

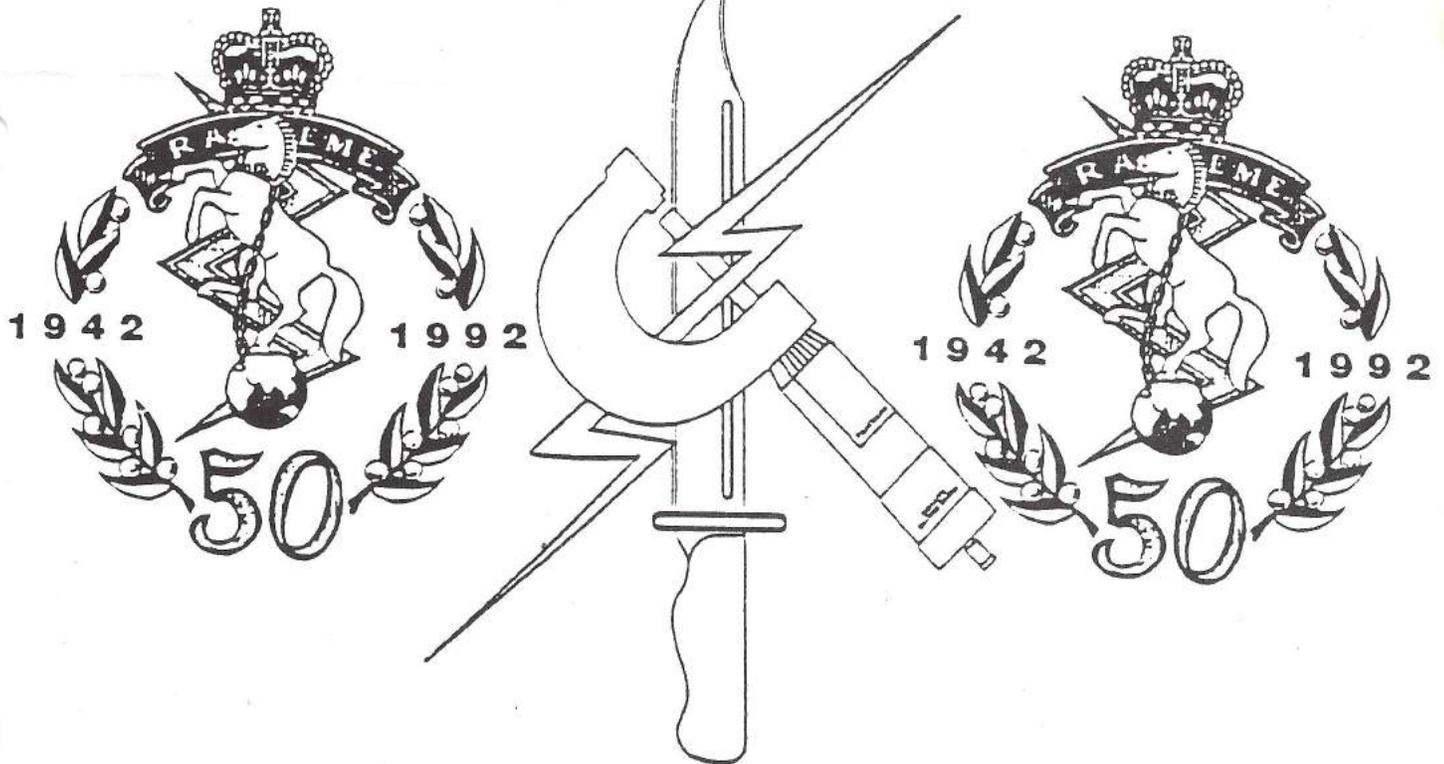
# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC)  
PATRON Brig C Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust FAIM CPEng

Pres Col John Lee RFD ED (Ret'd)

