

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Official Publication of The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.
PATRON: Brig C. Ernert ARMIT Msc FIEAust FAIM CPEng

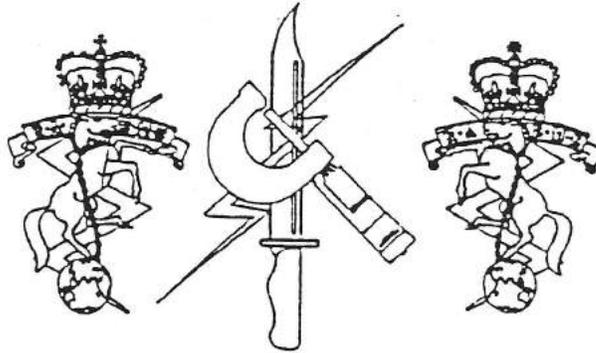
PRESIDENT: Bruce Williams (03) (9561 8354

SECRETARY: Jack Westernhagen (03) 9509 5806

EDITOR: Jack Westernhagen

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SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

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CATEGORY 'A'



AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.
GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY DANCE
2ND DECEMBER 1995

(See page 6 for further details)





THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hi!. Well time flies when you're having fun. We have just begun our new Committee year and from all accounts we look like having a very fun filled year ahead from a Social point of view. It is hoped you will get behind your Committee and support our forthcoming functions, especially our Jubilee function in December, and of course, not forgetting the Dedication Day on Saturday 11th November '95 (See notes in this edition of our Newsletter regarding these functions).

During the past few weeks I attended the funeral of "Curly" Caddick, what an interesting life he had, although originally born in England, 'Curly' could be considered a true 'Aussie Battler'. He will be sadly missed (Jack has copies of his book of poetry entitled "I REMEMBER". Jack also attended the funeral of Florence (Flo) Moore. Flo was a widow, who of recent times supported the Association and its activities in a vigorous manner and we thank her son Ray for the attitude he had towards supporting his Mum in attending as many RAEME functions as it was possible to get her to.

Sadly, due to business commitments at the last moment I was unable to attend her funeral. Flo was taken unexpectedly and will be greatly missed by myself and my family as I am sure she will also be missed by many Association members. Condolences to Ray and family from all of us.

Now to business, at this point let me welcome Ross Hope onto the C.O.M. Ross is a retired person and a 2nd WW II Digger who has accepted several tasks on Committee - Welcome aboard Ross and thank you for volunteering.

This brings me to "ATTITUDE" and that is the attitude of members of this Association who fail to reply to requests for Committee Nominations. The 'APATHY' of some people is incredible. Surely from 250 Financial members 12 nominations for Committee could easily be achieved, do you know this is less than 4% of our total membership. Yes, disappointing and pathetic that members in general are not interested enough to give a little of their time, many of you need to do some soul searching.

After the AGM, I was also appalled at the feeble excuses offered by members giving so called reasons as to why they could not work on our Committee.

Within the next month we must obtain 3 additional Committee members, this is around 1% of our membership. So think about 'ATTITUDES', overcome them and join a great group of people who I thank on your behalf in giving your Association their valuable time, without concern for themselves. Why! because they are really keen members of this Association and wish to see it progress to bigger and greater things.

Hope you get the picture!!!

BRUCE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT



THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

ATTENDANCES AT AGMs - The attendance at our 1995 AGM from a Financial Membership of 250 leaves a lot to be desired and ALL members should give this matter some serious thought before the 1996 AGM is due.

(Cont. from P. 2 Col 2)

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE -

This year, these were not forthcoming as might be expected, with the end result of 8 former hard working Committee members being re-elected for 1995/96 and a new member, Ross Hope, volunteering after the meeting was concluded. Welcome to the Team Ross. This still leaves vacancies for 3 further members.

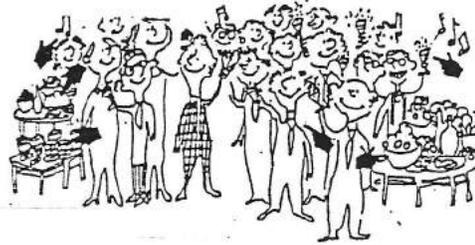
This is your Association, the Committee works very hard on behalf of ALL members to see that the Association is operating within the guidelines set down and is gaining strength in numbers. All the unselfish time and efforts which your Committee members give gladly is a total waste and appears to be unappreciated. It seems you, the members, are not prepared to help shoulder some of the burden of keeping our Association alive and surviving by volunteer offering to serve at least one term as a Committee Member and not just sit back and criticise the efforts of those trying to do their best on behalf of the Association as a team of dedicated workers.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Read of the proposed forthcoming functions your Special Events Sub-Committee have planned during 1995/96. Patronise them, offer your services (they may or may not be required, but you won't know unless you ask the Convenor if he needs any help from those with the appropriate know-how and expertise).

NAME TAGS - Members are reminded that Association Name Tags are always available on request to the Secretary at a cost of \$10.00 ea. (Payable in advance - waiting time approx 2 weeks).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - A very important item - this is the individual's own responsibility to keep the Secretary informed if you wish to continue to receive your copy of "THE FLASH" and be kept up to date on what is happening within the Association. You can't use the excuse that you didn't receive notification if you do not advise me of any changes in your present place of residence.

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
SECRETARY



SPECIAL EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION DAY - SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER 1995

HQ (LSF) Engineers Oakleigh Barracks is organising this important event, commencing at 10.30am. (See Flier enclosed for full details).

1995 ANNUAL FAMILY FARM DAY

You have all received a flier about our Annual Event in the August edition of "THE FLASH" complete with a location map. Bring the family along and enjoy a good day (weather permitting) Father Christmas will be in attendance so when you bring your children, Grandchildren or other young ones make sure you bring each of them a present (Maximum value \$10.00 clearly marked with their name) Remember it is a B.Y.O. everything. Do not forget to bring your containers to take away some Dairy Products with you such as fresh milk and cream - there will be Christmas Puddings on sale at a nominal price. So come along and give Bill and Carol Slegers your support in recognition of their efforts on your behalf.

