

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

July 2016

Issue 84

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994

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**Reserve Forces Day Parade - Melbourne Shrine 3rd July 2016
led by Association President Major Mike Newbond RFD**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It will not be long before our AGM on Sunday 28 August.

Alkira College year 9 students were supported by volunteers (most from our Association) in their WW1 history project. We have been asked to return (with the same volunteers) later this year where a different group of students will undertake the same project. The numbers of students have increased from around 30 to almost 50! This is a fantastic program and a great opportunity for members who have had family or relatives in WW1 to participate in this program. If you are interested or require some further information about this program, please talk with Alan Rogers or myself.

ANZAC DAY Unfortunately, I was on holiday during ANZAC day. However, while we were in our hotel room in Fiji, the news was on and the station covered the ANZAC day march around the capitals in Australia, when they crossed to the Melbourne segment, I was delighted to see our RAEME Association contingent marching past in the background as the news reporter was talking!

Presidents Lunch was held on Sunday 15 May. The three course meal was delicious and the only complaint was that the portion size was too large. It has been suggested that a Senior's portion meal will be adequate.

AGM And finally, I remind you to put a note in your diary to attend our AGM on Sunday 28th August 2016 at 11.30am at the Clayton RSL.

Please inform our Secretary, Alan Rogers, of your attendance for catering purposes as a light luncheon will be supplied, however, drinks will be at your expense.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mike Newbond RFD
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Alkira Anzac Day ; The College held the usual ANZAC Day Remembrance Service on the 22 April 2016 in the College Gym with all students & teachers attending. Prior to the Service, members were shown the gallery of uniforms and artefacts' display in the College Library.

RFD Parade; The Reserve Forces Day Parade was held on Sunday 3rd July 2016. We thank those 11 members who marched on the day & those who came along in support. It was however disappointing that so few turned up (the day was ideal for the Parade), as we are the 2nd largest Corps in the Australian Army yet on the Parade we were the second smallest in terms of members marching in front of our Head of Corps Brigadier Haydn Kohl representing the Chief of Army and the Aide to the Reviewing Officer Major General Jeffery Rosenfeld, Captain Damian Melvaine a member of our Association. We acknowledge that our current serving Reservists were deployed on Exercise Hamel, preventing them to from attending .

Deployed Troops; Four parcels of Magazines have been forwarded to our deployed RAEME Troops. Thanks to WO2 Darren Thomas for providing the mailing address

*Good Morning Alan,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the RAEME Association (Vic) members for the care package of Wheels magazines. They were well received by the members of the workshop.
The TG TAJI 3 workshop was established around the end of May 16. It is comprised of both Australian and New Zealand tradespeople. The NZ members no longer belong to RNZEME as the corps was disbanded some years ago; however, they do still hold on to the heritage and relish the opportunity to wear the Corps badge or leave a sneaky tri-colour somewhere...*

Our deployment is scheduled to end sometime in December, by which time the magazines the association sent will be well read.

Please find attached two photos of some of the workshop members. You will note that the faces of the NZ pers are blacked out - this is in accordance with their security policy.

Many thanks once again, and I look forward to corresponding with you in the future.

Arte et marte

B Munro

ASM

TG TAJI 3

(See photos next page)



ANZAC Day Reunion; This was held at the Clayton RSL on the 16th April with 20 members and wives in attendance. A great day was held with many old war stories being told.

ANZAC Day March ; The parade was attended by 20 members who marched behind our Banner. Once again the MHSACU provided the Banner bearers, our thanks to CAPT Stephen Huysing RSM CDTWO1 Jack Magee, CSM CDTWO2 Nick Broussard and the 6 CDT"s who carried our RAEME Banner.

Our thanks for Transport provided by 15FSS, Driver SGT Danny Hayes, this enabled our members who are unable to march to the Shrine the opportunity to be part of the march.

After March celebrations were held at the Palace Hotel 550 City Rd South Melbourne, the normal two-up was a great attraction for the attending members. It was pleasing to see our COL/CMDT BRIGADIER Dave McGahey in attendance.

Our thanks must go to the Victorian Barracks Chapter members who organised the After March celebrations.

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Association Centre Piece; The carry container has now been provided thanks to the efforts of the Victorian Barracks Chapter. The Centre Piece will be suitably engraved to recognize the members who have been involved

RNA The position of Vice President is still a matter of contention, we are trying to have a meeting with Brigadier McGahey to push our case as to why Dennis should be the incoming RNA President. We expect that Brigadier McGahey will return from O/Sea's on 18th August

Annual General Meeting Sunday 28th August 2016 Clayton RSL @ 1130hrs Only financial Members are entitled to speak or vote.