Secretary Bruce Williams  
6 Chestnut Crt  
Mulgrave 3170

ISSUE 4  
OCTOBER 1992



SOLDIER  
and  
CRAFTSMAN

Editor Capt Bob Hunter (Ret'd)  
126 Alexander Ave Upwey Vic 3158 (03) 754 8314

# RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED

## COMMITTEE FOR 1992-93

At the AGM a Committee was elected and that Committee now confirms the following appointments. The name of the members wife or relative appears in brackets.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Col(R) John Lee	3 Verbena St Mordialloc	Ph 580 4760	(Lyn)
VICE PRESIDENT	Don MacLeod	3 Braidhill Rd Macleod	Ph 457 4489	(Bonnie)
SECRETARY	Bruce Williams	6 Chestnut Crt Mulgrave	Ph <del>560 4501</del>	(Sandra)
TREASURER	Aranka Illia	8 Eva Crt Hallam	Ph <del>796 4003</del> 561 8354	

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

Allan Freeth	14 Wall St Richmond	Ph 428 6913	(Merrilyn)
Bob Hunter	126 Alexander Ave Upey	Ph 754 6314	(Daughter, Megan)
Ken Kermonde	31 Bernhardt Ave Hoppers Crossing	Ph 749 1680	(Alice)
Geoff Maggs	611 North Rd Ormond	Ph 578 1397	(Nancy)
Max Moore	8 Padua Crt Glen Waverley	Ph 802 9128	(Jenny)
Jim McFarlane	364 Chesterville Rd East Bentleigh	Ph 579 3529	(Beryl)
Bill Slegers	RMB 5135 Palmer Rd Jindivick Nth	Ph 056 285340	(Carol)
Jack Westernhagen	13 Erica St Glen Iris	Ph 509 5806	

### SUB COMMITTEE CONTACTS

RULES & By-Laws	John Lee
CORPS REP	John Lee or in his stead Don MacLeod
WELFARE & BETTERMENT	Jim McFarlane
MEMBERSHIP	John Lee
EDITORIAL	Bob Hunter
HISTORY	Jack Westernhagen
SOCIAL	Max Moore
ANZAC DAY PLANNING	John Lee
AREA REPS (Country)	Bill Slegers
All general enquiries to the Secretary	Bruce Williams (03) 560 4501

#### 3MD RAEME WO & SNCO Association

The new Office Bearers for the Association are:

President:

Paul Bond

Secretary:

WO Jack Dihm  
TDWO Electrical Development Wing RTC  
060 552444 or  
DNATS 8-56-2444

AREA REPS VIC 3677

Melb - Herbie Green  
Pucka - Garry Scott  
Bandy - Mark Cuthbertson.

#### RAEME VIETNAM ASSOCIATION (Vic)

Our Association in Victoria now has a new team to lead us.

President:

Milton Pearson (ex 106 Fd Wksp)

Vice President:

Brian Kelly  
(ex AOD & 4 Bn RAR)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Geoff Trevor-Hunt  
50 Brodie Street  
WANGARATTA VIC 3677  
Ph: Home (057) 21 9078

## LEST WE FORGET

We regret to advise all members of the passing of Derek Snowball on 17th September 1992. Derek was a former member of the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company, the 2/1 Independent Co. Sigs. and the Boronia and Bayswater RSLs. The Memorial Service was held at the LePine Chapel in Croydon in front of a large gathering at which all of those organisations were well represented together with members of the RAEME Association. His attachment to those organisations as well as his willingness to assist will be sadly missed.

We extend our sympathy to all his family.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR STATE PRESIDENT . . .

We have just started on the last Quarter of this year and it is going to be an exciting finish with several RAEME Association goals to be kicked before we can switch off for a well earned short break.

First of all, there is the RAEME Anniversary Ball on Nov 7th. This is a bold initiative undertaken by your Social Committee in order to restore a tradition that we expect to once again become a very enjoyable Annual Event. Please polish up those "Dancin" shoes and give this occasion your total support by attending.

Then, there is the RAEME Anniversary Parade at the RAEME Training Centre. A once only event, and a great opportunity to renew old friendships. We have accepted responsibility to help get the "Old and Bold" to and from that parade and you have been provided with all the details. Please make a special effort and let Max Moore know your intentions. As all trained soldiers know Accommodation and Transport requires advanced planning - particularly when you have to pay for it.

Look forward to seeing you at both of these historical and important occasions.

Now a brief look at 1993. Let us hope it is a better year for everyone. Well, we can all do something about raising morale and the opportunity will come about with the parading of the RAEME Corps Banner on Anzac Day. This is another first, and a one off occasion. The Regular Army will be providing a Banner Guard and it is our job to muster the biggest turn out of RAEME Association members we possibly can.

We will also be encouraging other RAEME Associations to participate and make this the biggest yet RAEME Parade. This would mean that while other Associations would march behind their Banner they would, for this special occasion, forego their normal location in the march and march behind the RAEME Corps Banner. All RAEME elements would then be marching together for this special occasion. Please give some thought to this. Details will be provided at a later date after consultation with the Colonel Commandant and other RAEME Associations.

Just a word about Membership. I have overall responsibility for Membership, but really it is every member's responsibility. One of our Committee members, when pushed to get some new members, said "Why don't we have a Flyer {small handbill} we can hand to potential members". He was not about to produce one, but we now have one. It is attached to this Issue for use by you as a member. The Flyer answers most of the questions potential members would ask.

PLEASE use it. Hand it to a potential member along with an Application Form also attached. Let us build our Association to the benefit of all its members.

As this will be the last issue of the "Lightning Flash" this year let me take the opportunity of thanking all of those who have worked so hard for the Association during this year. I would also like to wish all members and their families a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

John LEE.

## REME NEWS

The Secretary received a letter from the REME Corps

SECRETARIAT in response to his initial communication. For their 50th celebrations they have arranged many functions in all parts of the country. They are also selling such things as commemorative statues, plates, ties, shirts and other items. The Secretary has details of prices etc and would be pleased to pass them on together with the address for orders.

### LIGHTNING FLASH ISSUES

Don't fold your tent and steal quietly away . . . . . If you are not getting your copy of the Lightning Flash or if contact with the Corps or RAEME Association Secretariat appears to be lost, it may be that you have not

### ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

This magazine is produced by the members for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communications.

Articles for publication are invited from any interested persons. Send your material in, (photographs should be sent as one good sharp print on glossy paper. If the negatives are available they should be sent with the prints.

**DO NOT WRITE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.)**

Put the caption on a separate sheet of paper, and don't use a paper clip to fix it to the letter.

Permission to reproduce must be obtained to avoid infringement of COPYRIGHT where necessary.

Don't worry too much about the format. Editorial assistance will soon 'knock' the article into a publishable shape.

Items should be typed in **DOUBLE SPACING** on one side of the page and submitted in dupli-

cate, and be accompanied by a photograph and brief resume (service career, also personal details, hobbies/interests if desired) of the author.

Illustrations, whether line drawing or photographs are most welcome. Wherever possible, original artwork should be submitted. All artwork will be returned.

We make efforts to keep you informed so how about you keeping the Editor informed about what you want this newsletter to cover and whether you want to share some of your experience with others.

This is your magazine, so stop hiding all those talents under a bushel and put pen to paper.

One stipulation is that we do not print phantom or "Dorothy Dix" letters.

You must ensure that our content is genuine  
Ed..

#### - Stop Press -

As stated on the 50th Birthday Parade brochure the Corps is endeavouring to get returned Service personnel to the parade and has turned to the Association for help.

You can help by contacting Members of your old RAEME Unit. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in the 50th Anniversary parade, even if you can't attend the parade yourself, give them a ring and this opportunity as they may not even realise it is on.

