

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

April 2018

Issue 91

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.
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RAEME Corps Remembrance Day, 4 March 2018
RAEME Tree - The Shrine, Melbourne

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings one and all,

During February it was pleasing to see one of our own WO2 Stephen (Chipper) Woods be presented with an Australia Day Medallion for his services to 4CSSB, 4 BDE and the wider ARMY Reserve. Well done Chipper, Congratulations from the Committee and Members from RAEMA Association Victoria.

On Sunday 04 Mar 18 your association held its annual Remembrance Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. Unfortunately our normal Chaplain John Brownbill could not officiate this year due to illness but was suitably backed up by Chaplain Andrew McNeill. Chaplain McNeill thank you. At last count there were approx. 50 members/guests and partners, a great turnout and thanks to Dennis Clarke again for setting up the RAEME Tree and the members of 105 WKSP for carrying the Banner and was good to see the weather was again kind to us.

ANZAC Day is fast approaching and as advised in the previous FLASH an after march activity may not happen, well thanks to a few fantastic VIC Barracks Chapter personnel there will be an opportunity together after the march, with a new venue at the Docklands. I have been informed that it is a hell of a lot easier to get there on public transport rather than the pack march from previous years. Details provided in the FLASH, on the RAEME Web site, FACEBOOK etc.

Meet at the normal place at 0930.

As previously advised the ARMY Apprentices have been recognised and honoured by leading the ANZAC Day march in Canberra this year. To all our members of the Association travelling to Canberra, be safe and take care.

1. Saturday 21 April 2018 – ANZAC Day Reunion at Clayton RSL from 11:00 am
2. Wednesday 25 April 2018 – ANZAC Day – 75th Anniversary – details to be provided
3. Sunday 20 May 2018 – President Lunch at Clayton RSL
4. Parade – 10:00am at Shrine of Remembrance.
5. Sunday 01 July 2018 – Reserve Forces Day

As with all of the events / functions I would encourage you to attend not only to support your association but to catch up with mates and make new ones.

The 24th Feb saw the 2017 105 WKSP ASM Golf day played at the Mt Xavier Golf Course in sunny Ballarat (due to unforeseen circumstances it was not played in 2017),

Was a fun day with lots of fun and laughter. The winners of the Ambrose event were MAJ Bart Kohler and WO1 Allan Hawkins. The 2018 event will be held late Oct early Nov (dependant on Unit activities) at a venue in Melb north east.

ARTE ET MARTE

Allan Hawkins
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Remembrance Day: Approximately 40 members and guests attended the day to celebrate our deceased mates.

The day started in the usual way, with a service in the Shrine Sanctuary then moved to the RAEME Tree in the Shrine garden with another short service, followed by members and guests placing poppies on the deceased crosses, all with the members name on each cross.

Our thanks to Chaplain Andrew McNeill who stood in for John Brownbill,. John fell and broke his hip just prior to the day and was unable to attend.

Once again Dennis Clarke made the crosses for those members who passed since our last Remembrance Day. Thank you Dennis the Association is grateful for your efforts.

After the service, members retired to the Western Gallery for a light luncheon and to spin the usual yarns with one another.

As usual, the caterers provided plenty of food on the day.

Anzac Day Reunion; 21st April 2018 Venue Clayton RSL. Carinish Rd, Clayton Time 1130h to 1500h Nibbles supplied. Over Bar lunch & drinks at own cost.

Anzac Day March; Form up Collins St East (South side) Step-Off 1000h Form up at 0940h
(Due to difficulties with people missing the depart times last year, ANZAC House has requested that marchers form up 40 minutes prior to departure time)

This year all RAEME members will march together as a single entity.

Membership:

This year we have had 5 new members join our Association:

Derek Beames, Barry Steven, Anton Golacki, Collin Mankey, and Tom Hellowel

Welcome to the Association.

ANNUAL FEES:

A notice for Annual Fees will be forwarded prior to the end of the Financial Year.

Membership is still going strongly. However, we can still do with more members.

To maintain the longevity of the Association we need more of the current serving members, both Regular and Reserve to become members of our Association with Senior Officers / Warrant Officers & Sergeants (both Regular / Reserve) leading the way by joining either the Association or a Chapter.

Currently we have several serving Reserve Officers / WOs / Sgts as members. However (it is disappointing to see) there are none above the rank of Major.

Arte et Marte

Alan Rogers
Membership Officer

ANZAC DAY

Form up under "RAEME Vietnam"
(as shown in RSL Guide)

Form up 0920 hrs
 Collins Street East, South Side,
 Step-Off 1000 hrs.