AGM Notice attached.

Members wishing to nominate for the Association Committee should apply to the Association Secretary for a nomination form Nominations close 14th August 2016

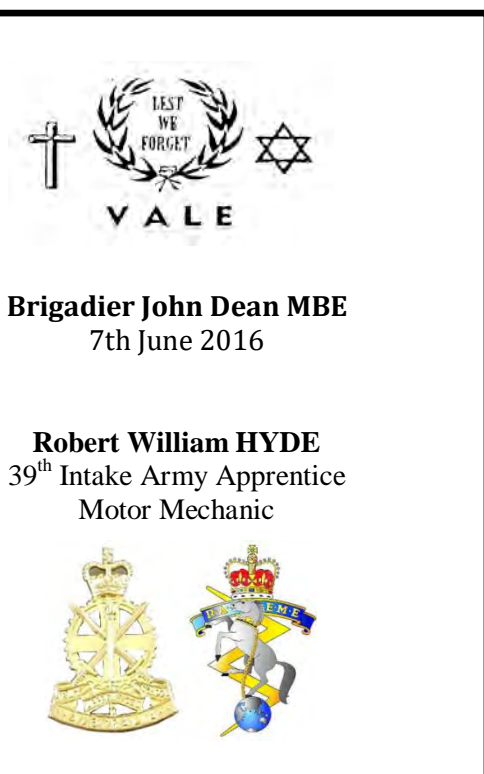
FUNCTIONS FOR 2016

Bandiana Dinner Saturday 12th
November 2016 Commercial Club
Albury

RAEME Birthday Dinner Friday Night
2nd December 2016 Clayton RSL
The Corps was formed on the 1st
December 1942

Alan Rogers

Association Secretary

**BLUEBELL****Vietnam Veterans Southern**

RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS
ANZAC DAY

Vietnam Veterans lead the march in for the first time in 2016. It only took fifty years to happen. We will avoid this happening, to our younger Veterans as they deserve respect for their service.

A number of Vietnam Units were well represented, on an unusual warm day, with 3 Cavalry Regiment with their new banner.

VVAA Activities for the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan 2016

Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Service 17th
August 1030 Hrs

Vietnam Veterans Day – Veteran March & Service
18th August

A march on St Kilda Road and commemorative event at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

Re-enactment of the placing of the Long Tan Cross in Vietnam in 1969. White crosses for the 521 Australians KIA, made by Vietnam Veterans, a hand made poppy and Australian flag will be placed on the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance by Primary school students. Governor of Victoria, Premier, senior US and NZ Consular staff, senior ADF and ex-Service organizations will be attending.

Thanksgiving Church Service St. Paul's Cathedral. A non-denominational service. Commemorative plaque to be unveiled and dedicated.

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Open Day 5th
November

Community open day to include plaque dedication, new exhibits, commemorative quilt, and ride in by Vetrade 2016 cyclists. Former Federal MP Graeme Edwards will be guest speaker. Vietnamese Veterans and Community to be involved.

161 Reconnaissance & Independent Reconnaissance Flight

A new book entitled "Possums and Bird Dogs" written by Peter Nolan, has been published by Allen and Unwin. It describes the arrival of 161 Reconnaissance

Flight and its operation in the Vietnam War.

They were part of the third Australian build-up during September 1965 and were deployed to Bien Hoa with their Bell 47G-3B1 Sioux helicopters "Possums" and Cessna 180 aircraft "Bird Dogs". When the decision was made to establish the Task Force at Nui Dat, the "Flight" was re-located to Vung Tau, while their unit facility was established. The author has drawn on official histories and the Flight's records. The Book describes in detail, their personal, courage and decorations. It details the roles of Army Aviation, operations, maintenance, modifications, armament and support given to other Units.

The Flight With its Possum call sign flew more than 87,000 sorties to provide intelligence on enemy movements and locations as well as direct operational and administrative assistance. Orals histories from its past members represent a vivid account of the challenges faced and overcome by a small group of Australians at war. RAAF and Navy also represented Australia in the busy Vietnam skies. Three pilots were KIA and many more WIA.

A TRIBUTE TO SERVICE WIVES

Ladies, you chose to be the wife of a service man at a time when you could have chosen another path in your life.