The Association is aware that some of the past Members of the Corp in Vic have fallen on hard times and would like to attend the parade, let us know as the Corp Committee has made available to our Association a subsidy to help transport needy 2nd World War Veterans or others in need to the Parade. Please tell us of Veterans who need transport and/or accommodation.

Contact Max Moore on 802 9128 for further information.

## VIETNAM VETERANS NEWS

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service has been specifically set up to help Vietnam Veterans and their families with any problems they may be having.

Free, confidential assistance is available to Vietnam Veterans and their families having difficulties with:-

- \* Stress and Anxiety
- \* Frustration and Anger
- \* Employment
- \* Financial and Pension matters, or
- \* Marriage and Family matters

Vietnam Veterans and their families who feel that they would benefit from services offered by professional staff are welcome to ring for an appointment.

If it is considered that a Community Agency could provide other assistance, an appropriate referral can be made.

### VIETNAM. VETERANS COUNSELLING SERVICE

26 Thomson Street, South Melbourne 3205

(Melways 57 G 3)

PHONE: (03) 690 5299 COUNTRY MEMBERS: 008 01 1046

Normal office hours 9.00am to 5.00pm (by appointment) After hours by arrangement.

## MEDALS

### Are you entitled to a medal for service in Vietnam?

The Career Management Agency (previously known at Central Army Records Office) located on the lower ground floor, 360 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, phone: 282 5770, still holds a number of medals (perhaps one of them is yours) So if you have not claimed any Awards or Decorations, see the illustrations and Application Coupon near the rear of this Flash Edition.



## CORPS HISTORY

Much has already been said, publicised, printed and otherwise made known about the Corps history. Advice has been received that copies are still available.

If you want a copy complete the attached pro-forma and return as indicated.

Orders prior to 1 Nov 92

SOI CORPS

DGEME-A

J-1-03

Russell Offices

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Order for

“Craftsmen of the Australian Army - The Story of RAEME”

Orders after 1 Nov 92

The RAEME Corps Shop

RAEME Training Centre

MILPO

BANDIANA VIC 3694

Qty                      Cost

Leather bound, gold embossed and  
encased edition                      @ \$150.00

\_\_\_\_\_

Hard covered standard edition @ \$40.00

\_\_\_\_\_

Regrettably all copies of the limited numbered editions have already been sold out, however the leather bound edition will be numbered and signed by the DGEME-A.

Only a limited number remain.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please use capital letters  
and print clearly)

Cheque or Money Order should be payable to:

“The RAEME Corps Fund”

## Message from the WEST

*As promised in our last issue here is the contents of the letter received from Don Horsley in Western Australia.*

After spending five hours with your President Johnny Lee going back over the last forty four years I thought I had better put pen to paper and let you know what is going on over here in the Golden State.

As far as the Corps is concerned we now have six operational groups looking after the serving and exmembers, these are as follows:-

The regular army units consisting of the Perth Logistic Battalion and a few other small groups of attached RAEME personnel.

The ARES, the major RAEME unit being 113 Fd Wksp. The RAEME Officers Association.

The WO's & NCO's Association.

The WA Branch of the RAEME Vietnam Association.

This also caters for all ex RAEME Personnel not eligible or wishing to belong to the other associations. The WA RAEME Corps committee discussed raising a RAEME Association but because most were covered by the other three associations it was agreed that the Viet Assoc would open its ranks to cover all who wish to join as associates.

The RAEME Corps Committee.

Finally we have the RAEME Corps committee consisting of the Col Commandant Lt Col Ernie McCart (The big E) and representatives of all the other groups. It is through this committee that we have been able to achieve complete co-operation between all groups. One of the tasks allocated to the Vet Association by the committee was to produce a list of names and addresses of all ex RAEME personnel in WA this has now, to the best of our knowledge, been completed and information can now be supplied when requested. 113 Fd Wksp has been given the task of being the foster unit for the three associations enabling them to have accommodation for all their meets and functions.

