

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Official Publication of The RAEME Association (VIC) INC.  
PATRON: Brig C. Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust FAIM CPEng

PRESIDENT: John Lee (580 4760)

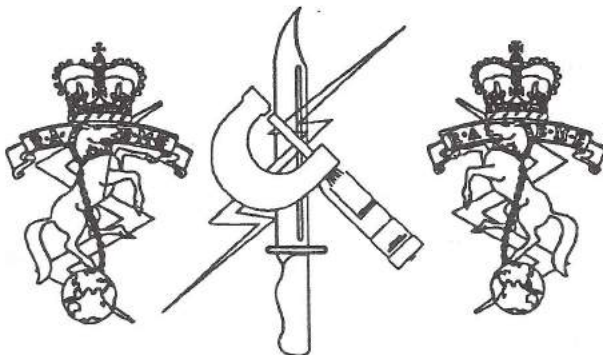
EDITOR: Jack Westernhagen (509 5806)

SECRETARY: Bruce Williams (561 8354)

ISSUE: **9**

**JANUARY 1994**

Subscription: \$2.00 per Edition  
(Financial Members Free)



**SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN**

Print Post Publication No: PP 33743910010  
Category 'A'



In this Issue ....	
The Melbourne Tank Museum Visit ....	1
The President's Report .....	2
The Secretary's Report .....	2 - 4
From the Editor's Desk .....	4 - 5
The Historical Committee Report .....	5
The Social Committee Report .....	6 - 8
Provincial Areas Committee Report .....	8
Moments of Truth .....	8
Member's Profile .....	9 - 10
Late News .....	10
Breavement Notices .....	10
The Craftsman's Diary JAN-SEPT '94...	10
The Craftsman's Diary - 1994.....	10
Return to Fort Queenscliff.....	11



### THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

First of all from your committee and myself, all the very very best to you and yours for 1994.

As far as the Association is concerned, things look good for '94. The Sub-Committees are producing many success stories. To briefly mention a few examples:

The recent social events have been so successful as to point the way to the future.

The Historical Sub-Committee has established a "RAEME Corner" at The Melbourne Tank Museum (thanks for the facility John Belfield).

The Rules and Management Sub-Committee have had amendments to our Rules approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations. The main amendment being the admission of Associate Members. The immediate family may now join for \$10:00 per year (already 20 Associate Members are on our Register).

'The Lightning Flash' continues to receive 'RAVE REVIEWS' from various quarters, particularly from other Associations who envy the standard we have reached so far.

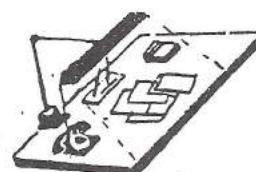
You, as a member, can make the efforts of the Sub--Committees worthwhile by:

1. Supporting planned social events;
2. Donating or loaning military memorabilia to our "RAEME Corner" both at The Tank Museum and at Oakleigh Barracks;
3. Enrolling a member or an associate member. Remember the main reason we brought in the category of Associate Member was so that you could have a family member close at hand to support you, at the same time your relative could enjoy the benefits of membership;
4. Providing news for 'The Lightning Flash'. Jack Westernhagen, Editor, has introduced a "Moments of Truth" segment. Here is a golden opportunity to provide Jack with any humorous incidents that have occurred between 3 SEPT 1939 and yesterday. All it has to be is the truth, or close enough to it.

Come on members, please get behind your Sub-Committees.

Our next major events will be centred on ANZAC DAY. You will receive all the details later, but how about a New Year's Resolution right now - 'Yes I will participate in our Association's ANZAC activities this year. No better time to make such a commitment, then all you have to do is stick with it.

John Lee, PRESIDENT



### THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

My, doesn't time fly when interesting things happen. Briefly, I will cover just a few important items and, as usual, our various committees will give you all the detailed news from their areas of activity.

Let me begin by thanking all those members who since ANZAC EVE have made monetary donations to the Association. They are:- Lindsay Morton, John Ritters, Edmond Jones, Dennis Mayor, Stan Konrads, 'Snow' Sneddon, James Watt, Hugh Rodgers, Bill Slegers, Tony See and The RAEME Association of Tasmania. It is members like these who show their appreciation that help make the Committee's job worthwhile. Thank you from all of us.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY 11th NOVEMBER, 1993**  
This period began the day before, Nov, 10th, where activities of both ours and the old Sappers Associations joined together, take a bus and travel to Canberra to attend 'The Entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier'. 51 people travelled with us and what a time we had.

Probably the most memorable time I have had with our Association since becoming a member in the early '70's.

We were proud to have two of our Life members in attendance, Harold Chamberlain and Tom Money. Harold assisted in carrying the Banner Banner in the Parade and represented all our "Life Members" in a most professional manner. What a proud man Harold was on that important day in history.