During the years you will seen the best of your man and smiled in admiration. As the years progressed you would have also seen the worst and despite all the difficult times your love and support has been more valuable to him than you can possibly imagine. We can be difficult to understand at times and need special people in our lives. Ladies you are those special people. You listen to your man talking on the phone to his Army mates and you find out the answers to things you have wondered about, but never really knew. You hear stories some now fifty years old that have never been spoken. At re-unions you meet people you have never heard of, yet stories of how important a role particular veterans have played in your husband's life and you wonder why he didn't tell you that story. You wonder how such a short time in active service many years on can be the most important time in his life even though many years have passed. Yet through all this your strength is his strength. Your confidence and sense of direction is rarely wrong. To simply thank you, seems not enough. Your contribution is beyond words.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

By Jeff Foster ex C Company 6 RAR

OUR VIETNAM NURSES

Another book available is by trained nurse Annabelle Brayley, who has compiled a compelling account of nursing services during the Vietnam War. The book covers the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, Royal Australian Air Force, Civilian nurses who volunteered under SEATO to staff civilian hospitals or medics in the field providing first aid to sick, injured and wounded soldiers. The Air Force nurses catered for both Australian and American medivac flights.

The nurses handling the aircraft "milk runs", to base hospitals within Vietnam, then onto hospitals in Korea, Japan, Guam and Malaya. This book is published by Penguin Random House.

Our last meeting was held at Wangaratta RSL., which is about to moved to the much larger and more appropriate site of the Sidney Hotel on Templeton Street.

VALE: Ronald Cargill RAAOC 106 Fld Wkshp
Ron and his wife Stacey did a lot of welfare work for RAEME members.

Dennis Cordier 102 & 106 FldWkshp

Wife of Neville Bell ex 106 Fld Wkshp, Shirley at Cottontree, Queensland, while on holiday.

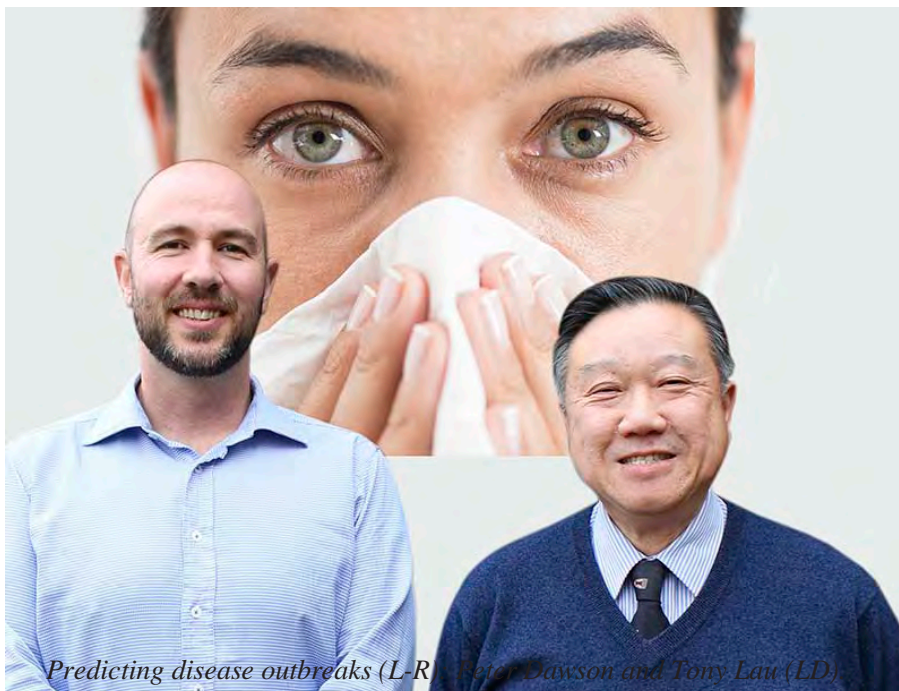
RAEME Viet nam Unit Re- Unions

106 Field Workshop
2016 November 18th 19th 20th
Venue: Frankston Football Club Victoria, - The Mighty Dolphins
Note: There is a lift access & the function centre seats over 200.
Contact Milton Pearson Tel 03: 5976 8648
Csm1066869@gmail.com

17 Construction Squadron
2017 on The Sunshine Coast

1 Fld Sqdn Workshop
2016 Adelaide Late October

Forecasting influenza outbreaks is nothing to sneeze at



PREDICTING THE AHH-CHOO! PEAKS.

Algorithms developed by DST to detect bio-terrorism events have been extended into an influenza forecasting tool that became operational this year in Victoria. The team has also received \$1M to extend the work to a global bio-surveillance system.