After March lunch and refreshment at
 WOOLSHED Hotel
 161 Harbour Esplanade
 Docklands

Accessible via Trams 35, 70 & 75 from
 Flinders St Station (Flinders St Tram Stop)

Corps	Anniversary Year	Functions
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2018

*April 21st ANZAC Day Reunion
 Clayton RSL @ 1130h*

All wearers of the Horse Serving / Retired are invited to attend where tall & sometimes true tales are told Nibbles provided, Drinks & Meals at own expense

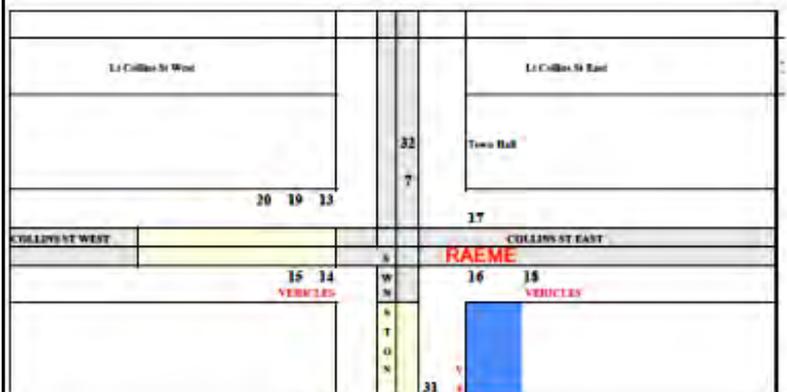
April 25th ANZAC Day Parade. This the Corps 75th Anniversary Anzac Day Parade. As we are the 2nd largest Corps in the Australian Army it will be appreciated if Serving & Retired Members can march under the RAEME Banner. The Banner is NOT a RAEME Association Banner, the Banner represents all those who have had the privilege of wearing 'Harry the Horse'.

Note; No function will be organised this year due to RAEME Apprentices will be leading the march in Canberra

Presidents Lunch May 20th Clayton RSL.
Continuing the Corps 75th Anniversary Celebrations

The Lunch will open to all Serving , Retired , Wearers of the Horse" Families & Associates This will enable those RAEME Members who were not able to attend the more Formal Dinner in 2017 to attend the lunch to celebrate the Corps 75th Anniversary. Remember this Anniversary will never happen again.

Further notices will be forwarded closer to the Function



BLUEBELL RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS

ANZAC DAY MARCH

March participants, should be in their allocated assembly area at least 40 minutes prior to the expected time for their formation to step off.

Form up area will be the same position as last year.

Collins Street East - South Side.

Step-Off time for RAAC & Cavalry is 0940: Hrs

Step-Off time for RAEME Vietnam is 1000 hrs

News

The Government has recently announced that Rheinmetal secured the \$5.2 Billion Land 400 Phase 2 Contract. The ASLAV fleet will be replaced by over 200 Boxer CRVS. The first 25 vehicles will be built in Germany, with the remainder to be built at the yet to be established Military vehicle Centre of Excellence in Ipswich Queensland. Rheinmetal under Land 121 Phase 3B are supplying over 2,500 specialist modules to the Australian Defence Force.

A Slight Mishap

A group of five sappers and one craftsman came into the American Camp at Long Binh after a number of days setting up two Fire Support Bases. They decided to go for a feed and drink at a large club within the base. After a couple of drinks the craftsman left them and walked back to the Australian Section within this enormous camp. The Australian Section, comprised of five well built level areas, with a different logistic unit occupying each, dug into the side of hill.

There were metre deep horizontal drains across each level, draining into a two metre drain at one end. A road climbing up the hill beside the drain provided access.

There was also a minor road in the centre, connecting the levels with culvert, covering the lesser drains, which were ideal cover during rocket or mortar attacks. On return he entered the tent and took to cleaning his SLR.

Some time later heard an almighty crash, which caused him to look out of the tent. What he then saw was a Mk 5 International tipper upside down over a drain, about 40 meters from the tent. The craftsman could count only four dazed men, near the truck.

There were originally three sappers in the cabin and two standing on the rock fill, in the tipper behind the cab. One of the sappers on the truck tipper managed to jump clear, but one was left beneath the tipper tray amongst the large rock fill. Some quick communication established the dilemma.