50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE -

Enclosed please find a flier and Ticket Proforma in this edition stating the relevant information. Suggest you book early to avoid disappointment on the day.

THEATRE AFTERNOON SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 1996 - Once again by popular request a Theatre Afternoon has been organised (refer to flier enclosed for full details) another pleasant afternoon amongst friends is assured.

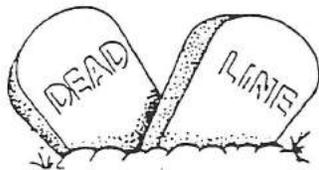
PETER CARTLEDGE
CONVENOR



Many a compliment has been received, not only about the August edition and its contents, but about every edition in the past. This is very gratifying to your Editorial Sub-Committee - BUT! we still require items of interest from other members.

Remember, once again for the sake of repeating myself, this is as much your Newsletter the same as any other member and you should be able to contribute an article or two which could be put into print when time and space is available.

How about some items from our WW II AEME members??

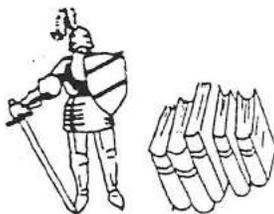


CLOSURE FOR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Members are advised that the Closing Date for the MARCH 1996 edition of "THE LIGHTNING FLASH" is:

15th FEBRUARY 1996

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
EDITOR



HISTORICAL CORNER

From records held by this Association we have many historical documents. The following is an extract of a report from the President of the AEME Association -

Tasmania. Perhaps Tasmania may like to copy this extract and forward a copy to each of their members.

The report was addressed to J. Sardes Esq. Federal President AEME Association, 26 Jamieson Street, Sydney and produced on letterhead from Australian Military Forces - 6th Military District, dated 28th Mar 1946. signed (we think by Maj. Mitchell) President AEME Association Tasmania Division.)

He reported:

- (a) Total Tasmanian personnel during the war approx 600.
- (b) Members Joined to date 53.
- (c) Members Financial to date 29.
- (d) All Discharged Personnel have been re-employed without difficulty.
- (e) At that time the Bank Account of the Tasmanian Division held 34/3/11.
- (g) Representatives had difficulty in attending the National (Federal) Meeting because of the expense and difficulty in travel, they requested this problem to be discussed at the Conference on 6th April 1946.

* * *

BIVOUAC TO KORUMBURRA

27.11.1970 - A set of photographs of this exercise has been located and will be on display at the 1996 Annual Reunion, perhaps some members who attended may be able to identify those members shown.

* * *

101 Fd Wksp 1ALSG VUNG TAU 1966

- A document depicting 5 photographs of this unit in SVN has also been found and will be placed on display on 24.4.1966 for identification and viewing.

* * *

AEME ASSOCIATION BANNERS -

Following in the footsteps of 2/4th Inf Bde Wksp Association, 126th & 127th Aust Bde Wksp & Fd Park Associations have now also entrusted their Banners to us for display on our RAEME Wall at Oakleigh

(Cont. from P. 4 Col 2.)

Barracks. We assure the respective Associations they will be well cared for until required at ANZAC Day marches or whenever by your respective organisations.

AEME UNIT HISTORIES

Memories fade and history is lost unless somebody takes the time and effort to record unit histories for prosperity whilst documentation, facts and instances are still vivid in our memories and photographs are still available for reproduction.

Doug Brazier (one of our members) has taken on the colossal task of transposing a written and photographic record, the History of 113th Aust Bde Wksp (AEME) which served in Australia and in Papua New Guinea during WW II from documentation he researched at the Australian War Memorial. This unit did receive a mention in the Corps History book mentioned in paragraph 5 below.

Have other AEME Association members made similar efforts to record their unit's history - if so let this Association know, perhaps you may need assistance in transcribing the facts on paper.

* * *

I have almost completed 90% of a History of The CMF in Victoria from 1948 to 1975, this covers some 27 years of history and is a follow-up to Maj Theo Barker's book "CRAFTSMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY - The Story of RAEME"- Do you have a copy?? Research into this task has enabled me to list in alphabetical order by ranks, CMF and ARA Cadre Staff, who served in most of these past CMF units (some of which have now ceased to exist) from records held at Central Army Records Office.

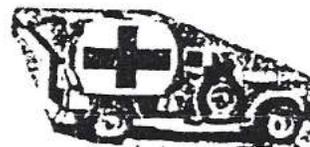
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WHAT IS A B.A.S.B.???? - A B.A.S.B. stands for Brigade Administrative Support Battalion with a strength of 577 personnel whose elements are made up of - a Head Quarters, Transport Company, Medical Company, Dental Company, Supply Company, Workshop Company, and a Military Police Platoon. As at 1st July 1995, 105 Field Workshop became 4 B.A.S.B. Field Workshop Company (105 Fd

Wksp). HQ 4 B.A.S.B, is located at Oakleigh Barracks under the command of Lt. Col C.M. Jones (RAAOC).

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

SICK PARADE



MAX MOORE - Max, was admitted firstly to Monash Medical Centre and then finally at Knox City Private Hospital for observation and treatment for a suspected Angina on 19.9.1995. Max is home again on Sick Leave whilst undergoing further tests and has asked that on his behalf I pass on his appreciation of the many telephone inquiries as to his health that he received from our membership. Max, all your many friends do wish you well for a happy recovery and look forward to seeing you at our next function.

CLIVE HILL - Clive, one of our Life Members, recently spent a period in the Heidelberg Hospital undergoing treatment for Prostrate Cancer.

BILL CHALLONS - Another Life Member, has also been on the Sick List for some time, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

JACK (Darkie) EDWARDS - Recently spent a short spell in Heidelberg Hospital but is home again recuperating.

* * *

To all you members mentioned above, on hearing of your admittance to hospital or having taken ill at home, rest assured that our members do show concern about you and wish you all a speedy recovery and return to your home and loved ones especially those that are hospitalised.

REG COX
WELFARE OFFICER



AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.
 GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY DANCE
 Chapel Street Training Depot, EAST St.KILDA
 Saturday 2nd December 1995



Join in the fun with progressive

Cha Cha, Hokie Pokie

(40,s version) Swing

& Sing along War time songs.

DANCING FOR EVERYONE

SWING JIVE JITTERBUG BALLROOM LATIN OLD TIME BARN DANCE

Doors Open 3.30pm Dancing 4pm - 8pm.
 Why not make a table

The earlier times will suit people who wish to travel in Day Light hours.

PRICE

\$ 20 : 00 per person. Drinks at Mess Prices
 (Including Evening Meal)

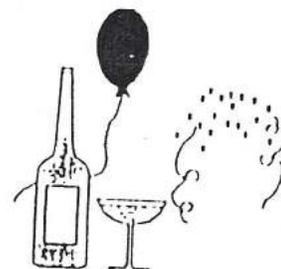
DRESS

Neat Casual to Formal
 (Army or Civilian)



BOOKINGS:
 Peter Carlledge
 8 Neera Court,
 GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150
 Ph: (03) 980 26406

NOTE: Book early to avoid disappointment





Burial of a soldier in Becourt Cemetery, August 1916
The Burial Party consists of British and Australian troops.



OAKLEIGH BARRACKS MEMORIAL SERVICE 11th NOVEMBER 1995

GENERAL:

Oakleigh Barracks is to conduct a Memorial and Dedication Service, to dedicate the Oakleigh Barracks Garden Memorial on 11th November 1995.

This year commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the end of WW II, this service offers the opportunity for ALL personnel not only to remember all who served in all wars but to especially remember all those who served in WW II.

AIM:

The aim of the service is to dedicate the garden to all those who served in the Second World War and to commemorate Remembrance Day.

PARTICIPATION:

All ARA, GRES personnel, the Old Sappers, RAAOC and RAEME Associations, their family and friends are invited to attend the service.

DRESS:

Dress for Guests, visitors, is neat Civilian attire. Service members both ARA and GRES may wear Civilian attire, but are encouraged to wear Ceremonial Parade Dress, IAW Reference C.

ON ARRIVAL:

Except for the Official Party, participants are asked to make their own way to the Parade Ground at the rear of the gymnasium where the normal ANZAC Day Dawn Service is conducted, suitable seating has been arranged.

TIMINGS:

ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS	- 1000 hrs.
CATAFALQUE PARTY FORM UP	- 1030 hrs.
SERVICE COMMENCES	- 1030 hrs.
CATAFALQUE PARTY MOUNTS	- 1050 hrs.
LAST POST	- 1059 hrs. (All ranks in uniform not on parade or part of a formed body of troops, are to salute).
SILENT TRIBUTE	- 1100 hrs. (2 Minutes Silence)
REVEILLE	- 1102 hrs (Salute as for Last Post)
NATIONAL ANTHEM	- 1103 hrs. (Advance Australia Fair)
CATAFALQUE PARTY MARCH OFF	- 1105 hrs.

WREATH LAYING:

Wreaths will be laid by: Brig C. Ermert RAEME Representative Colonel Commandant,
& Patron AEME/RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.
Commander LSF Engineers or RAE Representative
Ordnance Representative
Visiting Official Guests
RAE Association Representative
RAAOC Association Representative
RAEME Association Representative
Any individual person.

REFRESHMENTS:

At the conclusion of the Memorial Service at approximately 1110 hrs, The Old Sappers Association Bar will be open on the day and 4 Fd Supply Coy is providing a Light Buffet at a minimum cost in the gymnasium.

CAR PARKING:

Except for the Official Guests, private vehicles may be parked within Oakleigh Barracks area and participants are asked to observe directions for parking given by the Traffic Attendants on duty.

CLOSURE OF OAKLEIGH BARRACKS:

Participants are reminded that the Oakleigh Barracks will be closed at 1800 hrs on 11th November 1995.



The Directorate of Capital Procurement Melbourne wish to advise that the 1995 Corps Port is now available for purchase. This port, the first of a ten year "Historical Port" series, features one of the original AEME members VX 4682 SSGT W. J. Tope.

Please complete the attached order form (one dozen lots will be delivered at no charge).
The distribution manager at DCPM-A is WO2 D. Wilkinson (03) 9282 5265

(PLEASE DETACH HERE)

TO RAEME CORPS PORT
DCPM-A
DEFENCE CENTRE
PO BOX 4979WW
GPO MELBOURNE
3001.

Please send me(qty) bottles of the 1995 Corps Port at \$13:00 per bottle
[For delivery to a private address add \$5:00 per order for shipping & delivery]

Enclosed is cheque/money order No:.....(made payable to "EME PORT FUND")
to the value of \$.....

Name: _____

Address / Unit: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____

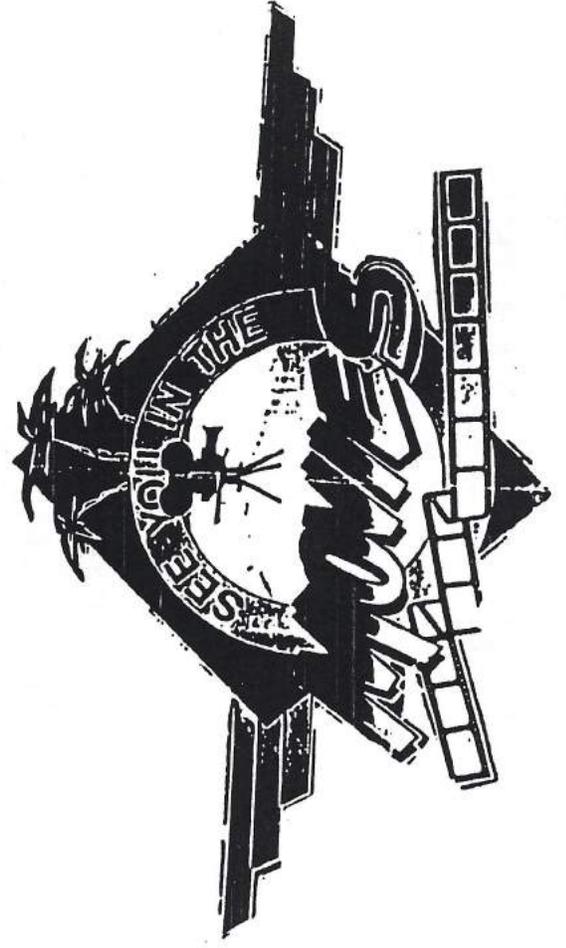


The AEME/RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.

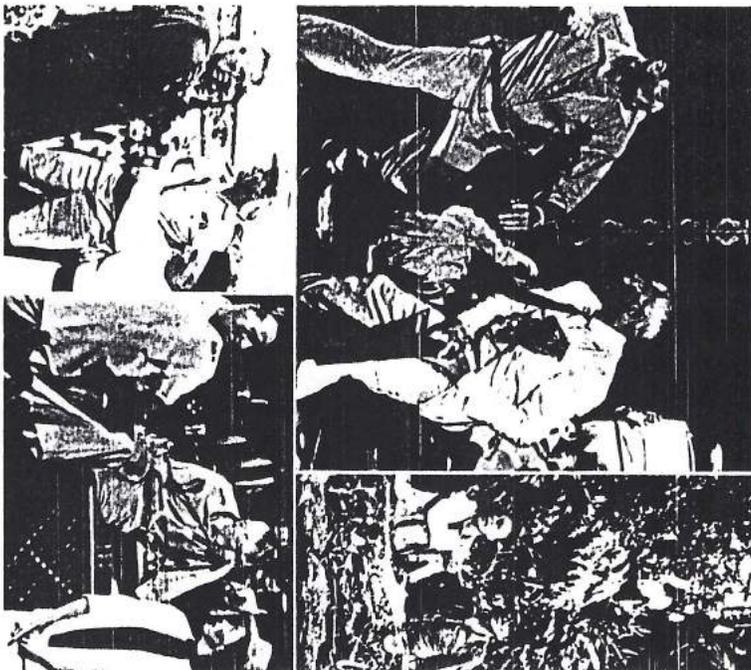
THEATRE AFTERNOON

Model Room
Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road,
OAKLEIGH SOUTH

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 1996
(1300 hrs for 1330 hrs SCREENING



DONOVAN'S REEF



Producer-director John Ford once again demonstrates his successful formula for rambunctious, combative comedy and romance in this action-packed John Wayne classic. Set on a South Pacific island for two ex-Navy buddies (John Wayne and Lee Marvin) is just about perfect—they spend most of their time in Donovan's Reef, the local saloon where they draw and feud and somehow manage to stave off the sameness of tropical living. Then, into this mayhem arrives Elizabeth Allen, a straight-laced Bostonian in search of her father.

PLUS SELECTED SHORTS

By popular request of our members and their families who attended the last film screening on 18th June 1995, Your Committee of Management have arranged another viewing of a video. The title appearing opposite is a recommended family comedy film. It is hoped that as many members as possible will participate and support this venture by coming along and having an enjoyable afternoon amongst friends of long standing - and to meet new ones.

Members are requested to bring a "Social Plate" of food for sharing.

Tea and Coffee provided. Beverages at Mess Prices.

DONATION: \$5.00 per head.

COME ONE!!! COME ALL !!!

NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

Peter Cartledge
 Convenor Special Events Sub-Committee
 8 Neera Court,
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150
 Ph: (03) 9802 6406

I
 (Please print Initials & Surname)

Ph: (.....) 9.....

will be attending the Association's Theatre Afternoon on Sunday
 3rd March 1996 at Oakleigh Barracks OAKLEIGH SOUTH.

There will be persons in my party.

I will be providing a 'Social plate' of food for sharing.

The Corps of
RAEME is Fifty-Three
(1942 - 1995)

25 Years since
Long Tan
(1970 - 1995)



AEME/RAEME
Association
is Fifty
(1945 - 1995)

AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.
GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY DANCE
Chapel Street Training Depot, EAST St.KILDA
Saturday 2nd December 1995



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(40,s version) Swing

& Sing along War time songs.

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(Including Evening Meal)

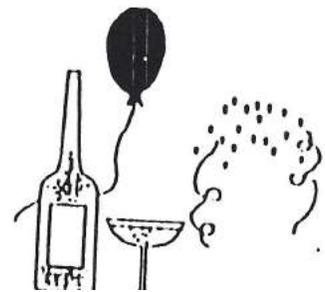
DRESS

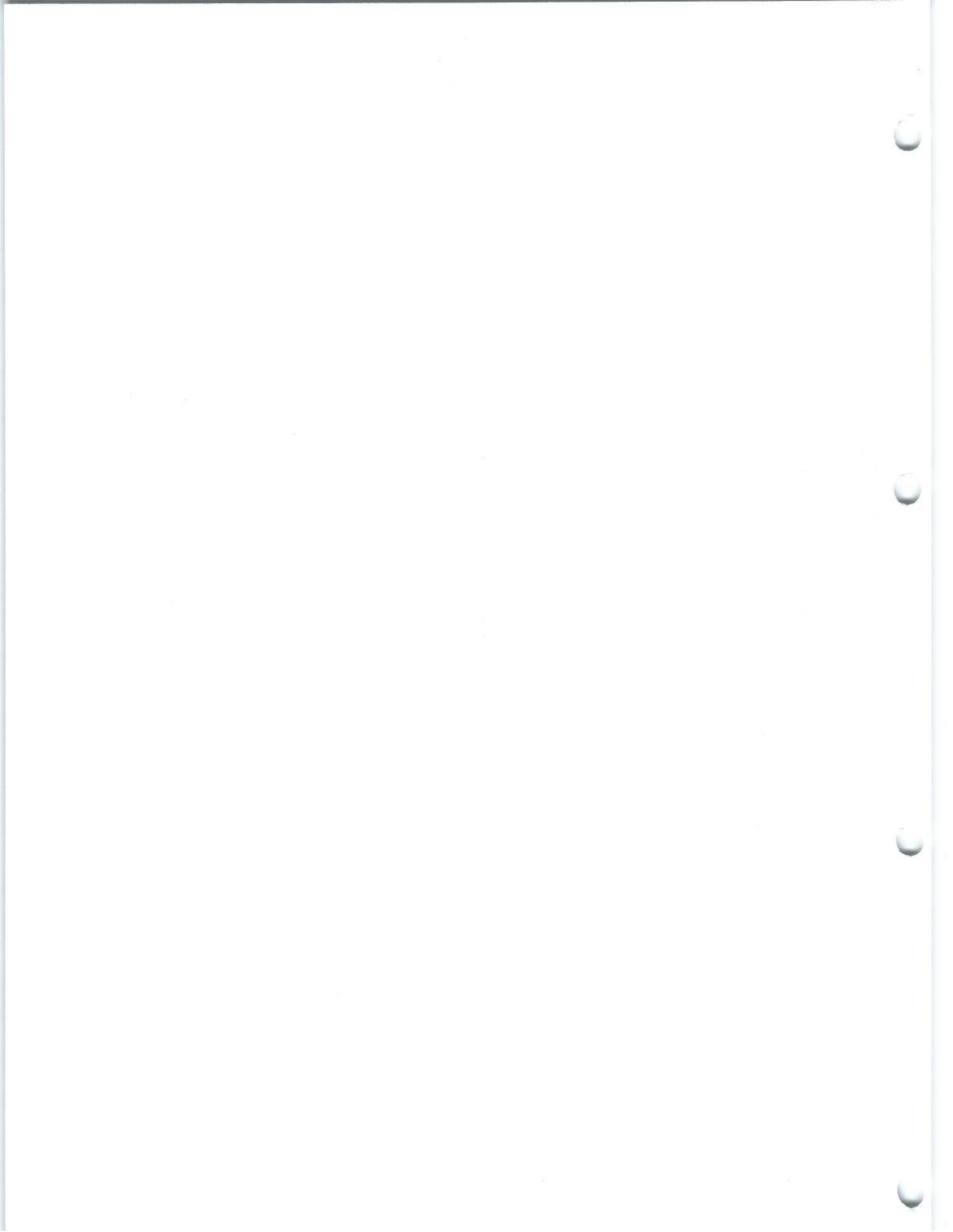
Neat Casual to Formal
(Army or Civillan)



BOOKINGS:
Peter Carledge
8 Neera Court,
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150
Ph: (03) 980 26406

NOTE: Book early to avoid disappointment



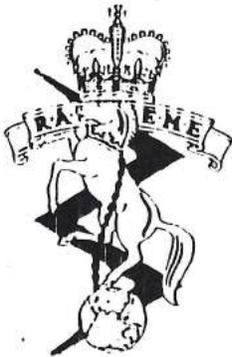


The AEME/RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated

What a milestone of celebrations to be observed before the closure of 1995:

- * 2nd December 1995 - The Corps of RAEME 53rd Birthday (1942 - 1995)
- * 2nd December 1995 - 50th Golden Jubilee Birthday of the AEME/RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated
Return to Chapel Street Reunion (1945 - 1995)
- * Silver Anniversary Vietnam Veterans (Battle of Long Tan) (1970 - 1995)
- * 1st Christmas to celebrate the end of WWII (50 Years on)

Any of the above mentioned celebrations would be an ideal special occasion to bring all of our members together to observe those happenings for wars and conflicts during the past 50 years, all cumulation on the AEME/RAEME Association's Birthday including the Corps Birthday.



The AEME/RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated

50th GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE PROFORMA
Chapel Street Training Depot, EAST ST. KILDA
Saturday 2nd December 1995

Peter Cartledge
8 Neera Court,
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150
Ph: (03) 980 26406

I,
(Please Print in Full)

Address:

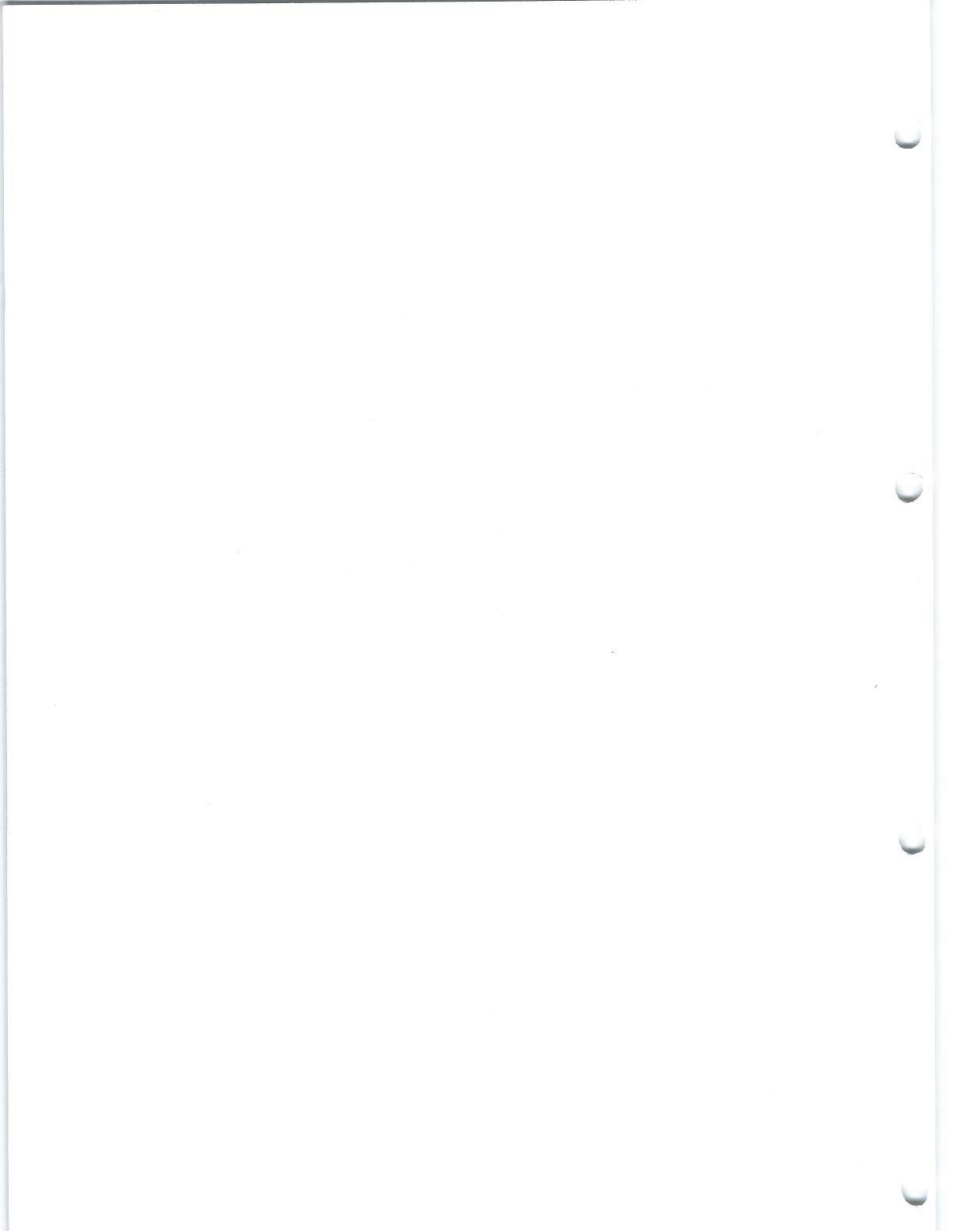
Post Code: Phone: (.....)

wish to attend the AEME/RAEME Association's Golden Jubilee Anniversary Dance.

Please provide me with Dance Tickets @ \$ 20 : 00 per person TOTAL: \$:

Signature: Date: ... / ... /19....

NOTE: Cheques to be made payable to THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.



WORKSHOP MEETS CHALLENGE

By Sgt Steve CLARKSON 4 BASB Wksp Coy (105 Fd Wksp)



A party from 105 Fd Wksp (now 4 BASB Wksp Coy) recently returned from an adventurous training exercise in Tasmania's Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park.

Following a similar highly successful activity conducted in March of this year Sgt. Steve Clarkson, L/Cpl Cathy Maulday, Cfn Billy Anthanasopoulos, Ian Glasey and Andrew Hewitson ventured South to take on the wilderness. Members from HQ 4 Bde, 8/9 RAR, RAAOC Centre and 44 Tpt Squadron rounded out the group.

Suitably equipped by Hobart Logistic Platoon the party deployed and the exercise was on.

Day one of the trek involved navigating approximately 8 kms through wet and, at times, swampy conditions. The night was spent at Lees Hut, a 200 year old drovers hut, with its leaking roof and wildlife inhabitants.

The Second day tested the fitness and endurance of all with 32 kms of very steep and swampy terrain. The participants were further challenged by having to cross a creek swollen by the constant drizzling rain. The group finally made it to Windermere Hut one hour after dark.

Day three was a trek to Waterfall Valley Hut, by this time all participants were starting to tire, especially as we climbed higher into the mountains and the temperature dropped rapidly. The scenery on this leg was outstanding with the snow capped mountains and ridges, waterfalls, cliff faces and the hut sighted by early afternoon. Waterfall Valley Hut is 12 months old and is first class camping accommodation. The hut is supplied with tank water, gas heating, bunks for 20 people and a brilliant view of Barn Bluff through the window. After arriving at the hut we had a light snowfall, the only one for the whole trip.

After overnighting at Waterfall Valley Hut all participants were ready for the last leg of 10 kms, starting with a one hour climb to the top of the ridge. The group trekked to the base of Cradle Mountain, but time did not permit us to climb it. As on the previous day the scenery was outstanding and the track taking the group past Cradle Mountain, Crater Lake and Lake Dove.

After refurbishing the Adventure training stores the tired but happy group returned to the mainland on the Spirit of Tasmania, satisfied that they had met the challenge and found new strengths through adversity.



The Directorate of Capital Procurement Melbourne wish to advise that the 1995 Corps Port is now available for purchase. This port, the first of a ten year "Historical Port" series, features one of the original AEME members VX 4682 SSgt W.J. Tope.

Please complete the attached Order Form (one dozen lots will be delivered at no charge).

Interstate orders should be directed to The Distribution Manager DCPM-A, Attention: WO2 D. Wilkinson (03) 928 25265.

AEME/RAEME Association orders should be directed to Mr. Peter Cartledge 8 Neera Court, Glen Waverley Vic 3150 (03) 9802 6406 (A Handling Fee of \$2.00 is charged per order).

Obituaries



Horace (Curly) CADDICK - 28.8. 1995

The President and the Committee of Management of the AEME/RAEME Association (Vic) Inc. respectively inform members of the sudden passing of our esteemed colleague.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife Nance and family.

*We cannot bring back the old days
When we were all together
But wonderful memories of you
Will always be in our hearts.*

Maj Max O'BERN (RL) - 5. 9. 1995

Max was originally a WW II RAAF Pilot who flew 9 different aircraft from Fighters in Australia to Bombers in U.K. and saw action over Europe. On being demobbed in 1945, soon thereafter, Max enlisted in the CMF, and at one time was posted as Adjt HQ CRAEME 3 Div from 14/10/57 to 29/ 7/ 58. Condolences to Phyl and family.

A lot of the 'oldies' from that era would remember Max O'Bern from the Chapel Street days.

* * *

Florence Hilda MOORE - 24. 9. 1995

Florence was the widow of one of our late members, Bert Moore. Florence passed away quietly on the 24th September in her own home. Sadly missed will be her happy nature at our many Social functions. Condolences to Ray and family.

THE DAY I MET JOE HIGGINS

By Alf Keevers (RAEME 1957-77)

For anyone who had been through RAEME Training Centre, Joe Higgins was rather well known. He was the unit Plant Operator and spent a lot of hours grading the now Football Oval. If there were any strange jobs to be done in the area, Joe would be called upon to fix it.

Joe has been known to spend his Sunday down at the local and after a sleep, go and have a meal then head off to work. On one occasion, he had finished his meal and was heading off to work when the Watchman asked him, "Where are you going Joe?, it will be dark in an hour", Joe's answer was "I wondered why I had steak and eggs for breakfast! I better get back to bed and sleep a bit more off".

Now to my first meeting with Joe Higgins.

In 1953 I was camped at Ingleburn, as a Musician/Stretcher-Bearer, awaiting movement to Korea with 1st Bn, RAR. Each Monday night, there was a dance in the Comfort's Fund Hut. I had met this nice young lady at the dance and had walked her home on a couple of occasions. I met her family, her father was the Carpentry Instructor at the then RAEME Training Centre, Ingleburn, before it was moved to its present location at Bandiana.

I would go to her place on Sundays and after a couple of drinks with Mum and Dad, we would take the younger ones of the family out for a picnic.

I was told by the family that the second daughter's boy-friend was coming to meet the family on the following Sunday, but from what the daughter had told Mum, she was not very impressed about him. I had better come and meet him as a couple of their friends would be there also.

When I arrived on this Sunday in particular, instead of the couple of bottles of beer on the table, there was a gallon of Port on the table instead and everyone had a Middy glass in front of them with Port in it.

I was introduced to the two extra visitors at the table. Wow!, one was 'Trapper' Smith and the other rough looking bloke was - you guessed it Joe Higgins.

Not long after I arrived, a knock came at the door and Mum went to answer it. It was the second daughter's boy-friend. Mum told us later that she didn't go much on the boy-friend as soon as she saw him. When she brought the boy-friend into the kitchen, his eyes virtually bulged, what with the Port and the rough company.

I was introduced to the boy-friend as one of Mum's nephews, Joe and 'Trapper' were introduced as her - wait for it - brothers. The new boy-friend stayed as long as protocol and good manners allowed and then made a hasty retreat. I never did find out whether he came back again.

The next time I ran into Joe Higgins was when I marched into RTC as an Instructor in 1965. Joe and I used to have a little chuckle about the boy-friend event, from time to time, over the following years.

FOOT NOTE. The name of the family at Ingleburn has been left out to protect their privacy, but Bob, the Carpentry Instructor, retired and lived at Canley Vale and my girl-friend married a good Maltese Catholic boy. My Dad used to say to me, "You'll never marry her son, she's too good for you!"



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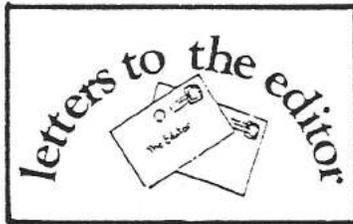
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NOBLE PARK VIC 3174
26th July 1995

Dear Jack,

May I take this opportunity to thank the Association for the copies of "Flash" that I have received, although it is now almost 15 years since my husband's sudden death at Puckapunyal, I have enjoyed reading the articles and they have revived many memories of "days gone by".

There have been so many familiar names that I have come across whilst reading, maybe those members who would remember 'Trots' (Sgt. Tony Treloggen) would be interested to know that our two children are now well and truly grown up, and of whom I am extremely proud, Sharon is now married and three years ago presented me with a beautiful little Grand-Daughter, Chris is still 'fancy free' and a Department Manager with a national retail chain, with plans to travel around Europe in the next year or so.

As I am not only the widow of an ARes soldier, but also the daughter of an AIF Captain, who fought during WW II at Kokoda, I fully realise the significance of the 50 year Anniversary and would like to wish everyone a very happy and successful day on 13th August (Widows & Life Members' Luncheon).

My best wishes to all those from 105 Fd Wksp, and my thanks once again to the Association, I will look forward to future copies of "Flash".

Sincerely,
Barbara TRELOGGEN

WHEELERS HILL VIC
21 Aug 1995

Fellow RAEME members All,

I was fortunate to have our local paper, the Weekly Gazette, Aug 15th, write up an article on my Army service during WW II. Most of the unit I was attached to, 16th Adv Ammunition, comprised of Bomb Disposal experts, Ammunition Examiners and Explosive personnel from other States, only a few came from Victoria.