The Victorian Health Department is now using the tool, which can accurately predict flu outbreaks up to eight weeks in advance. This gives the public health system a better chance to minimise the impact of the outbreak. The system is being experimentally deployed across NSW and QLD this year, and Tony Lau (LD) says the aim is to get it operational across most of Australia in time for next year's flu forecasting season.

[Expertise in disease forecasting](#)

Tony is Task Leader for DST's Bioterrorism Preparedness strategic research initiative (SRI), which is now entering the second phase of the 5-year task cycle. "Uptil now we've been focused on developing in-house skills in the detection and forecasting of naturally occurring diseases as well as agents that might be used in bioterrorism," he says. "We have successfully established significant expertise, using state-of-the-art particle filter techniques and Bayesian networks, to deal with real-world uncertainties in disease forecasting."

Because exposure to many conventional bio attack agents will initially present in victims as showing similar symptoms to an influenza-like illness (ILI) infection, it is imperative to develop capabilities that can clearly differentiate an outbreak of naturally occurring ILI infections from those arising from a biological attack. As a first step, fusion of data from lab-confirmed influenza cases, anonymised GP reports and other environmental data such as humidity were tested. This strengthens the reliability, accuracy and timeliness of detecting an outbreak from naturally occurring ILI and maliciously released biological agents.

[Collaborations led to operational algorithms](#)

Lead researcher for the SRI is Peter Dawson (LD) who has conducted epidemiological modelling research at DST for a decade. The challenge confronting the scientists has always been that DST is not a custodian of the health/disease data upon which accurate and reliable forecasting relies.

Some of this information is sensitive and therefore health authorities are reluctant to release them for research.

A collaboration with the University of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, one of the leading disease forecasting and health policy development research institutes, has been particularly valuable as the university has very strong links into the health authorities and jurisdictions. The result is that DST now has a foothold in public health disease prediction.

Most existing natural disease outbreak detection systems only scrape the surface of the available health data. So for his prototype algorithm, EpiDefend, Peter Dawson and collaborator Ralph Gailis (LD) chose a new approach, employing probabilistic data fusion methods that allow the 'Bayesian network' fusion of as much health data as available into a disease model. That model is further tuned by a probabilistic method, called 'particle filtering', which can potentially issue an earlier warning of outbreaks than has previously been possible.

"Our team was the first in the world to apply particle filters to disease forecasting, and the combination of techniques used in EpiDefend makes it a world-leading innovation," says Tony. "Given the exponential increase in electronic data collection and our algorithm's ability to dig into these very rich streams of information, the approach has the potential to provide a breakthrough in disease forecasting."

One such stream of information is internet search query data. Could a spike in Google searches related to influenza in a Melbourne suburb be used to forecast the location and peak of an outbreak? Earlier this year Peter and counterparts from the University of Melbourne and Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital published a journal article* that discusses that possibility. The retrospective analysis found that for flu seasons where there was a clear epidemic peak, the timing of the peak was accurately predicted between four and six weeks in advance by their algorithm.

International recognition

DST's disease forecasting research was recently recognised with a \$A1 million funding support over two years from the US Department of Defense Coalition Warfare Program to develop a key component of a global bio-surveillance system.

