

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**July 2018**

**Issue 92**

**The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.**

*Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994*

**Patron: BRIG Konrad Ermert. MSc FIEAust CPEng (Rtd)**

**Colonel-Commandant (Vic/Tas): BRIG David McGahey CSC (Rtd)**

**President: WO1 Allan Hawkins**

**Treasurer: Aranka Illia**

**Editor/Webmaster: Pat Marley**

*email: [webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au)*

**Vice President: MAJ Peter Crosby**

**Secretary: Alan Rogers**

*email: [secretary@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@vic.raeme.org.au)*

**Web: [www.vic.raeme.org.au](http://www.vic.raeme.org.au)**

Print Post Approved: PP 339540061

© RAEME Association of Victoria (Inc) 2012. Except as provided by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means including posting to social media without the prior written permission of the publisher.



Anzac Day 2018

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly apologies to one and all for my miss-spelling of our Corps in the last FLASH.

Since the last FLASH, ANZAC Day has come and gone, it was good to see some new members attending the march. A big thank you to Greig and Paul for the setting up of the new venue for the after march activities, some minor technical hitches have been sorted so next year should be bigger and better.

The Presidents lunch was cancelled this year unfortunately due to low numbers, let's see if we can address this for next year as it is always a good event.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 will see the last Reserve Forces Day march held nationally, it would appear that Government funding has hit all areas including this. Hope to see as many current or Ex Reservist's there.

The Annual AGM is fast approaching so if you wish to be part of the committee then submit your application (available on the RAV web site) and submit to the Secretary.

For the Fitter Armourers out there, RAV in conjunction with Richmond RSL, 105 WKSP COY, 22 ER and City of Yarra are about to embark on a restoration activity on a WW1 Artillery piece that was captured as part of 76 others by ANZAC Corps in September 1918.

If you wish to assist or provide advice on the restoration, then please email RAV Vice Pres MAJ Peter Crosby or myself.

Finally, thank you to those that continue to support your association.

ARTE ET MARTE

**Allan Hawkins**  
**President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Corps Anniversary Dinner

The Dinner was well attended and enjoyed by 60 members. Small and tall tales were told by members at each and between tables.

Special Guests included; Representing our COL/CMDT BRIG David McGahey; COL David Cocker. LTCOL Wes Snipe CO 4CCSB; our Patron BRIG Konrad Ermert; COL Cocker and President WO1 Allan Hawkins presented the RAEME CFN of the year Association Perpetual Shield to CFN Daniel Albano 4CSSB 105 Wksp Coy along with a RAEME Plaque as a personal award.

### Shrine Remembrance Day

The Day was well attended with 30+ members and family attending. Unfortunately our Chaplain John Brownbill was unable to attend due to ill health. Thanks to Dennis Clarke we were able to secure Andrew McNeill as the Chaplain for the Services in the Cenotaph and at our RAEME Tree.

Our thanks to Dennis Clarke who once again made any new crosses and set all crosses of our departed mates at the RAEME Tree.

Members after the Service retired to the Western Gallery to enjoy a light lunch and to swap the old & bolds tales

### President's Lunch

This lunch has been on the calendar for several years allowing those members who are unable to attend the Annual Dinner at night to catch up with their fellow mates and to enjoy each other's company

Due to the lack of interest the lunch was cancelled, Members should decide whether they wish to continue to support future functions.

### Membership

Currently Annual Membership Fees, At time of printing payments have been extremely slow with about 12 members forwarding payment.

Members are reminded that Annual Fees are due no later than 31st July each Year. Without Annual fees being paid on time it becomes difficult for the Treasurer to meet financial commitments

**Alan Rogers**  
**Secretary & Membership**

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Aranka Illia is the Treasurer and  
a Life Member of the  
RAEME Association (Vic) Inc

26

Meet Aranka Illia

### Giving Back



AILEEN PHILLIPS



ANDREW TAUBER

**As one of only a handful of female Sub-Branch Presidents in Victoria, Aranka Illia is bucking the trend. But she does not want to make headlines because of her gender.**

Aranka gives generously of her time to lead the Clayton RSL Sub-Branch around her full-time work commitments. "What volunteering is, is that you do the job, you go home, you come back the next day, you do the job. You do it out of the goodness of your heart for the community and the people around you."

Arriving in Australia as an eight year old from Yugoslavia after living in various migrant camps in Italy, Aranka made an effort to contribute to her new home. After completing her studies, she went on to work in the finance sector, only to find that she was chasing something more and wanted a new challenge to pique her interest.

In 1977, Aranka enlisted as an Australian Army Reservist and served for 15 years. She started off as part of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, followed by the Royal Australian Artillery and finally with the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. "I enjoyed every minute of my time in the Army Reserves. I don't think I had one bad moment in there."