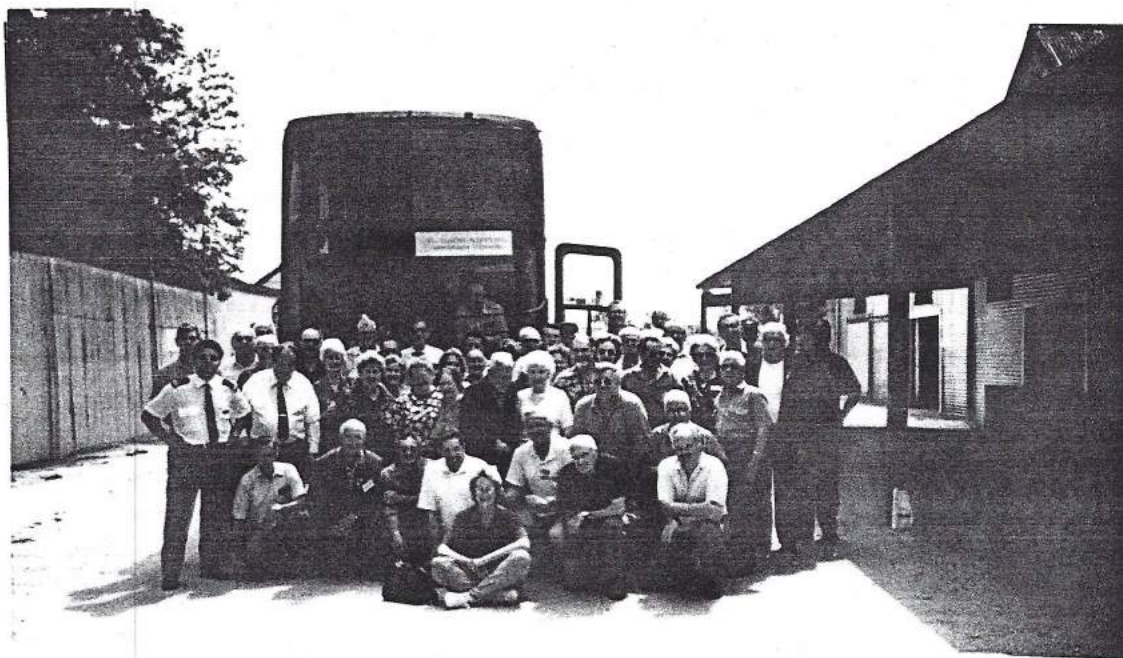
Roll Call for all those members of both The Old Sappers, RAEME and other Associations who attended the visit to Canberra from 10-12th Nov '93.

**OLD SAPPERS** - Jim Muir, Jim Crosling, Joe & Dulcie Jopling, Bob Siggins, Arthur & Joy Thompson, Leslie Flynn, Les & Lorna Hoole, George & Dorothy Weymes, Wal Cubbin, Bill Carule, Norm Dodgson, George Carruthers, Peter De Groote, Les & Elsie Meakin.

**RAEME** - John Lee, Bruce Williams, Jack

Jindivick Nth (Bill Slegers dairy farm) What a great day that turned out to be. If you did not take the time to join Bill and the Assn, YOU MISSED OUT AGAIN.

The morning began with a ride through well sign posted roads into the hills of West Gippsland. To my surprise, the Assn had close on 40 members there. As the morning progressed the members mingled over a number of B.B.Qs, with the usual 'Tinny' in hand, but guess what? - NO FLIES.



Taken at Morris's Winery on Friday, 12th November, 1993.

Westernhagen, Florence Moore and son Ray, Ron & Norma Clifford, Kerrie Brindell, Ken & Alice Kermonde, Rex & Shirley Foord, Harold Chamberlain, Tom Money, Phil & Alma Cook, Reg & Roma Cox.

**RAASC** - Ian Mackie, John Laversure,  
**RAA** - Bill White, **RAAMC** - Brian Green,  
**RAAC** - Ken & Gladys Alder, **SAS** - David McLeod, **RAR** - Noel Riley, **RAAF** - Gerry & Phylis Turtin, Merchant Navy - Terry Daniel, Geelong Military Historical Society - Ian Barnes & Jack Oliver, 8th light Horse Assn - Stan McKay & Barry Burrows. Our Cris's Coach driver was Ari.

Well that's it! To all those people who attended on our bus trip and helped make our visit to Canberra on this important occasion so enjoyable, thank you, from Jack Westernhagen & Bruce Williams. (Refer to the group photograph above.)

**FARM DAY 27th NOVEMBER, 1993**

Then following 2 weeks later was the Farm Day at

Then around 2.30pm Santa arrived in the local Fire Truck handing out lollies as he spoke to the adults and kids. After that, Santa gave out presents to the kids who were there, this was then followed by a hay ride, tour and talk on Bill's dairy and milking shed. All in all a wonderful day.

It was good to see Ted Cooper, who came all the way from Campbells Creek (Castlemaine). His first visit as a new member. Also in attendance was our Patron, Brig Conrad Erment and his wife Muriel. I could go on all day about this outing, however space does not permit, but to Bill and Carol...**THANK YOU** for a wonderful day, and **YES!** we will be back next year, hopefully in greater numbers, which will excite Santa.

#### NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Well, the year moves on, Christmas has now passed and from my family and myself we wish you a very Happy and prosperous new Year and hope you are all well.



# ANZAC EVE RE-UNION & ANZAC DAY 1994

Planning is now well under way for ANZAC EVE and ANZAC DAY. As you are now aware, we are moving to an Afternoon/Evening Function. This will help in getting some of our senior members back to the re-union. For those who sleep over, the usual arrangements won't change. More detail later in this issue.

## A.G.M. NOTES

Now for the Admin News. All Rules proposed at our AGM have been approved by Corporate Affairs. Meaning, we have new Membership Categories, the most important is the new Rule to cover family members as "Associate Member"; I am proud to say the following members have joined our Association "Associate Members" They are:

Leonie Cartledge, Norma Clifford, Roma Cox, Alice Kermonde, Jenny Moore, June Lewis, Bonnie MacLeod & Sandra Williams, Lynne Lee, Kim Lee, Craig Lee & Nancy Maggs.

To all those new Associate Members, "WELCOME". This is a milestone in the history of our Assn and we thank you for your consideration in joining us.

## TO ALL THOSE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO MAY LIKE TO JOIN US AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS -

Contact the Secretary (me) and I will forward the relevant form for completion, this Category is not just open to the ladies but includes all immediate family members. So let's hear from you, and most important, this has also been put in place to offer this category to our Widows hoping that they will then have a sound reason for staying involved or, again becoming involved and re-acquainting themselves with friends from years gone by. So when this News Letter arrives don't hesitate to contact me for an application form. Annual Subscription: \$10:00 - NO JOINING FEE REQUIRED)

That is enough from me this time. But in closing this segment, let me say on behalf of the Assn, congratulations to John Belfield on achieving his life ambition, the opening of his Museum. If you propose visiting John's Museum, let him know that you are from the Assn by presenting your current membership card, don't forget to take the family. The Assn also has a display featured in the Museum.

Bye for now.

Bruce Williams Secretary.



Many times since our Newsletter began we have requested all Sub-Committees and members to contribute items to our publication.

Without the Social Committee submissions there would be little of interest, therefore to keep our Newsletter a vital part of the Association, we all need to be active in looking for subject material to make interesting reading for members.

The Executive Committee is sure that each and every person, either as a member of a Sub-Committee or as an individual has from time to time, copy that can be printed in the paper. If we all contribute it would make the Editorial Staff's job far easier.

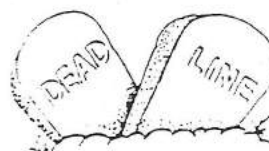
If you are a member of other Associations, or a contributor to other publications, you may, perhaps, have access to news and information that would be of interest to our readers.

To advertise in "The Lightning Flash", we offer:

- (a) 2 Columns x 5cm per Issue @ \$50:00
- (b) 2 Columns x 5cm 4 Issues @ \$150:00  
(1 Issue free)

We have been told not just by our members, but indeed by other Associations what an excellent Newsletter we are now producing.

I have listed the 'cut off dates' for each edition. Now have them please give your Editor your input by these dates, remember this is YOUR NEWSLETTER Be a participant in what is printed in your publication which is the focal point of our Association.



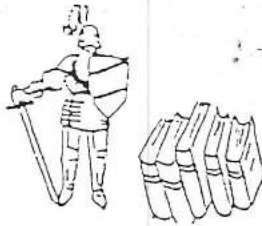
Cut Off Dates: 31 Dec '93 for JAN '94

31 MAR '94 for APR '94  
(Annual Reunion and ANZAC DAY March)

12 AUG '94 for 4 SEPT '94  
(A.G.M. & Social)

30 NOV '94 for DEC '94  
(Christmas/New Year)

Jack Westernhagen EDITOR



### THE HISTORICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

#### MELBOURNE TANK MUSEUM

As a follow up from Pages 6-7, Issue 8 of the 'LIGHTNING FLASH' you will see enclosed in this issue a handbill advising that John Belfield's Melbourne Tank Museum is now open to the public.

Sat 4th Dec, 1993 was the official opening by Mr. Bruce Ruxton OBE, Victorian State President R & SL and attended by over 100 invited guests (including our President and yours truly.)

A visit to this Museum can not be too strongly recommended. It is beyond all description what one man's dream - one man's effort - and one man's triumph has achieved.

Mention of a proposed social outing to see the wondrous sight is included in your Social Committee's column by Max Moore.

#### OAKLEIGH BARRACKS HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This Committee comprises representatives of RAE, RAAOC and RAEME units and Corps Associations. It held its second meeting on 27th July, 1993, at Oakleigh Barracks at which it was advised that official approval had been granted for the display of memorabilia and other significant items in the gymnasium.

Each Corps has been allocated specific wall areas; that for RAEME includes space around the kitchen servery window, along the western wall and extending around the southern wall to the roller shutter door.

Your Historical Sub-Committee will set a date in February, 1994 on which a major effort will be made display what suitable memorabilia we have.

The Sub-Committee will continue to seek contributions of suitable memorabilia from AEME/RAEME units and Associations, as well as individual collections, to make our display area one we all will be proud of.

### WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE???

#### VIDEO SALES

There are still a limited number of the 50th RAEME Birthday Parade and the 1993 ANZAC Day Commemoration March Video tapes still available - **FIRST IN - FIRST SERVED!!!**

Jack Westernhagen, Convenor

### LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

What most husbands would like to see today is a permanent wave with the staying power of a temporary tax.

\* \* \* \* \*

We oldies thought nothing of going to bed early. Our kids don't think much of it either.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Eavesdropping again," said Adam, as his wife fell out of the apple tree.

\* \* \* \* \*

Man reading Dental Bill: "Root canal? He charged me for the Suez Canal!"

\* \* \* \* \*

### REAR DETAIL . . . .







### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

As we come to the end of 1993, we can reflect back on the years activities. We count the November functions as the best and most rewarding since the ANZAC Eve reunion and the parading of the Prince Philip Banner on ANZAC Day.

### ENTOMBMENT OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The three day trip to Canberra for the Entombment of the unknown Soldier was, because of its special nature and significance, unsurpassed by any Association event for many years.

Both the Social Committee and the Association have been highly complimented on the excellence of the function. This makes it all worthwhile.

Bus trips, especially with Chris's Coaches, have proved to be most popular with members. Since we had a excess seating capacity, we offered other Associations the opportunity to join us.

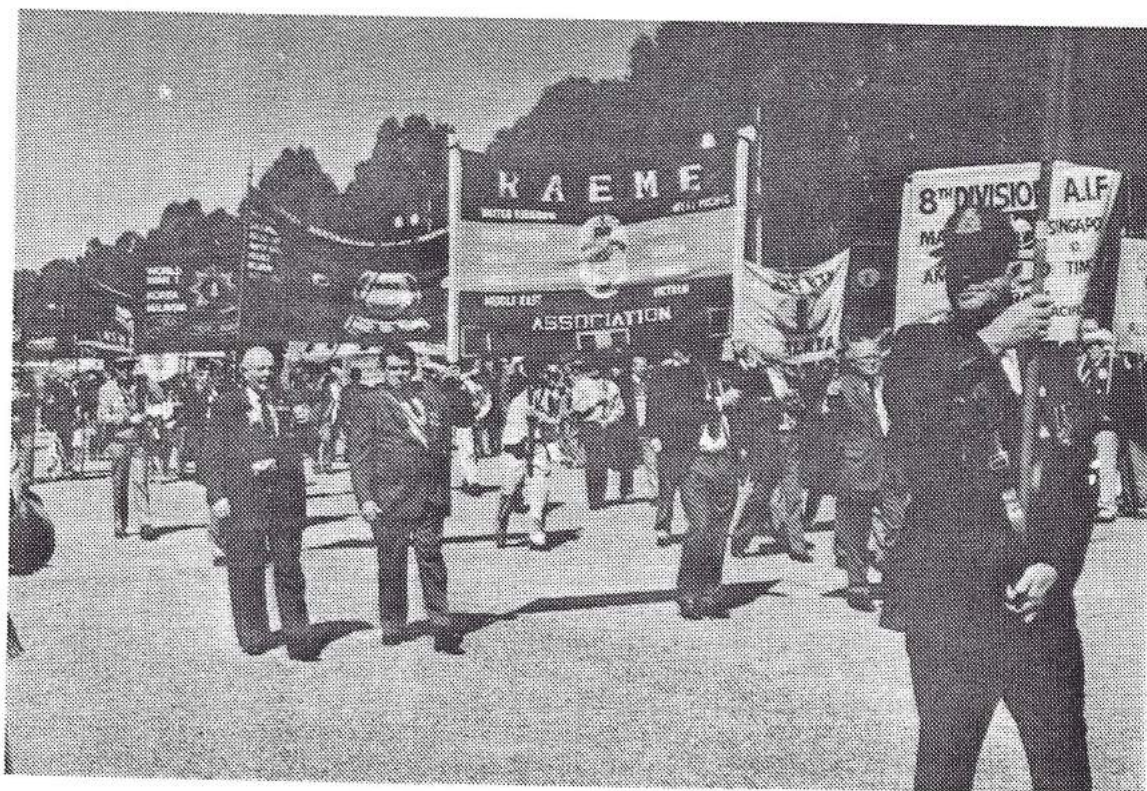
This resulted in 19 members and partners of the

Old Sappers Assn joining a similar number of AEME/RAEME people and 14 from eight other groups. All formed a friendly band which fostered good comradeship and ensured that the whole project proved a winner.

A Souvenir booklet had been produced by Jack Westernhagen and Bruce Williams which contained all the information required for the three days trip. Bingo (with good prizes) started the round of activities which included an interesting talk on the WW1 Veterans return to Gallipoli by military historian Ian Barnes, an entertaining video supplied by Jack; and then community singing.

The evening meal Stop was the Albury Family Eating House, well remembered by those who travelled to the RAEME 50th Jubilee Parade last November, then onto Canberra via Gundagai (Where the Dog Sat on the Tucker Box).

On arrival at our Canberra Motel at 11.00pm, we were met the the 'Night Porter', President John Lee. Our Coach Driver, Ari, proved to be a life saver by phoning ahead and giving our ETA and requesting that the bar remain open until midnight. We were then able to settle into our



Association Banner Party

(L to R) Harold Chamberlain, Bruce Williams, Jack Westernhagen (face hidden) and John Lee



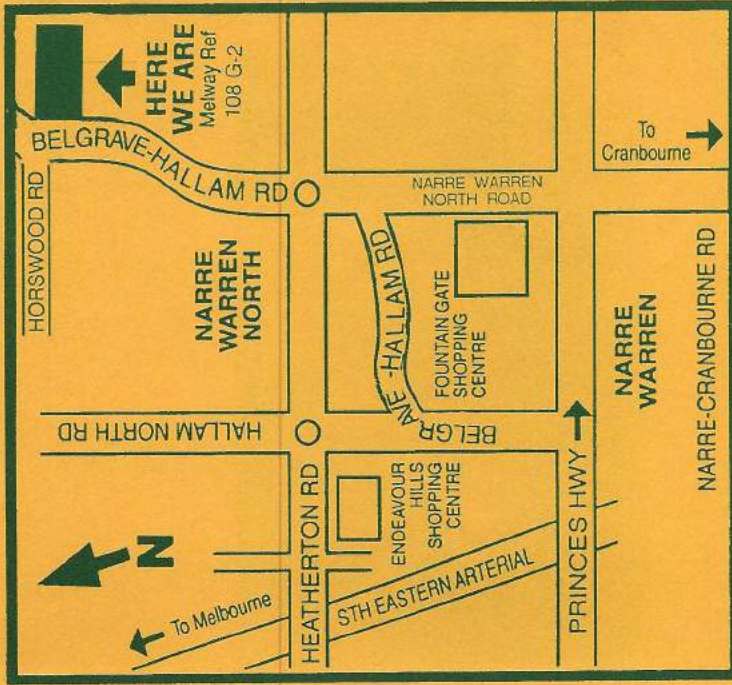
## Where Are We?

NARRE TANK MUSEUM is only five minutes down the South Eastern Railway at Heatherton Road and left on Hallam Road and follow the Melway ref. 108 G2.

Shop with light refreshments and tea's with seating for 50 plus

is catered for as there are no

public facilities available.



## Opening Hours

10 am to 5 pm  
every Saturday and Sunday  
and Public Holidays  
except Christmas Day.

Open every Wednesday  
during School Holidays

Buses and School groups etc.  
catered for by appointment

**796-8216**

**796 8188**

# MELBOURNE TANK MUSEUM



456 Belgrave Hallam Road,  
Narre Warren North 3804.

Melway ref. 108 G2

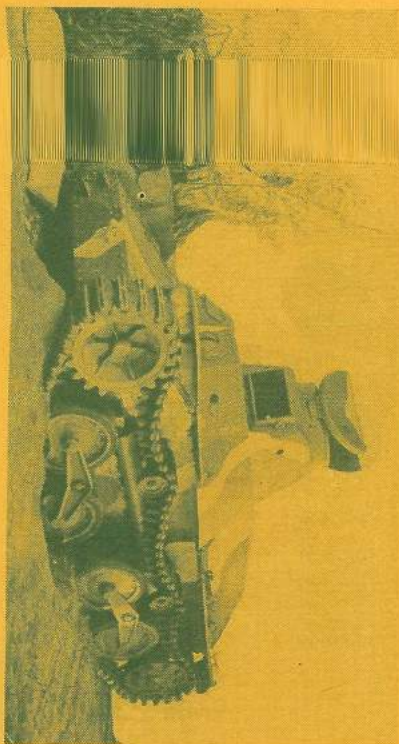
Next door to  
Campbelltown Miniature Railway

Visit both on the same day.



## What is there to see?

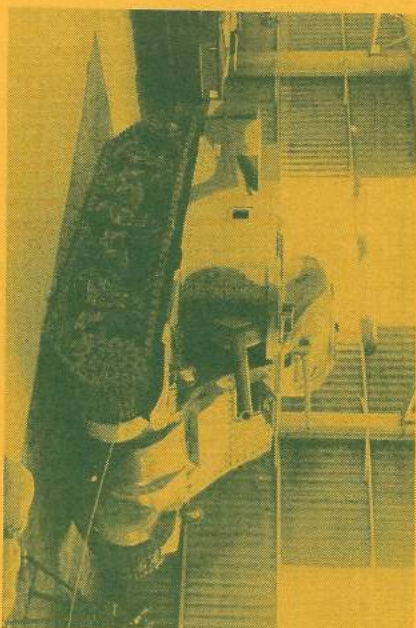
Over 70 major items including Tanks, Armoured Cars, Scout Cars, Armoured Personnel Carriers, Jeeps, Trucks and Guns; all under cover.



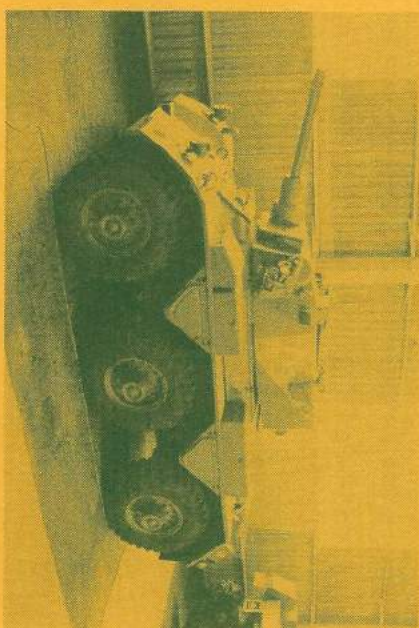
See the Japanese Tank captured by the Australian soldiers at Milne Bay in August 1942. The first land defeat of the Japanese invaders in World War 2.



See M113 Fire Support Vehicle used by our First Armoured Regiment in Vietnam in 1968-71.



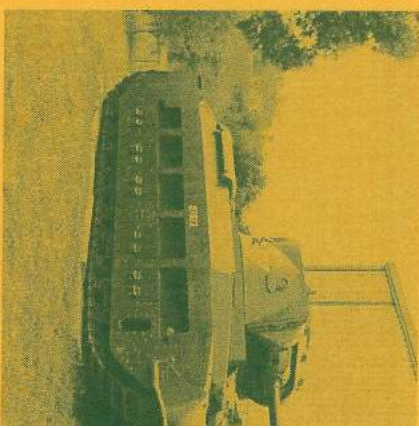
This display is an important part of our Australian History. Nearly every piece of equipment shown here was manned, operated and maintained by Australian soldiers in order to keep this country free.



## MELBOURNE MUSEUM HISTORY

One man's dream.  
One man's effort.  
One man's triumph.

John Belfield (the owner) who the C.M.F. with 4/19 P.W. painstakingly setting up this years, battling against the government and a dwindling The building was bought in dismantled by John, his friends re-erected at the present site. They have been gathered off farms, Government auctions. All rest done on the premises. The workshop can be seen at the rear. The storage yard can be visited nominal charge.





rooms and repair to the bar to sink a few tinnies before retiring.

On the morning of 11th, Armistice Day, we were transported to the Assembly Area along ANZAC Ave. to await the arrival of the cortege and escort.

Banners representing unit associations from all round Australia, including our sister NSW Assn, were unfurled in readiness to follow the entombment procession after it had passed each of the ex-service groups.

That evening, members and their partners, including the NSW Branch Secretary, Laurie O'Brien and his lovely wife, Elaine, were transported to a Canberra licensed club for tea, Compliments of Chris's Coaches, and a flutter on the Pokies. Both Laurie and John Lee won Bingo prizes. After this enjoyable outing we returned to our Motel for a well earned sleep.

The next day Friday 12th, saw the return trip to Melbourne with a stay at the Ettamoga Pub (who could forget it!) with Jack Westernhagen recommending to the uninitiated a taste of the 'Devil's Delight Liqueur' (I think he must have shares in the product).

Then on to Morris's Winery for more tasting and purchases. (Did you see the booze bus photograph on page 3?) Continuing on to Melbourne, Ian Barnes gave another of his interesting talks, and our driver, Ari, played an unforgettable 'Irish Comedian' audio tape.

WELL DONE to a hard working Social Committee, with special thanks to Jack Westernhagen Social Secretary, and Bruce Williams, Assocn Secretary.

#### FARM DAY 28th NOV '93

Our second activity, just 16 days after the Canberra trip (what gluttons for punishment we were) was the Farm Day at the property of Bill & Carol Slegers at Jindivick North. This is reached by a picturesque drive through Gippsland hill country - the "tac signs" did the job as no one got lost this time.

On arrival, we found flags flying, well sign posted facilities, areas set out with tents, RAP hut, lots of B.B.Q's in shady areas and seating for over a hundred people, hay bales; and a volley ball court. This made a great start to a perfect day, with top weather conditions, and superb company. You can't beat good old fashioned country hospitality,

especially when it is laid on by Bill, Carol and family.

Attendance was excellent with over 40 members of the RAEME Assn plus children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, the RAEME Vietnam Assn and others.

After a well cooked 'barbie', lots of ale and games with the youngsters, there was a note of concern when the screech of a fire engine siren sounded over the hills. This concern turned to cries of delight as the local Fire Brigade, out on a practice run and keeping up to the xmas spirit, delivered Santa and his bag of goodies to the farm. After he had distributed his toys to the children and goodies to the members, we all joined in the singing of Carols.

After wishing everyone a merry Xmas, he was escorted away in the fire engine. Many thanks to the local Fire brigade and especially to the very realistic Santa. It must have been over 100 degrees in that suit.

Bill and the boys then took many of us on a scenic hay ride to one the highest points of the area, the view was unbelievable. This was followed by a tour of his dairy and a talk on modern dairy farming and animal husbandry.

Many photos were taken on the day, so, if you weren't there, get in touch with someone who was to obtain some prints.

Farm day has proved to be such a success that the full Committee, with the consent of Bill and Carol, have decided that this will become the Association's official Xmas function and end of the year wind-up.

Words cannot express our sincere gratitude to Bill and Carol their hard working family for a wonderful day.

#### THE MELBOURNE TANK MUSEUM VISIT

Our 1st Social Function for 1994, will be a visit to John Belfield's Melbourne Tank Museum. Due to the overwhelming success of the combined Canberra trip the Old Sappers Assocn and their families have accepted our invitation to join us at this Social Function. The Museum is under cover so weather is not a problem. The date is set for SUN 20th FEB, 94, 11.00am start with a tour of the Museum, followed by a B.B.Q. lunch at approx 1.00pm and winding up anticipated at 3.00pm. COST: Group Concession Rate of \$4.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child. B.Y.O. food and drinks. A Tank Museum brochure with directions is

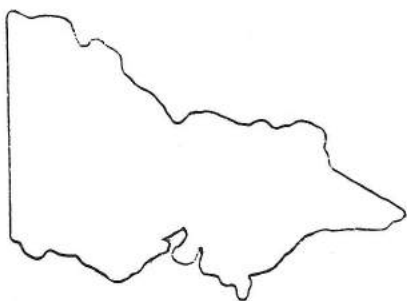


enclosed. To enable us to get a Group Booking, please advise Jack Westernhagen (509 5806) or myself (802 9128) not later than 10 February '94.

Our 2nd social function will be the Annual Reunion ANZAC EVE, SUNDAY, 24th APRIL, '94 commencing at 2.00pm and concluding at 7.00pm. This will be an afternoon function with a beef on spit evening meal. COST: \$10.00 per head, which includes the meal and some complimentary raffle tickets. DRINKS: will be at cost price. Sleeping accommodation will be provided once again. Full details will appear in the March edition of the "Lightning Flash".

At this point, the only other function planned is The A.G.M. & family B.B.Q of 4th SEPT, '94. Your Social Committee would like to extend the seasons greetings to all members and their families, thanking them for their participation in our social functions over the past year. A SPECIAL THANKS to a well organised and hard working Social Committee and all other members who assisted them.

Max Moore, Convenor



#### SUB COMMITTEE - PROVINCIAL AREAS

Convenor: Bill Slegers (056) 28 5340

##### REPRESENTATIVES

##### ALBURY/WODONGA:

Brian Tingwell  
RMB 1271,  
Mathers Road,  
WODONGA 3690

##### KORRUMBURRA:

Kevin Moon  
1 Hawkin Street,  
KORRUMBURRA 3950

##### GEELONG:

Rex Foord (052) 75 1728

##### EAST GIPPSLAND:

Ray Vaux (051) 99 2210

##### CENTRAL VICTORIA:

Neil Charter  
P.O. Box 340,  
CASTLEMAIN 3450

##### WESTERN DISTRICT:

Brian Driscoll  
RMB 2075,  
TERANG 3265

#### ROLE:

1. To encourage the involvement of members

who live in provincial areas in Association activities.

2. To encourage and assist with the Recruitment of members from provincial areas.
3. To provide a local point of contact for members living in provincial areas.
4. To advise the Committee of Management on needs peculiar to members living in provincial areas.

(NOTE: Should any of the 'Area Volunteers' feel that they cannot fulfil their obligations, please contact John Lee for their allocation of pack drill.)

#### MOMENTS OF "TRUTH"

##### THE CANBERRA INCIDENT #1

The Entombment ceremony in Canberra was a memorable and most solemn occasion. However, this did not stop one of our members being distracted momentarily by an attractive Navy nurse wandering amongst the old Diggers who were standing. Her role was obviously to provide assistance as required. 'Memories' flowed through one of our member's mind, and blood flowed from his brain to places unknown.

All of this coincided with the first note of the Last Post, when our member slid gracefully to the ground, as if fainting - medical help was called. Almost unbelievably on the first note of Reveille our member came to life, yes, in the caring arms of the very nurse he had spotted previously. She was tenderly mopping his very considerable brow. His first words were "HEAVEN CAN WAIT".