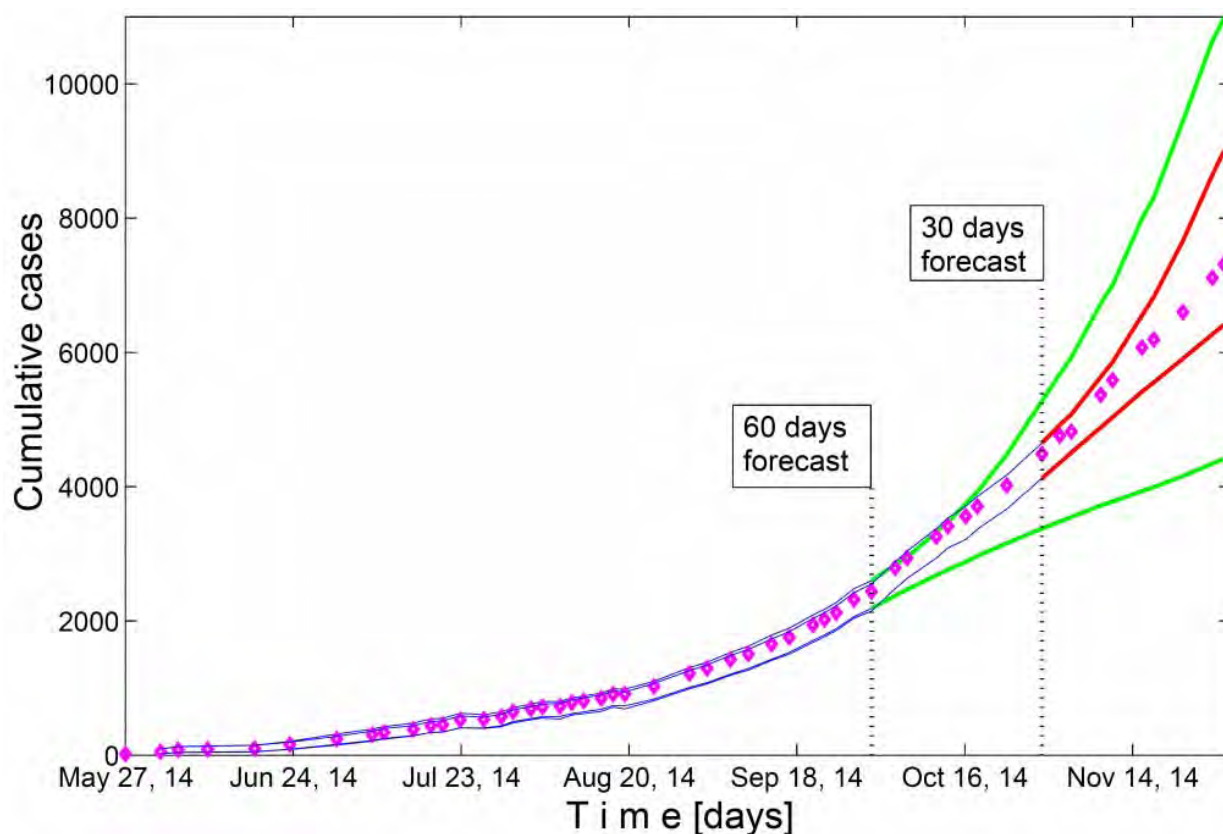
Peter expects the program to deliver two deployable tools. The first will be a flexible disease forecasting tool, based primarily on the research by Peter and Branko Ristic (LD), that an epidemiologist can pick up and use without mathematics or programming skills. The second and larger tool, to be developed in conjunction with the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide, will be a disease outbreak decision support system. It will essentially translate the science behind Australia's influenza pandemic response plan into an operational system.

Dual-purpose aim

Tony says his team's goal is dual-purpose. "We want to fulfil our defence charter, protecting our forces against intentionally released biological agents, but disease forecasting will also support the national security and public health areas. With the Coalition Warfare Program funding we'll be setting up two additional post-doctoral positions to develop decision support tools for response to disease outbreaks. It's exciting and busy times, and we are ready to contribute to the development of a national and global bio-surveillance system."

Peter off to Porton Down

Peter is undertaking a year-long international fellowship at Dstl's Porton Down where he will work with Dstl's Chemical and Biological Advisory Group on bio-terrorism detection and decision support. "I'll also be working closely with one of the world's leading public health disease modelling teams, from Public Health England, which happens to be just next door to the Porton Down site. Apart from strengthening our collaboration, a key outcome will be the completion of the experimental component of the epidemiologist's flexible forecasting tool."



Ebola epidemic forecasts prepared by DST, relating to Sierra Leone in 2014. 95% confidence intervals for the prediction of the cumulative number of cases: 60 days from 1 Oct 14 (green lines); 30 days from 1 Nov 14 (red lines). The pink diamonds are observations up to the time of the start of the prediction. Any points included thereafter are for comparison. This body of work will be presented in a paper at the FUSION 2016 conference.

*"[*Forecasting influenza outbreak dynamics in Melbourne from Internet search query surveillance data*](#)", Robert Moss, Alexander Zarebski, Peter Dawson, James M. McCaw, in "[*Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*](#)", 2016.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of
The RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated
Incorporation Reg No A0022655Z
Sunday 28th August 2016 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 Sunday 14th August 2016

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

Please advise attendance for catering purposes

LIGHT LUNCHEON SUPPLIED- DRINKS AT MEMBERS EXPENSE

I _____

I _____

WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE 2016 AGM

WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE LUNCH AT THE 2016 AGM

Reply to; Alan Rogers by 16th August 2016 by the following

Email; secretary@vic.raeme.org.au Mail; PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805

Note;

Due to the increasing costs the 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

Committee of Management Nominations

Members wishing to nominate for the 2016-17 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 Sunday 14th August 2016

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

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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 26 September 2016

Items to Pat Marley:

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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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:

