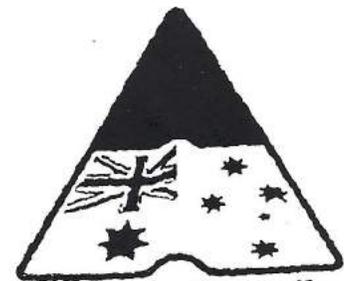


SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH



Advance Australia

FEBRUARY 2002

Issue 34

**The RAEME Association
(Victoria) Incorporated
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|----------------------------|---|
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| Vice President | Gus Allen |
| Treasurer: | Roma Cox |
| Secretary: | Ron Clifford |
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TO ALL MEMBERS

This newsletter was originally programmed for publication in late November 2001 but circumstances conspired to make that target unattainable.

Mary, the wife of Jack, the previous Editor, suffered a rapid decline in health which meant that he had to devote far more time to giving her the support she needed. Jack therefore resigned as Editor and the committee and members thank him for the work he put in to producing the Flash and wish him and Mary well in the future,

The committee then tried to find a replacement Editor but because of personal circumstances none of the committee could take on that responsibility. The committee was aware that I was previously, ten years ago, the creator of the Flash in roughly the format you are used to so I was requested to take charge to keep the newsletter going until a permanent replacement could be found. I have extremely limited room where I live so it was unworkable that I take on the task permanently but I was prepared to edit this edition, the April issue to cover the ANZAC functions and the issue preceding the AGM only.

Members unless one of you is prepared to step up to do the job after the AGM the Association will no longer have a newsletter. Its time someone else stepped up to take the reins.

During the same period the disaster in New York and the threat to our country all government and defence establishments were put on high security alert. This included the depot at Oakleigh. This meant that access was only available by prior approval and on production of photo identification so we were unable to use the facilities as freely as we were accustomed to; meetings were held at committee members homes. Those facilities have now become available so this limited edition of your newsletter can be produced.

Articles and stories previously included are being collected and a decision on how, when and if they are to be included in future issues of the Flash will be made at the Committee meeting on 19 Feb 2002. This issue concentrates on what is happening NOW and in the immediate future.

Bob Hunter, Editor

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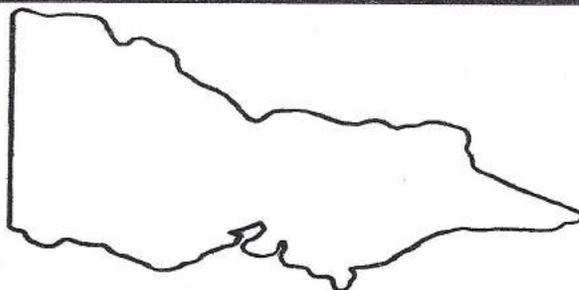
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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

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.



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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Since my last report we have had our Annual General Meeting at which two of our outgoing committeemen did not re-nominate, for personal reasons, namely Jack Westernhagen and Jack Miller. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them both for their efforts whilst committee members.

Jack Westernhagen's health is not as it should be and his wife Mary has had an operation as a result of which she needs Jack's constant care. Family of course comes first and we wish Jack and Mary all the best and hope things improve in the future.

The committee then met and saw fit to re-appoint me as your President and I thank them for their support. With Gus Allen as Vice president & Membership, Ron Clifford Secretary, Roma Cox Treasurer, Aranka Illia Assistant Treasurer, Reg Cox Welfare, Robert Hunter Editor, Ross Hope Provincial Representatives Spokesman, Max Moore Corps Items & Internet Manager and Bruce Doolan and Barry Ridgway making up the Committee (We are looking for positions for these two) I look forward with confidence to working with such a fine group of people in the beneficial management of our Association.

I was invited to attend a weekend seminar at Magyar Barracks covering logistics including an introduction by Brigadier Alkemade Co 4 Brigade, Recruitment Update, both ARA and ARES, a Brief of East Timor Logistic Support in East Timor and Bouganville by members who were on the ground there, the problems they encountered and how they overcame them and the lessons learnt. Several Historic Military events were highlighted and explained in great detail with the aid of Audio Visual displays.

The effort put in by all the presenters, including Lt Col Mark Buttner and his staff was outstanding, resulting in an excellent weekend. I thank Col Buttner for the opportunity to attend a most informative seminar.

The committee has been informed that the Federal Government is considering a proposal that an Australian Flag be presented to loved ones of a deceased member at the funeral as a mark of respect. We have written to the department concerned lending our support to this proposal.

The Committee, Leone and I hope you all had a happy and holy Christmas and that the New Year will be healthy and prosperous.

Peter

.....
Advance warning order

ANZAC EVE REUNION **WED 24TH APRIL 2002**

1930 hrs Oakleigh Barracks

Members wishing to stay overnight book early with Peter (03)98026406
(Further details March Flash)

Definition of middle class people:- not poor enough to accept charity- not rich enough to make a donation to any thing.

An optimist is someone who takes a frying pan on a fishing trip.

LUNCHEON

WIDOWS AND LIFE MEMBERS

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2002

Timings: 11:30 for 12:00

BEEF;PORK;LAMB Spit roast
Potatoes, sour cream, and vegetables
Choice of 7 salads

Choice of FOUR sweets

Tea & coffee

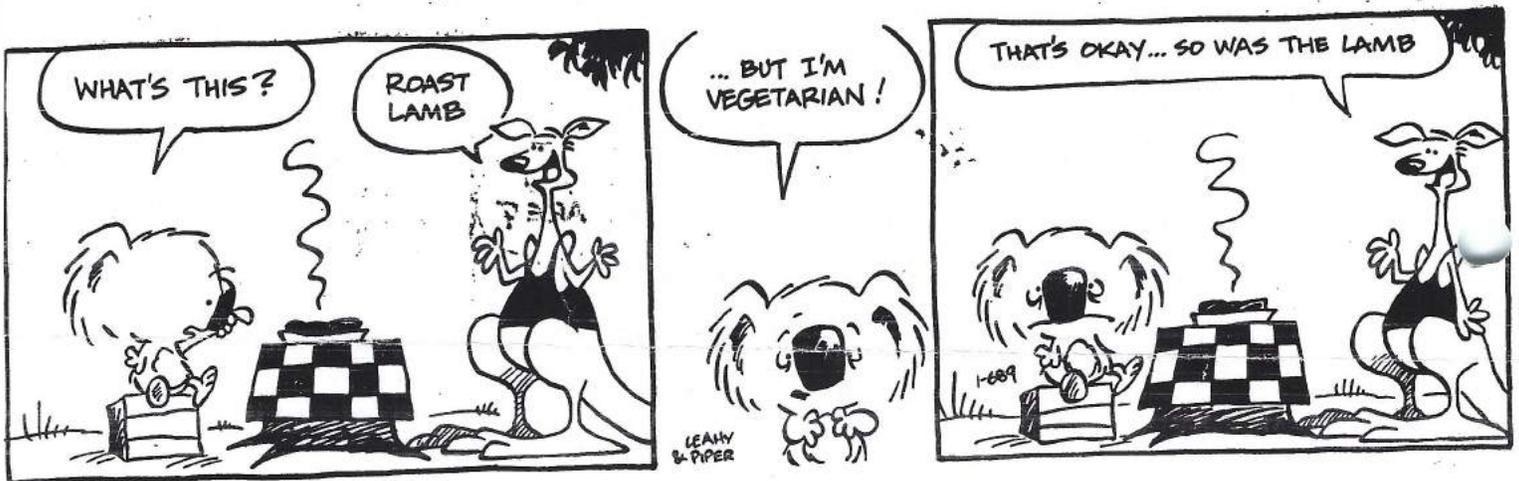
Table wines included.

\$20:00 per head

Other drinks available at the bar.

Written reservations to be sent to:- The RAEME Association
C/- Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Rd
Oakleigh South Vic 3167

Or preferably phone Peter Cartledge on (03) 9802 6406



English is a Crazy Language

Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant or ham in hamburger; neither apple or pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore it's paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham.

SOCIAL REPORT

A most enjoyable BBQ lunch was held after our AGM with over 30 members in attendance. There was the usual expressions of reunion, passing on well-wishes, the exchange of news (some of the stories were almost believable) and promises to meet again.