No names, no Pack drill. All we can say is, this member is a 'Lifer'. His cranium reflects considerable sunlight, in fact it has been sometimes mistaken for the moon. Sorry these are the only clues you are getting, we are not saying anymore, except that the member has been warned that such an elaborate trick is unlikely to work a second time.

\* \* \* \* \*

##### THE CANBERRA INCIDENT #2

A second 'Lifer' may have been having a quiet sip or two, when being offered a seat, decided to sit. However on attempting to do so, he sat alright, missing the chair by a great distance and ending up on the ground. He seemed quite surprised that the chair appeared to have secretly moved. Your clue to this member is that he enjoys being photographed.



## Member's Profile



Harry Wallis SWITZER

Warrant Officer Class 1 Harry Switzer (Ret.) was always affectionately known as 'DAD' SWITZER.

Born 17th MARCH, 1918, at Yarraville, VIC. Harry enlisted in the RAAF during 1939-45 as an Instrument Maker. Have you ever heard Harry tell you on of his escapades in the RAAF?? Like the time he and a few other RAAF ground crew members were detailed to dig a female latrine for the WRAAF and for a joke they installed a loud speaker in the bottom of the pit. Boy! What a scurry there was by the ladies in all stages of undress, when a voice below them shouted, "Not now ladies we're not finished in here yet!" HA! HA!

During WW2, Harry married his lovely wife Peggy and raised two daughters. On being demobbed from the RAAF, Harry joined the P.M.G as a signwriter at their Workshops in Sturt Street, South Melbourne.

On 13th Sept, 1956. Harry enlisted in the ACMF with 112th Inf Wksp RAEME with the rank of Temp/ Sgt. On 21 Jan '58 he was confirmed in this rank, and on 4th April, '60 was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2.

30th June, '60 saw him transferred to the newly formed 8/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles (APC) Regt Wksp RAEME then located at Chapel Street Trg Depot, East St. Kilda,

under the then command of the late Capt. (later Maj) Derek Snowball, who had as his 2 i/c a young Lieut (later Maj. Frank Bell.

It was during their 1st Annual Camp with the parent Unit at Wangaratta that a humorous incident occurred. The CO of 8/13th VMR (APC) Regt (Col Allard's) Command Ferret Scout Car had developed radiator trouble. This was removed and placed against a tree in the Vehicle Park. Harry remembered reading in one of the cfn's Record of Service that he was a qualified radiator mechanic - a gift horse sent from heaven, or so Harry thought at the time. Detailing the young cfn in question to go down to the Vehicle Park and see what he could do with the problem. After a while, the cfn reported to Harry that he could not find the radiator. Taking the Cfn in tow, he took him back to the Vehicle Park to where the radiator was located. "Oh!" Was the reply when shown the object, "I can't fix that - I can only repair elements on electric radiators." At this, Harry tore off his Beret, throwing it on the ground and jumped on it in frustration. (THIS IS THE TRUTH, AS I WAS THERE AT THE TIME... The Editor.)

On 2nd JUL, '60, Harry qualified as a Motor Vehicle Testing Officer, and on 4th JUL, '61, qualified on the 2/61 'A' Vehicles Course conducted by a certain WO1 DON HORSELY (the name sounds familiar). 17th JUL, '62 Harry was promoted Warrant Officer Class 1, (Artificer Vehicles). 5th NOV, '62, Harry added another string to his service record by qualifying on the 1/62 (CMF) 105mm Howitzer M2A2 Course.

With the re-organisation of the ACMF, Harry saw further service with 2 Recovery Coy (4.9.63 - 13.1.64) and then with 7 Coy RAASC (GT) Wksp (14.1.64 - 7/7/65). His final unit was 3 Base Wksp (CMF) Component from 8.7.65 until his retirement on 17th MAR, 1968.

On making enquiries into the origin of his nickname of 'DAD', your Editor was told it was because he looked older than anyone else, and he took the young recruits under his wing like a father - hence the nickname.

During just over 12 years of ACMF Service, Harry had formed numerous close friendships, both within RAEME and with other Corps in which he had served, soon becoming a well known identity with whom he came in contact with. Always helpful to those in need and seeking his advice or help, a practical joker, a great social member in whatever Sgt's and

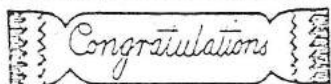


Senior NCO's Messes he belonged to; or was a guest. Take another look at the photograph above - this is the memory most of us had of Harry - always with a glass in hand, and a smile on his lips.

Unfortunately, the later years have not been too kind to Harry. Now at 75 years, he has been admitted to a Special Nursing Home with Parkinson's Disease - ONE OF MANKINDS LAST GENTLEMEN - HARRY 'DAD' SWITZER, we salute you!

Jack Westernhagen, EDITOR

## LATE NEWS..



**RUSSELL KELAART** - Congratulation on reaching your 21st Birthday recently. Russell is a Cfn Recovery Mech with 105 Fd Wksp (ARES) he is also our youngest Asscn Member.

Our 'Lighting Flash' Reporter tells us, that a lovely young lady called 'ANGEL' entertained Russell and his friends by seductively and purposely removing her clothes piece by piece whilst dancing close to him and finishing in her birthday Suit - Tut! Tut! Russell. It is hoped by all your mates that this little episode did not give you any thoughts that were not becoming of a budding young Craftsman??

'Chopper' it looks like 105's men are still the soldiers that they were in years gone by, and you certainly did not let the team down. From all of us in the RAEME Assn (VIC), it is hoped you had a great 21st Birthday.