A TD 15 International bulldozer was sitting parallel, with its tilt-bed trailer, which had been disconnected from the truck sitting away from it, opposite the tent. He jumped into the dozer's driver's seat and reversed it over to within two metres of the truck. He noted there was heavy chain with a large heavy hook at one end conveniently placed beside the operator's seat. The hook fitted the 50 MM tube integrated into the top of the tipper tray. He then wrapped the chain around the rippers on the rear of the TD 15, drove the dozer forward to roll the truck back on its wheels, causing it to clear the drain. The drain was full of rock ballast from the tipper. One sapper picked up a shovel and proceeded to move some of the rock. This was quickly removed from him and thrown clear. At this time they had attracted a large number of helpers American and Australian to help, remove the rocks. It wasn't too much longer before we had a very red faced sapper removed from the drain. All in attendance were most relieved. It was amazing that he had suffered no injury or showed no outward signs of shock. He was placed in an American ambulance and taken to the nearest medical centre.

The Mk5 tipper would tow a tilt-bed trailer with a TD 15 International, D4 Caterpillar or Case back hoe. The rock was used as ballast-weight to stabilize the truck, when mobile.

The Sapper returned to us the following day, looking none the worst for what would have been a traumatic experience. This craftsman later lost a close friend, in an Army truck accident in Western Australia: Warrant Officer Class II Graeme McNees (The Quiet Achiever)

After Anzac Day March:
Lunch and refreshment at Prahran RSL.
All RAEME - VIC MEMBERS WELCOME
301 High Street Prahran. 9510 3888
Pres: Rod Coutts
Tram 6 from Saint Kilda Road

RAEME VIETNAM Unit Reunions

1 Armoured Regiment LAD A, B, C, Squadrons or C 1
Sections 1968-1971

2019: October - Canberra

Contact Russell Cunningham Tel: 03 5766 2413M:
0437 834089

bungie12@bigpond.net.au

106 Field Workshop

2018: 20th April Brisbane-Sunshine Coast

Contact Phillip Bond [Buddha] Tel 07: 3263 8222M:
0418 735642

phillbond@bigpond.net.au

17 Construction Squadron Workshop

2018: 3th-8th September - Albany Western Australia

Contact Gary Whykes Tel 08: 9276 1920 Mob 0411
810077

tresshar@yahoo.com.au

161 Recce Flight Re-Union

2019: September - Victoria

Contact John Custance

janducustance@bigpond.com

1 Field Squadron Workshop

2021: July 20th - Hervey Bay Queensland

Contact Norm Barrett Tel Mob 0414 342819

normbarrett@bigpond.com

102 Field Workshop

2018: "Avondale", 601 Bray's Road, Gannawarra
Victoria

Contact Noel Lake Tel 03 5456 9246

koonda@activ8.net.au

NEWS FROM THE ARMY SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERINGS (ASEME)

New Badge and Flag for the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

Army and Air Force personnel at the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME) assembled on the 8 Aug 18 to conduct a Unit Insignia, Flag and Unit Shoulder Patch change ceremony.

The changes from the RAEME insignia to the current unit symbology have been brought about to cement the bi-service nature of training to RAEME, RAE and RAAF technicians.

The reference to the Army Apprentices School insignia, which was also used for the Army College of TAFE, reflects on the Army Apprentices' School's history and is symbolic of the values that are required of all military technicians, values which still remain unchanged to today.



The meaning of the badge shown above is as follows: At the apex of the badge is the Crown of the Sovereign, expressing allegiance to the Sovereign, Superiors, Duty and Country. Superimposed on a cogwheel, which represents trade and technical training, is the English Cross of St. George, depicting the virtues and development of character. The St. George's Cross is then overlaid with crossed, doubled-edged swords, representing military qualities of courage, discipline and physical fitness. Superimposed upon the swords and the cross is a flaming torch of learning.

Prior to becoming ASEME, RAEME Training Centre was the Corps school, which all members of RAEME attended throughout their career to develop technical mastery.

Today ASEME conducts initial training for ground technicians, as well as Army aviation technicians, as they progress through their careers.

In the future, ASEME may also include elements of the junior officer training. It will continue to have an important part to play in the provision of maintenance management training and development.

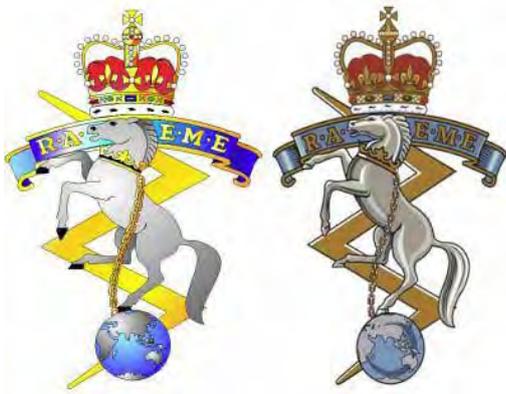
Nigel Kent
LT ASEME

MANAGING OUR CORPS' BRAND

Army Brand Management is updating and modernising all Army logos and badges – all the Corps badges have been standardised.