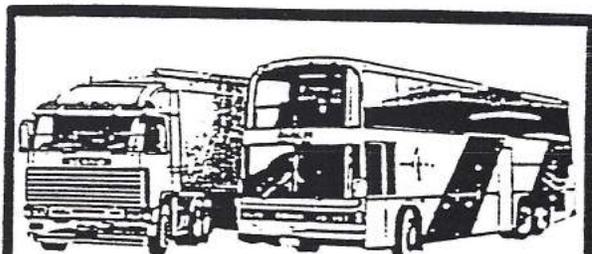
One member, Lt. Jack Miller, saw the news article and immediately rang me. He came to my home the next day, and we had a beaut reunion after 50 years.

Jack Miller & I yarned for many hours, bringing each other up to date on lots of happenings in Atitape Wewak, Papua New Guinea which all soldiers appreciate the wonderful mates we had, helping one another through tough times. All Aussies have this, it is refreshing to enjoy such a privledge. Good luck to all you Soldiers.

Yours Sincerely,
Reg COX

* * *

Foot Note - This article and the meeting with Reg, resulted in Jack Miller joining the AEME/RAEME Association. THE EDITOR.



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AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1945 - 1995 PILGRIMAGE TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

By VX 67919 Pte Bill Holmes

After a large concert and reception at Circular Quay Sydney, we boarded (what was to be called our 'Flagship') our Cruise Liner Mikhail Sholokhov, under the command of Captain Yuriy Naradko and an all Russian crew.

With a lot of fanfare and led by 'Bounty', 'Young Endeavour' and a host of small ships we were escorted out of Sydney Harbour and on our way to Brisbane to pick up their Veterans and a reception at Eagle Farm.

At approximately 4.45pm, the ship stood to over the exact spot where the Hospital Ship 'Centaur' had sunk by the Japanese Navy, even though she was fully lit up. Over 260 lives were lost including nearly all of the 193 members of the 2/12th Field Ambulance. Following a ceremony, wreaths were laid on the water and we were on our way again to Brisbane where we arrived on 1st July.

After our reception, we were treated to a great send off at the wharf and sailing inside the reef we headed to Port Moresby. Life on board was very relaxing and apart from briefings the time was ours. Great food, shops, Bars and Casino. Entertainment on board consisted of Lorraine Desmond, 'Ugly' Dave Grey, Enzo Toppano, plus the Ship's Orchestra and Dance Band, Russian Dancers, and to top all of this off, our very own 1 RAR Band who were really great. We were also accompanied by a Tri-Service Honour Guard, (Male & Female) they were all a credit to us.

The ship did a right hand turn at Townsville, through the reef opening and into the Coral Sea where we had another ceremony and Wreaths were laid on the water.

We berthed at Port Moresby at 5am on 5th July and after a good breakfast, we were transported to the well cared for Bomaua War Cemetery where a major ceremony was held. After this, we had time to take

photographs of graves of our old mates. I managed to take quite a lot but unfortunately I could not remember all the names so I missed out quiet a few.

After Lunch on board, we were taken to the residence of the High Commissioner for a reception - eats and Fosters, and a beautiful view over the Harbour.

The rest of the Tour took in Milne Bay, Oro Bay/Popouetta and Lae where ceremonies were held at the old war sites. Our reception at these places was great, with people clapping and cheering, shaking hands, and warriors in all their gear and feathers.

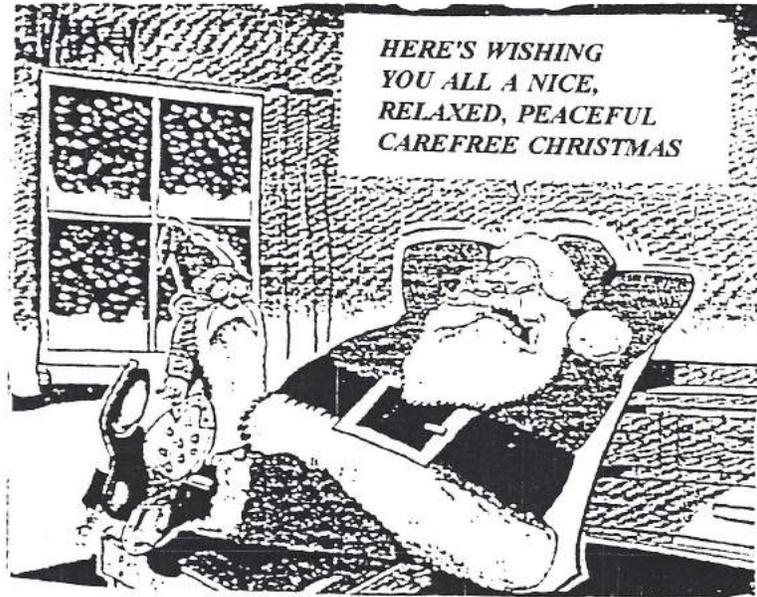
Lae was just the same as I last saw it RAIN, but it cleared for the ceremony at the Cemetery, owing to time we were unable to go up to Wau, and of course the trouble in Bougainville stopped us from going there. Some of the chaps were flown to Madang, Wewak and Rabaul, which was great for them.

Leaving Lae we sailed for Cairns, where we arrived 7.am 11th July. Through Car Tours, we were taken to the R.S.L. for a reception and welcome home. It was the end of a wonderful two weeks, which went off without a hitch.

We were ably led by Rear Admiral Neil Ralph and Co-Ordinator, Lieut. Colonel Garry Young, 2 i/c ADF Moresby. Our wonderful carers (all Nursing Sisters), Dr. Richard Reid, Historian War Memorial Canberra.

The lady crew members who waited on our tables, made our beds, and for a small fee did our laundry - they were really great, and last but not least, our very own ADF, Australia can be proud of them. Add to that, 117 good friends made the trip so great. I will never ever for get it.

My sincere thanks to the AEME/ RAEME Association (Vic) Committee for nominating me and making this all possible.



From the
Committee of Management
Christmas 1995