\* \* \* \*



**CHRIS'S SIGHTSEEING TOURS**  
AUSTRALIA

Luxury coaches available for Charter and Tours. Fully air conditioned with video and toilet facilities.

(for all our RAEME Association's social outing  
we always use Chris's luxury Coaches.)



V A L E

Devereux PRETTY  
Manfred ASCHE

6 OCT '93  
21 NOV '93

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION - TASMANIA  
Raymond GILLIE 25 AUG '93

WE CANNOT BRING BACK THE OLD DAYS  
WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER  
BUT WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF YOU  
WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS.

## THE CRAFTSMAN'S DIARY - 1994

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

B.B.Q. BYO Food & Drinks  
Jack Westernhagen's (03) 509 5806  
13 Erica Avenue, GLEN IRIS.  
SUN 6th FEB, '94 11.30am Start.

### FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

Oakleigh Barracks, Synd Room  
TUES 8th FEB, '94 7.30pm

### MELBOURNE TANK MUSEUM VISIT

B.B.Q BYO Food & Drinks  
SUN 20th FEB, '94 11.00am Start.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Oakleigh Barracks, Synd Room.  
TUES 22nd MAR, '94 7.30pm

### FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

Oakleigh Barracks, Synd Room.  
TUES 12th APR, '94 7.30pm.

### ANZAC EVE ANNUAL RE-UNION

Oakleigh Barracks, Lecture Rooms 1 & 2.  
'Beef on the Spit' luncheon  
SUN 24th APR, '94 2.00 - 7.00pm (incl)

### ANZAC DAY MARCH & SOCIAL

Oakleigh Barracks, Lecture Rooms 1 & 2  
MON 25th APR, '94 (following the March)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Oakleigh Barrack, Synd Room.  
TUES 7th JUN, '94 7.30pm

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Oakleigh Barrack, Model Room.  
SUN 4th SEPT, '94 11.00am - 12.00pm  
followed by a family B.B.Q. & social  
12.00pm (Approx.) - 3.00pm.



## **RETURN TO Fort QUEENSLIFF**

**The Old Sappers' Association are holding their Annual  
Return to Fort Queenscliff trip on SUN 28th FEB, '94  
and have invited any interested members of the  
RAEME Association to join them for the day.**



**Bus Departs:**

**Oakleigh Barracks at  
approx. 9.00am.**

**Cost:**

**\$20.00 per head.  
(Includes a B.B.Q. luncheon at the  
Queenscliff RSL and a tour of the  
Fort - any ladies not wishing to visit  
the Fort, may like to brouse through  
the recommended Queenscliff Market)**

**Contact:**

**Jim CROSLING (Hon. Secretary,  
Sappers Association)  
PH: (03) 438 2273**



### Have You Made Your Will?

In these days of increased hazards on the roads and even in homes, it behoves us all to make our wishes known regarding a Last Will and Testament.

No matter how much or how little we may possess, we cannot take it with us, but unless we leave behind some directives as to its disbursement we can cause a lot of headaches, and possibly bad feeling among relatives and friends.

the act of making a will is a simple one, and as long as your signature is witnessed by two persons - other than beneficiaries, your desires can be acted upon, but the aid of a Solicitor in drawing up of a will can avoid costly litigation later in clarifying vague clauses.

Regardless of who assists in the preparation and the witnessing of your will, an important act to bear in mind is the fact that it is imperative that all signators use the same fountain pen when signing.

The increased popularity of the use of ball-point pens have increased the suspicions of the Probate Office, as these inks do not have a uniform degree of 'fade' and although the same pen might be used on the same piece of paper for the three signatures, after a lapse of even three years they can appear as if signed at different dates.

your completed will can be lodged for safe keeping with any of the following:

- a. your Bank;
- b. Solicitor;
- c. Insurance office; or
- d. you may prefer to keep it at home.

For people belonging to large organisations, like the Services, provisions are made available where you can receive advice, and lodge your will.

Will Forms are available from your local News Agency, and Enduring Power of Attorney forms are available from Harston Partridge & Co. Ltd. Printers and Law Stationers :-

54 Lyndhurst Street, Richmond. PH: (03) 428 1541  
 461 Little Colins Street, MELB. PH: (03) 670 1541  
 446 Colins Street, MELB. PH: (03) 670 2522  
 205 Williams Street, MELB. PH: (03) 670 7083  
 160 Queen Street, MELB. PH: (03) 602 1870

Reg. Contractor 187  
 M.P.A. of Victoria

Telephone: (03) 802 6406

~~Page 18030730401~~ (All Hours)  
 Mobile 018037740

## Leopet Plumbers

Contractors Authority 1965 Licence 10230  
 Props. Leonie and Peter Cartledge

Heating - Small bore, pool and ducted  
 Sanitary and General Plumbers  
 Gasfitters Drainage Roofing

8 Neera Court, Glen Waverley 3150

(ex 105 Fd Wksp member) Discount offered  
 to any RAEME Assn members on producing  
 your current Membership Card.)



Scania Aust. Pty. Ltd.  
 2084 Hume Highway,  
 CAMPBELLFIELD 3081  
 New & used Trucks/Buses  
 Phone (03) 217 3300

### VIETNAM TOURS '94

15 DAYS \$2,470  
 - Departing: MAY - AUGUST - NOVEMBER  
 Accommodation: the 'Baiyoke Suite Hotel',  
 Bangkok.

Travel by: Thai International Airlines.

Families and friends are welcome.

further info: Albie CUNNINGHAM

PH: (03) 7984452

The "LIGHTNING FLASH" is printed by:

KARL-HEINZ FABER

## modcoprint

• DESIGN  
 • TYPESETTING  
 • ARTWORK  
 • OFFSET PRINT

8 Manton Road

Oakleigh South

Victoria 3167