Below is an example of the new RAEME badge compared with the original version. The most noticeable change is the block colouring now used instead of the older graduated colouring. This is done to make it easier to represent the correct colouring in an embroidered representation.

Graduated colouring will now no longer be used in Army logos.



A Depiction of Old (L) and the New (R) RAEME Logos

SOME HISTORY:

Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Association (Vic) Inc

The "Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers" (AEME) was created as a repair facilities of the Ordnance Corps (AAOC) on 1st December 1942. With other Technical Service members being progressively transferred to RAEME

The RAEME (Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Association (Vic) Inc) has been active and ongoing since it was first formed in 1945, a credit to all those past and present members who were diligent enough to see it through all those years and it continues to grow today with five Chapters now active in our State with over 400 members.

We have a primary role to foster and develop spirit and tradition throughout the RAEME Corps in Victoria and surrounding Rural Areas. This is achieved by the Association through the involvement of members in social, military and Corps events in Victoria.

The Association is open to all ranks, serving and ex-serving RAEME Corps and REME British Commonwealth Defence Forces members, who are eligible for Association Membership.

We have established regular contact with our sister RAEME Associations in Qld, ACT, N.S.W, S.A, W.A. and Tasmania. In addition, contact has also been established with The REME Associations in the U.K. Canada.

We are proud of the fact that our Corps is the second largest Corps in the Australian Army, having troops attached to every other Corps within the Australian Army



Brian Frederick Cooper

Served 1 Task Force Headquarters LAD
22 January 2018

"Vale" - Latin "Farewell"

Origin: Imperative of "Valere":

"Be Well" or "Be Strong"

Pronounced: "Varlay"

NOT as in Ascot Vale

Remembrance Day - 4 March 2018
Melbourne Shrine



Spanners lead the way for Army Drone Racing

ARMY has a Drone Racing Team and has raced admirably at their first hit out at the Australian Drone Racing Nationals, held recently in Nerang on the Gold Coast.

First Person View (FPV) Drone Racing has been called the 'next big thing' in motorsports. Racers control small radio-controlled quadcopters equipped with cameras and wearing head-mounted displays showing the live camera feed from the drones for navigation, directional control and obstacle clearance. The goal is to complete a set course as quickly as possible, racing in heats of four.

The team brought Army racers from around Australia together in Canberra to qualify under Australian FPV Racing Association scrutineering, and teamed these racers with Defence Force Recruiting to support the Drone Nationals 07-09 Jul 17.

Top placed from the Army racers was LT Mark Sheppard, an Army Reserve maintenance engineer from 5CSSB in Sydney, placing 45th amongst Australia's best. He said that "it was great to talk technical with like-minded racers. I was really impressed with some of the unique ideas that people had incorporated in their builds to make each drone a little faster and more durable."

Second placed, immediately behind in 46th position, was CFN C, a Vehicle Mechanic from 2 Cdo Regt in Sydney. CFN C commented that, "the camaraderie and sportsmanship between competitors was awesome - everyone is willing to help each other, even if that means they might get beaten by them in the next race".

Once eliminated during the fly-offs, the Army racers spent time in the crowds. CFN C explained that, "engaging with the people in the crowd who have never seen drone racing before was fun, especially when we showed them racing the goggles for the first time: seeing their reactions was great". The Army team showed hundreds of spectators this view over the course of the weekend.

Army has two messages about Drone Racing. The first, most immediate, is in support of Army UAS operations: "Do you like flying drones? Army flies them for a job – talk to us!" Secondly, Drone Racers are STEM'ers: people invested in science,

technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

To build and race a drone requires soldering, circuits, coding, aerodynamics, control theory, image processing, and datalinks. This skill set is applicable, to differing extents, across most of the Army trades as we know them in the 21st century. We want these people in Army.

If you are interested in racing with the Army team, look out for upcoming Brigade competitions in Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane and Canberra, or send an email to me.

Arte et Marte

Keirin Joyce

LTCOL

SO1 Army UAS (Drone) Sub-Program Manager

SPANNER CLUB

The next Spanner Club function will be on the 13th of April.

The Governor's Lounge
(First on your left as you come off the Street)
Royal Melbourne Hotel
629 Bourke St, Melbourne
from 1600hrs

Near Southern Cross Station (Just up from DPM)

A great opportunity to catch up with old mates and meet other members and retired members of the Corps.