On the personnel side to mention a few who should be known by your members is non other than Brig Bob Millar who was ex DGEME and also some ex Melbourne Area Wksp such as Ian Stewart, Garry Whykes (Snow). Dick Pease, Bill Gray and of course myself plus Frank Parker, Merv Flanders, Dave Critchley and many others who served in the Eastern State.

This year is our big challenge as we plan that the Corps Birthday, to be held on the 1st Nov 1992, will be a spectacular affair with the support of all other Corps and covering the whole period that AEME/RAEME has been in existence.

I must say that I am impressed with the copies of "The Lightning Flash" that John gave me and they held my interest from start to finish. A great cover on Issue 2. Reference 105 Inf Wksp, Peter Rawlings address is :- 4 Finchaven Ave, KEYSBOROUGH Vic 3175 Phone (03) 798 5481, but as the names appear I remember the times I spent with those that I had contact with and the effect they had on my life especially the 25 years I served in the ARA.

I have just re-read both copies of the "Flash" and now realize that it is not just the interesting topics you have covered but as the names appear I remember the times I spent with those that I had contact with and the effect they had on my life especially the 25 years I served in the ARA.

Finally I must say one of the proudest moments of my life was when I lead the Victorian RAEME Association on Anzac Day the year I was President.

I could not possibly close without wishing you one and all the best from the guys in the West..

Editors Note:

Don has also offered to supply info on "The three Horrible H's" and RAEMEs role in the Antarctic, an offer I am sure will be accepted.

## FROM LATCHFORD BARRACKS

*NOTE; This is a copy of a letter sent to the Association for the information of all exmembers of the Army Apprentice School and is reprinted verbatim. Ed.*

Dear M.

Your name appears on our records as having completed an apprenticeship at either the Army College of TAFE or the Army Apprentices School (AAS). As you may know the AAS moved from Balcombe to Latchford Barracks at Bonegilla in 1983 and it became the Army College of TAFE in January 1991.

The Army College of TAFE is now planning to establish a Memorial Avenue of trees along the major roads within Latchford Barracks. Every graduating class and its staff will be allotted a tree and this will be dedicated by way of a concrete plinth with a brass plaque attached, positioned in front of each tree.

A reunion of all past students and staff will be held for the actual plinth positioning ceremony, Saturday 12 December 1992, at Latchford Barracks.

It will be appreciated that this is a very expensive project and will only succeed through donations, sponsorship of trees at \$200.00 each and by marketing of promotional items. e.g. Port Crocks, Coffee cups, Tee-Shirts etc.

We would appreciate an indication from you as to your interest in participating in any aspect of proposed activities, including the fund raising effort so this project can become a successful and memorable event.

Good standard Hotel/Motel accommodation is available throughout the Albury/Wodonga area. A bus shuttle service will be provided leaving from the Albury Post Office for Latchford Barracks via the Wodonga Post Office and departing every half hour from 0700 to 0830 hr. The return service after the B-B-Q lunch will run from 1430 to 1600 hr.

- \* Any information you may have as to the last known addresses of retired members and staff would also be appreciated so that contact can be made with them for their possible inclusion in activities.
- \* Should you be in touch with organisations such as the RSL or Vietnam Veterans Association, passing on the information of this reunion would be most helpful.

Please forward your expression of interest including your current address, regimental number, initials, name, class number and graduation date to:

Latchford Barracks Co-ordination  
Latchford Barracks  
Milpo  
BONEGILLA VIC 3693

## Apprentice Reunion and Memorial Avenue .

To mark the occasion of the Apprentice Reunion and the establishment of the Memorial Avenue of Trees, the following Commemorative Memorabilia are available.

- \* **STONEWARE PORT CROCK:** (850ml or 375ml) filled with 5 Year Old Tawny Port, corked and waxed sealed. Each crock is embellished with a unique Commemorative Emblem and Inscription in gold on black and are individually numbered.
- \* **STONEWANE PORT BARREL:** (1 Litre) with tap and cork and also bearing the emblem and inscription in gold on black.
- \* **STONEWARE BEER STEIN:** (450 ml) decorated to match.
- \* **COFFEE MUG :** (250 ml) displaying the emblem and inscription.
- \* **PRESENTATION PACK:** Comprising two filled crocks (850 ml) en cased in a crimson flocked lined pine presentation box with transparent front sliding cover.