Melbourne Cup Weekend saw 31 members and friends meet 35 REME (South Aust Poms) at Mt Gambier where a number of friendships were re-kindled. We traveled by coach with Coach Captain Barry Mills who was most helpful to all and used his knowledge to show some of the interesting features during the journey.

From comments made both on the weekend, and after, everybody enjoyed themselves and a thank you must go to REME for their organisation of the trip. Cup weekend 2003 will be our turn to act as hosts and with that in mind we are looking for a suitable venue so any suggestions please pass them on to a committee member. You will be advised further as the planning proceeds but the DATE IS FIRM, write it down and plan for it NOW.

Speaking of writing things down, the date of the Luncheon to honour our Widows and Life Members is Sunday March 17th and I ask those Widows and Life Members to make a special effort to attend. Ladies, please let us know if you require transport for the luncheon as I Am sure we will be able to assist. May I remind all members that this luncheon is to honour our Widows and Life Members so lets see a good roll up. (Details overleaf)

The above is the official report of the Cup Weekend but there a few things that were not included.

First. Our Secretary Ron was accompanied by "the cone of silence" (Norma had laryngitis") but we are convinced that this period of bliss will be returned to "normal" in a few days.

Second. Despite several determined efforts by various persons a certain member managed to get on the right bus and is still with us.

Third There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that the Poms were asked to leave on the morning after the Cup Spectacular night.

Fourth The PROBUS Club that attended have been educated in running an indoor Melbourne Cup event and when they recover from the late night may even attempt one of their own. (Our members that volunteered to come and assist do not really expect an invitation)

Fifth The Roulette game using the kerbside front wheel of the coach is NOT to be held next trip. (This is as a result of a ballot of all those 29 of the 31 players who did not come anywhere near winning at any time).

Sixth. A certain lady is permitted to carry a baseball bat on the next trip. Another lady is encouraged to stick to her resolution NOT to become a wine-taster by profession.

Editor

TIME

Take time to dream, it's like hitching your wagon to a star.

Take time to read, it's the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to work, it's the price of success.

Take time to play, it's the secret of youth.

Take time to be friendly, it's the road to happiness.

Take time to look around, it's too short a day to be selfish.

WELFARE REPORT

20 November. Phil Cook has now had both hands operated on. Left hand still in plaster, movement and feeling gradually returning to the fingers.

A call to Geoff Maggs who has had a setback since returning from SA. He has been off his food and has a rash on his back which looks nasty. Doctor says it is not shingles but more x rays to follow. We wish him well.

03 December Geoff is now in Monash Medical centre after a bad fall at home. Nancy called the Police for assistance and they said hospital immediately. We had a chat and Geoff who seems to be slowly recovering.

04 December a visit to Ron Clifford at Footscray Western Hospital. Ron had surgery on his blocked bowel to remove a blocked section. He is in good spirits and yarned with my wife Roma and I for quite a while.

07 December Geoff Maggs passed away peacefully, funeral on December 18th.

Reg Cox
Welfare Officer.

Editors note. This was written just after Geoff passed away. Since then members of the Association attended his funeral and our President gave an address on behalf of our members particularly those who could not be in attendance.

I have spoken to Reg recently and he is unaware of any other members who are unwell. For those who may be unwell or otherwise in need of the hand of friendship let Reg know and he or another member of our Association will be in touch.

Editor

CORPS ITEMS

We are currently having some problems with the manufacture of pendants and brooches in that the clasps and chain attachments are faulty. They have been returned to the manufacturer and when the faults have been corrected they will be put back on sale.