Also at this function we will have Raffle Tickets available for the major RAEME Assoc. (VIC) fund raiser

10 Tickets per book at a cost of \$2.00 per ticket. Contact Rod (Blades) Gillett as he has the books

FUTURE SPANNER CLUB DATES:

Friday 13 Apr 2018 Friday 22 Jun 2018
Friday 3 Aug 2018 Friday 5 Oct 2018
Friday 7 Dec 2018

**Some History:
Certificate of Incorporation of the AEME Association
7 December 1945**

NATIONAL COMPANIES AND SECURITIES COMMISSION
COMPANIES (VICTORIA) CODE
SUB-SECTION 31 (2)

Registered no. : C0023324R

**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF PUBLIC COMPANY**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

 CORPS OF AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
ASSOCIATION

WAS ON AND FROM THE 7TH DECEMBER 1945

INCORPORATED AS A PUBLIC COMPANY,

BEING A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE.

Given under the seal
of the National Companies and Securities Commission
at MELBOURNE on this 11TH DAY OF JANUARY 1989.

P. Bebond



A person authorised by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs
for the State of Victoria
Delegate of the National Companies and Securities Commission.

WHICH ARE YOU?

Are you an active member,
The kind who would be missed,
Or are you just contented
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend all meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay away
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the show along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belong?

Do you ever go and visit
A member who is sick,
Or leave the work to just a few,
And then call them the 'clique'?

Think this over members,
You should know right from wrong,
Be an 'Active' Member
And do not 'Just Belong'

REDISCOVER YOUR PAST

WAR HERITAGE ROADSHOW

21 - 22 April 2018 • 10am - 4pm

Melbourne Museum
11 Nicholson St, Carlton VIC 3053

Learn how to care for your precious memorabilia from our experts



Book now for a FREE workshop or one-on-one session on how to uncover your object's story.



Day 1: Consultation Day

21 April - 10am - 4pm

Meet with our panel of experts and discover your object's history and how to best preserve it.

Day 2: Activity Day

22 April - 10am - 4pm

Attend a series of *How to Preserve War Heritage* workshops

NO WEAPONS OR MUNITIONS PLEASE

What we specialise in:



Pictures, prints and documents



Artifacts, textiles and uniforms



The history of your war heritage

Visit <http://bit.do/whroadshow2017> or call 03 9348 5700 to register



MORTLAKE FARM KID *in the Army*

Dear Mum and Dad,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brothers Bill and George the Army beats working for old man Jones by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Bill and George all you do before breakfast is smooth your Bed, and shine some things. No Pigs to feed, Cows to milk, wood to split. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc, but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, steak, Pig trotters, pie and other regular food, but tell Bill and George you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee and smokes Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'Route Marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags and yells a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and Colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Bill and George with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a Possum head and don't move, and it isn't shooting at you like the Smith boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that old pig at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Bluey Jordan from over in Sea Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Bill and George to hurry and join before other blokes get onto this setup and come rushing in.

Your loving daughter,

Joyce



"TAC" Signs.

Here are some "TAC" Signs for Unit vehicles that I have drawn for interest.

If you know of others, or of any errors, please let me know.

My memory is slipping after 50+ years

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

RAEME Training Centre



3 Base Workshop



101 Field Workshop



Army Apprentices School



106 Field Workshop



1 Field Regt LAD



1 Field Workshop



**Army Appy Intake & Year
"TAC Sign" Stickers**

Jon Rogers, a 21st Intake Apprentice Fitter & Turner has devised "mock" TAC Signs for Army Apprentices and others. Shown here is a 6" x 6" (150mm x 150mm) plastic sticker showing Army Apprentice Intake and year of entry, in this case my 12th Intake, entered in 1957, with RAEME colours. Other examples are also shown:



If any Army Appy or RAEME past or present member would like a 6" x 6" plastic sticker, or other variations, contact **JON ROGERS ONLY** on the Facebook page:

" Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/armyapprenticesarethcreamofaustralianyouth/>

(Note the mis-spelling ("r" instead of "e") in the link: " ... arethrcream..."

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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

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

DISCLAIMER

The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.

Let's hear from you!
Deadline for July Flash
Friday 22 June 2018
Items to Pat Marley:
webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

If undeliverable return to
The RAEME Association (Vic.) Inc.
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805

Print Post Approved
PP 339549/40061



PLEASE SAVE WRAPPER

Change of Address

Is your address shown above correct?
If not please fill in the spaces below and return
This whole sheet in an envelope to:

**The Secretary,
The RAEME Association of Victoria Inc
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805**

Name(Block Letters)

Address

Postcode: Ph. No.

Email:

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

**SURFACE
MAIL**