The items listed above may be ordered now and will be available for collection on the day of the Ceremony / Reunion.

Orders Close: 31/10/1992

### ORDER FORM

<b>PORT CROCK (850ml)</b>	@ \$25.00	Qty Req: .....
<b>PORT CROCK (375 ml)</b>	@ \$12.50	Qty Req: .....
<b>PORT BARREL (1L)</b>	@ \$ 18.50	Qty Req: .....
<b>BEER STEIN (450 ml)</b>	@ \$ 10.00	Qty Req: .....
<b>COFFEE MUG (250 ml)</b>	@ \$ 6.50	Qty Req: .....
<b>PRESENTATION PACK</b>	@ \$ 70.00	Qty Req: .....

Total Amount: \$ .....

Receipt to be forwarded to:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Phone No:.....

Cheques are to be made out to :

LEPRECHAUN POTTERY

Cheque and Order to be sent to:

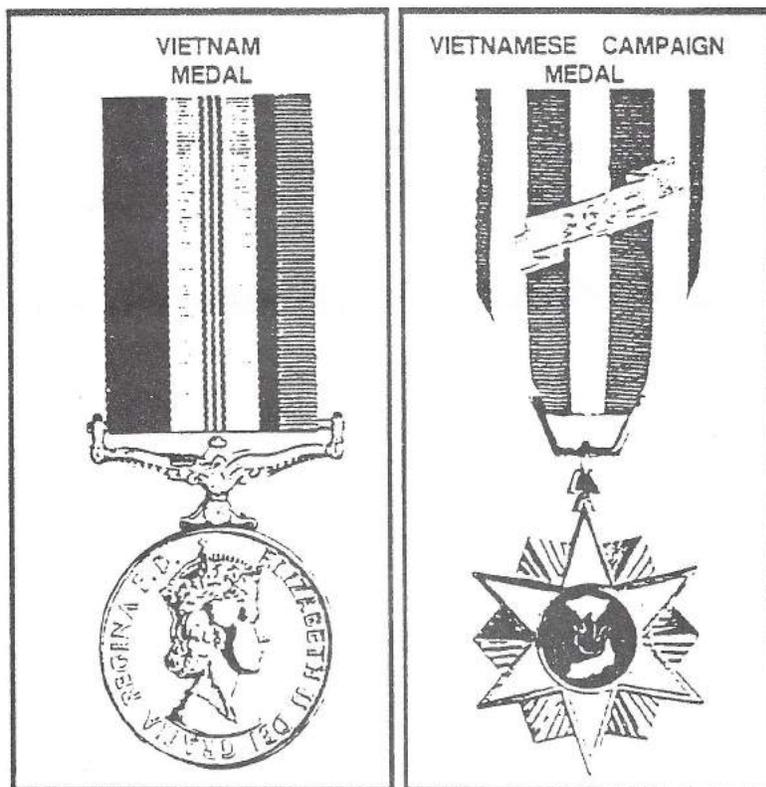
LATCHFORD BARRACKS CO-ORD

LATCHFORD BARRACKS

MILPO

BONEGILLA VIC 3833

APPLY FOR YOUR VIETNAM MEDALS



*The Central Army Records Office still holds a number of medals awarded for service in Vietnam which have not been collected by ex - Army personnel. If you have not claimed your award, why not send in the coupon below? Even if you don't need them for yourself, your children and relations will be very interested.*

ARMY MEDALS SECTION  
CENTRAL ARMY RECORDS OFFICE 366 St Kilda Rd MELBOURNE 3004

Army No .....

Given Names ..... Surname .....

