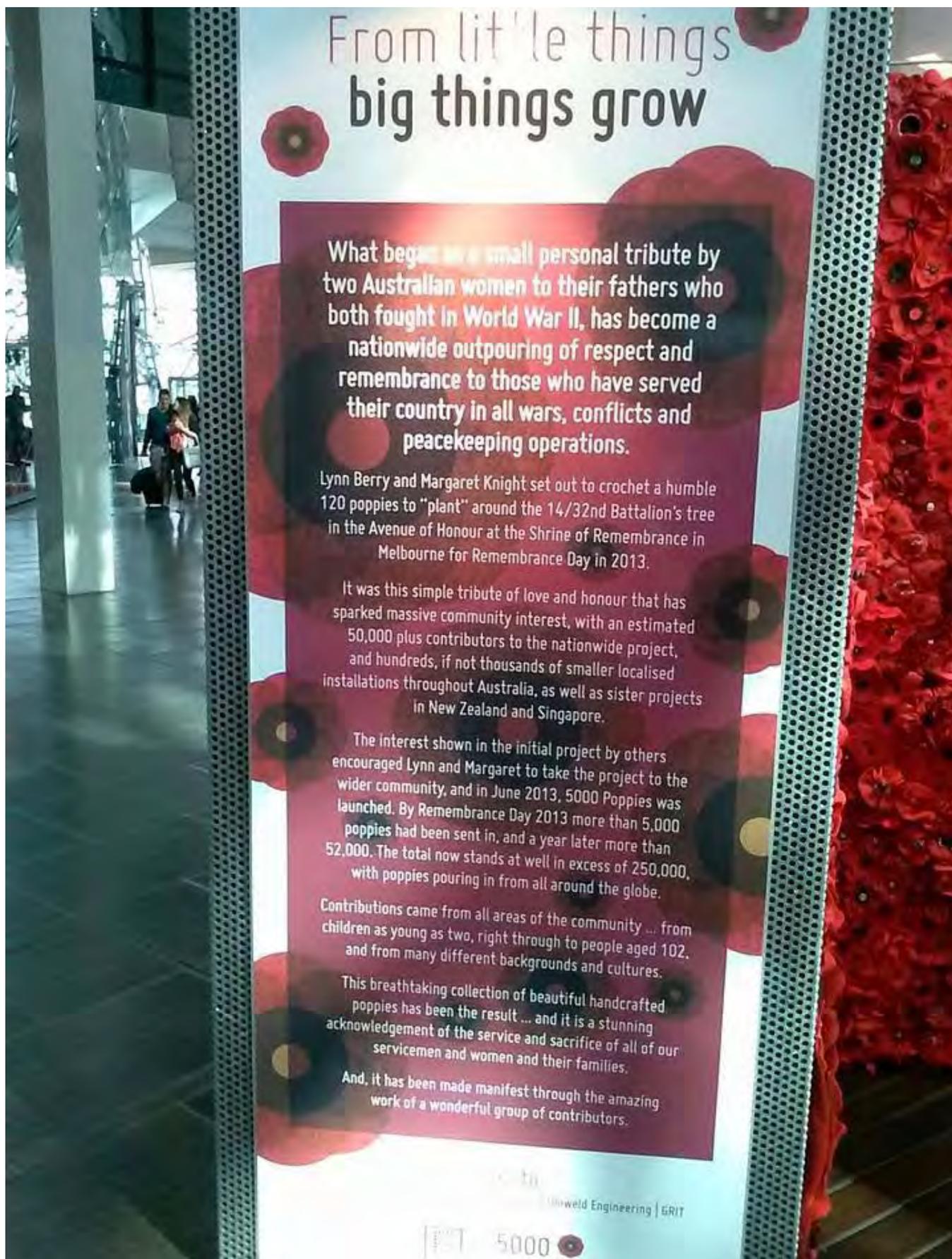
RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH



The turnout for Reserve Forces Day 5th July 2015 was disappointing with only 13 Association members marching and only one Association being smaller than ours. RAV Parade leader President Mike Newbond, Banner Bearers WO1 Dean Lankshear and Bryan Dowel, Standard Bearer John Boothroyd, ASM Dave Scott, Association Members.



"5000 POPPIES" at Federation Square and Shrine, Melbourne



"5000 POPPIES" at Federation Square and Shrine, Melbourne



Lyn Berry (R) and Margaret Knight (L)



Poppy Display at Federation Square



Some of the Poppies made during the "5000 Poppies" project line the approach to the Shrine for Reserve Forces Day

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION
(Vic) Inc.**
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Chaplain:

John Brownhill

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