VALE

Lottie McCoubrie

Bill Challons

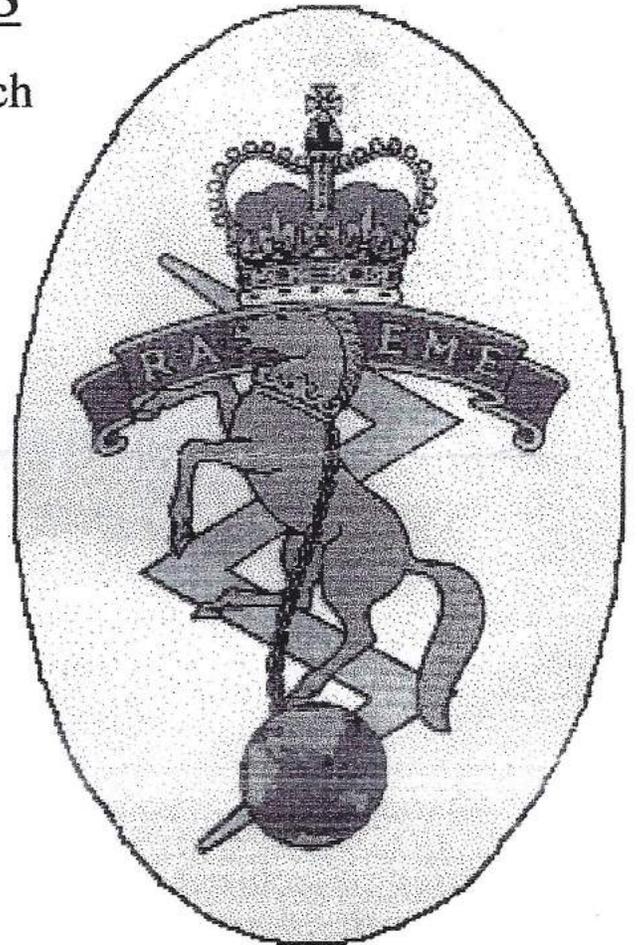
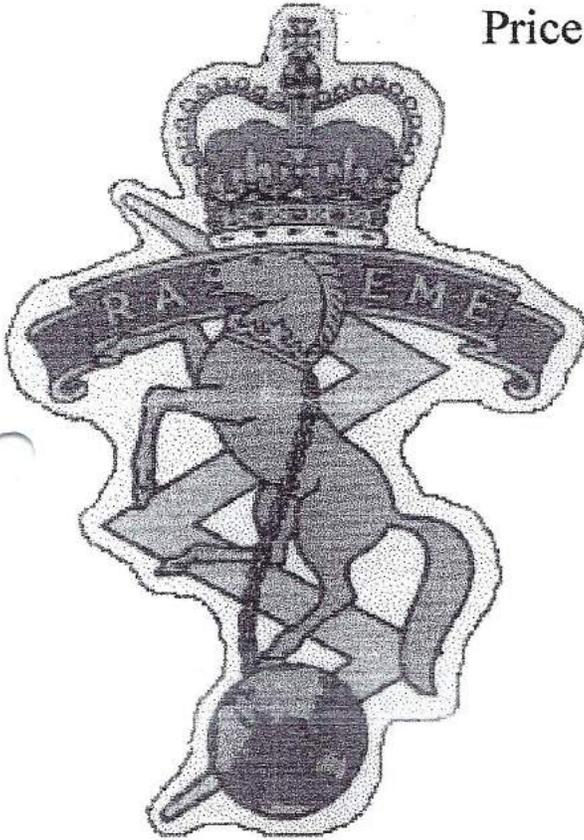
Geoff Maggs

Once again we offer our sympathy and support to their families.

RAEME ASSOCIATION PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

STICKERS

Price \$2.00 Each

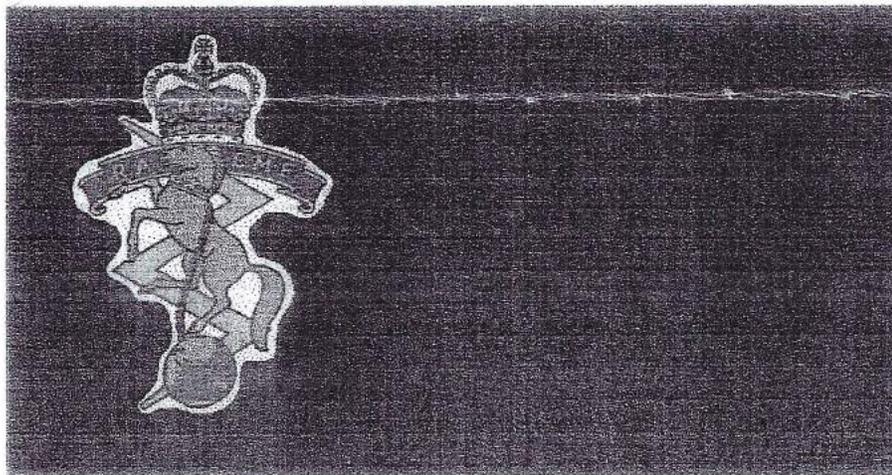


UV Resistant for External use

(As Vehicle Stickers)

Non UV Resistant

(For Cabinets & Tool-boxes)



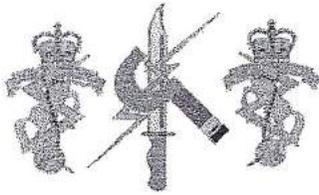
STUBBIE HOLDER

1/2 Actual size

Cost \$ 5.50 Each

These new products were developed to replace the old water based transfer (Decal), the UV protected one has become popular as people are placing on the rear and side windows of their cars, (they are getting good response as cars pass them). The oval sticker was designed for the serving digger and can be seen on lockers, doors and tool boxes in Units (its their way of showing our RAEME colours).

Requests have been made for larger ones for workshop display. The Association had to have large stocks made to keep



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

Patron: Brigadier C. Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust CPEng ABN No. 96873522

as at March 27, 2001

This Association now has its own Corps items for sale.

THESE ITEMS WOULD MAKE PERFECT GIFTS FOR A MEMBER OR THEIR PARTNER

2. Polo Shirts

They come in Navy or White Both have Navy Collar with Corps stripes, Sizes same as Jackets.



1. Bomber Style Jacket

They are Royal Blue, with a 10cm.high embroidered RAEME Badge with ASSOCIATION scrolled below, this is located at the left breast pocket position. They have the Corps colours on the collar, cuffs, and band. They come with studs (reversed for females) or zip, SIZES from S to XL.

Note These Jackets or Shirts can be tailored to length if required e.g. Sleeves or Body Length.

Cost:- \$45.00 each, postage extra..



Cost:- \$31.50 each, Postage Extra



3. Baseball Style Cap One Size fits all.

Cost:- \$15.00 Postage Extra

Note. The RAEME only Badge is slightly large than the others on the Cap only.

2.

RAEME Association (Victoria) Corps items continued.

4. Association Lapel Badge:-

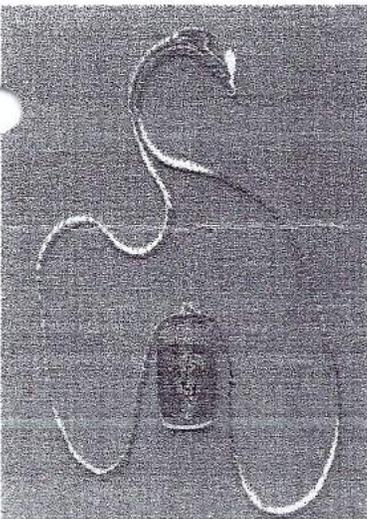


A RAEME badge with ASSOCIATION in a scroll at its base. It is 2cm.high with a pin and clutch on the back. (the badge, same as the old Corps shop stick pin.)

Cost:- \$11.00 each. Postage extra.

5. Ladies RAEME Pendant:-

This was designed for our ladies and one of our best selling items. The pendant comprises of full motif RAEME badge, (same motif as on the cuff links). The pendant is suspended on a 45cm. long gold plated snake chain with clasp. Longer chains can be obtained.

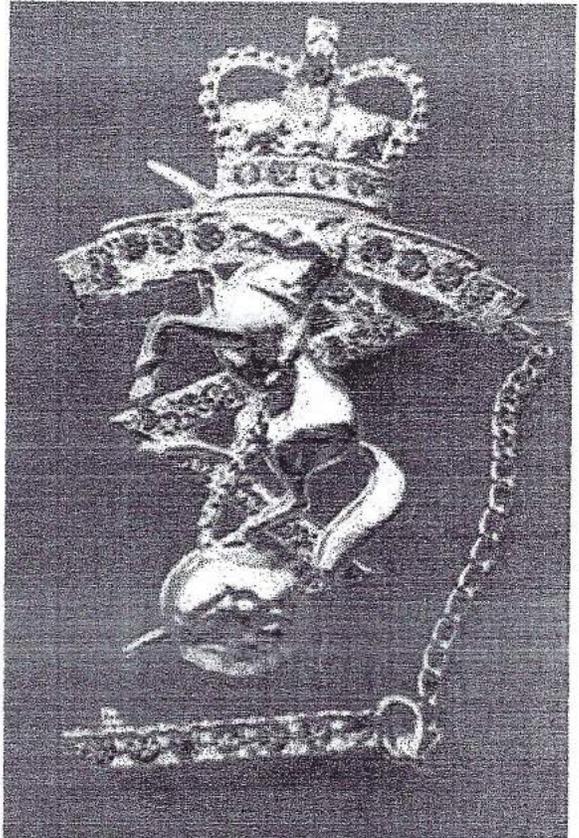


Cost:- \$17 .00 each, Postage extra

Note: All prices include GST

Note. All Logo's can be made any of 4 styles:-

6. Ladies Dress Brooch:-



This was designed to replace the old Marquisette brooch. It's a winner. The brooch is the same size and design as the RAEME hat badge and is silver plated. The scroll has 8 gem stones in place of the RAEME letters, the lightning flash is studded with approx. 15 gem stones. It has a safety chain with a clasp studded with 7 gems.

Cost:- \$35.00 each, Postage extra

-
1. RAEME Badge only.
 2. RAEME Association
 3. AEME/RAEME Association.
 4. REME Association

RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) CORPS ITEMS

Your Association has formed a Sub Committee to Develop and Promote Corps Items.

Your Promotional Committee:- Max Moore, Ron Clifford & Bob Hunter

NEW AND REVIEWED RAEME CORPS ITEMS:-

- RAEME Logo Stickers** 4 in. high, UV protected (both internal & external) **\$2.00 each.**
Stubbie Holders Royal Blue with a 10cm high RAEME Logo on a white background, **\$5.50 each.**
Thermal Mugs Cam. green with disruptive pattern and Corps Logo, **Price T.B.A.**
RAEME Plaque **\$38.00 Each**
Bomber Jacket, (\$45.00) & Polo Shirts (\$31.50), with a 11.5cm Embroidered RAEME Logo,
Baseball Caps Royal Blue with 5cm Embroidered RAEME Logo, **\$15.00 each.**
Cuff Links full motive, Tie Tack /Lapel, Stick Pin (Corps or Artificers)
Ladies RAEME Pendant & Chain (45cm or 50cm long chain) **\$17.00 each.**
Ladies Dress Brooch **\$35.00 each** (a silver plated cap size badge with gemstones embedded in the crest and the safety chain Clasp)
Ladies Dress Brooch No. 2, Same as Dress Brooch with:
(A Gold and Silver plated cap size badge with gemstones embedded in the crest, flash and the safety chain Clasp, plus Corps coloured stones in the crown).
Same price for either Brooch.
Print of the Presentation of the Prince Philip Banner (May 1986 unframed) \$6.00 each

RAEME ASSOCIATION ITEMS:-

- Bomber Jackets** with option of: **RAEME Association, AEME/RAEME Association**
REME Association, Logo's or RAEME only.
Polo Shirts with Logo - option's same as Bomber Jackets,
Name Tag (made to order)
Association Lapel Badge.
Note:- All Bomber Jackets now have **new style pockets** (side / front pockets on a slight angle nice and deep so things will not fall out), any existing Jacket may have pockets redesigned at a small cost to members, price to be advised.

THE ARMY MUSEUM BANDIANA still has some RAEME Corps Shop Items:-

- RAEME History Books** (Craftsman of the Australian Army) **\$45.00 each**
RAEME Tie \$25.00 each, **Tie Pins** \$ 6.50 each, ,
Coasters (pewter) \$11.00 ea,
Diary of Capt. B. Ditmar 1 Armd Shop Wksp. while on duty in Vietnam 1968 - **\$5.00**