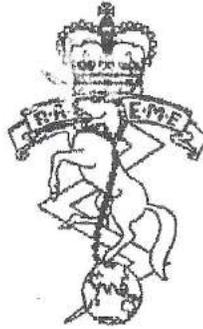
Address .....

I hereby apply for the Vietnam Medal and/or the Vietnamese Campaign Medal.

Signature ..... Date .....







## WHO ARE WE?

We are the Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) Association (Victoria) Incorporated. (In short the RAEME ASSOCIATION)

## WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE (OUR MISSION)

In brief, to preserve the memory of those who have died on service, and to perpetuate the comradeship created by previous or current service in the Corps of AEME/RAEME during peace or war.

(Our formal statement of purposes is printed on the back of this sheet)

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN?

All male or female members, who are serving, or who have served in the Permanent or Part-Time Forces in the Corps of RAEME.

## HOW DOES THE ASSOCIATION CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS?

As an Incorporated body. All affairs of the Association are conducted strictly in accordance with the Constitution and Rules approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

The Association is managed by a committee of 10 members elected at an Annual General Meeting.

## HOW ARE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS KEPT INFORMED?

The Association's official publication "THE LIGHTNING FLASH" is distributed to all members on a regular basis,

It is full of relevant news and is the prime means of communication, supplemented by circulars as required.

## WE CURRENTLY HAVE 250 MEMBERS - WHY DO WE NEED MORE MEMBERS?

The answer is in two parts:

- (a) So that those currently outside of the Association are brought in so that they may derive the benefits of RAEME comradeship.
- (b) The more members the Association has the stronger it will be financially and therefore the more effective it can be in fulfilling its Purpose (Mission).

## WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE A MEMBER?

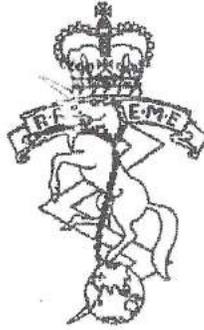
Fees are: Joining \$10.00

Annual Subscription \$10.00

## HOW DO I JOIN?

All current members have an Application Form so if you know a member he/she can provide you with an Application Form and help you complete it.

Then send the completed Application and \$20.00 to the Association's Secretary.



## STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

The purposes for which the Incorporated Association is established are:

- a. To preserve the memory of comrades who have died on active service.
- b. To maintain fellowship between serving and former members of the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical Engineers.
- c. To co-operate with kindred organisations.
- d. To take an active and intelligent interest in the defence of Australia.
- e. To establish and maintain social activities and information services for the benefit of members and their dependents.
- f. To strengthen the Corps through encouragement and moral support to Units and individuals currently serving.
- g. To do all such things as will promote the welfare of the Incorporated Association, its members and their dependents.



### Application for Membership of RAEME Association of Vic Incorp.

I, .....  
(Full Name of Applicant)

of ..... Ph: Home ..... Bus .....  
(Address)

..... desire to become a Member  
(Occupation) of the RAEME Association.

Last Serving Unit ..... Service No .....

Medals and Decorations .....

In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

..... /...../.....  
(Signature of Applicant) (Date)

I, ..... a Member of the Association,  
(Name) Nominate the Applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

..... / / .  
(Signature of Proposer) (Date)

I, ..... a Member of the Association  
(Name) Seconded the nomination of the Applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

..... / / .  
(Signature of Seconder) (Date)

Joining Fee \$

Annual Fee \$

Total paid \$

Date Paid .....



## THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Registered Publication No VAS 91 8601  
If undeliverable return to  
126 Alexander Avenue  
UPWEY VIC 3156

SURFACE  
MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

Mr J Westernhagen  
13 Eric Ave  
GLEN IRIS 3146



### Post Script

As part of the Parade functions the RAEME Officers Mess at Bandiana is holding a Golden Jubilee Regimental Dinner on 27th November.

All serving and retired Officers are invited to attend - for further details contact Bob Hunter on Ph 2826173.