Her affiliation with the RSL dates to 1991, when she joined the Dandenong RSL during her time in the Reserves. It was only in 2005 that her connection was formed with the Clayton RSL by sheer chance. "We had ANZAC Day one year, we went to march in the city and then gathered at Clayton RSL. That's when I became a Service member there."



**YOU DO IT OUT OF THE  
GOODNESS OF YOUR HEART  
FOR THE COMMUNITY AND  
THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.**

She eventually joined the Committee and from there she continued to climb the ranks, doing a short stint as the Welfare Officer, followed by Treasurer and is now in her fifth year as President.

And a humble President she is, proud of the Sub-Branches' team of hardworking volunteers. "We are not here to get the kudos. We are here to help the community preserve the goodwill of the RSL in the area."

Aranka Illia is the first to admit she enjoys a new challenge. For now, though, she is keen to continue donating her time to the Clayton RSL and lead it into the future for as long as she is in the role.



## Remembrance Day 2018



Three elderly warriors pay respects to their departed mates



Chaplain Andrew McNeil, President Allan Hawkins and Dennis Clarke



COL David Cocker, President WO1 Allan Hawkins,  
CFN Albino with RAV CFN of Year Shield, 2017 Certificate & Plaque



**V A L E**

**Harold John BAKER**  
1st Armoured Regt LAD Vietnam  
1968-69





## BLUEBELL RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS

ANZAC DAY saw RAEME Association march as a Complete Group, which is the first time in at least thirty years.

Like to thank Box Hill RSL , who provided members of their associated Cadet Unit to assist with the Banners. As an added bonus we had Hawthorn City Pipe & Drum Band leading us and helping to maintain step.

The V V A A also intend to celebrate Coral – Balmoral [ Operation Surfers ] on that day Coral – Balmoral Defenders have previously had a 50 year celebration in Canberra, during May, when some members of units, who were either strictly at Coral – Balmoral or Nui Dat during the time of Operation Surfers could apply for an American Citation of Gallantry – Federation Star.



As we enter the colder months we have two other Shrine Commitments, first being Army Reserve Day on 1st of July. The 2018 Army Reserve Day will be the final day, due to a lack of funding. This will be followed by Vietnam Veterans Long Tan Day.

Unfortunately Harold Baker who has been a Committee Member, stalwart and long time member of our Association has had to stand down due to ill health. He will be greatly missed.

The Committee would like to thank those who have supported the Rotary Waverley Raffle. The money raised will go towards the "Spanner Pack" program, supporting RAEME soldiers.

Our last meeting was held at Cheltenham Moorabbin RSL, on the 31st of June. This RSL has obviously had a major rebuild of recent times. Modern and well laid out.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 6 September 1030 Hrs at Sunshine RSL

Remembrance Day will be celebrating 100 years this year. A number of RSL will be lifting the bar somewhat to make it a memorable event.

### 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 2413, M: 0437 834089  
[bungie12@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bungie12@bigpond.net.au)

106 Field Workshop  
2018 2nd November, Brisbane  
Contact Secretary RAEME Queensland  
[webadmin@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:webadmin@qld.raeme.org.au)

17 Construction Squadron Workshop  
3rd - 8th September Albany Western Australia  
Contact Gary Whykes  
Tel 08: 9276 1920, Mob 0411 810077  
[tresshar@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tresshar@yahoo.com.au)

161 Recce Flight Re-Union  
2019 September -- Victoria  
Contact John Custance  
[janducustance@bigpond.com](mailto:janducustance@bigpond.com)

1 Field Squadron Workshop  
July 20th 2021 -- Hervey Bay Queensland  
Contact Norm Barrett  
Tel M 0414 342819  
[normbarrett@bigpond.com](mailto:normbarrett@bigpond.com)

102 Fld Wkshp Re-Union  
"Avondale" 601 Bray's Road Gannawarra Victoria  
Contact Noel Lake  
Tel 03 5456 9246  
[koonda@activ8.net.au](mailto:koonda@activ8.net.au)

## Army Apprentices' School 70th Birthday Reunion Canberra Anzac Day 2018



**The Army Apprentices' School trained  
Army Tradespeople at  
Balcombe 1948 - 1982  
Bonegilla 1982 - 1995**

Army Apprentices led the Anzac Day March in  
Canberra in 2018  
the 70th year since AAS was founded.











Captured German Gun - WW1



Spiked Breech of Captured German Gun



Renovated German Gun with WW1 Style Camouflage



Transport of old WW1 Captured German Gun by SA Wksp Coy.



**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION**  
(Vic) Inc.  
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate  
Vic 3805  
Committee of Management

**President:**  
WO1 Alan Hawkins  
☎ (BH) (03) 9282 6926  
Mobile: 0409 662 916  
[president@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:president@vic.raeme.org.au)

**Vice President:**  
MAJ Peter Crosby  
[peter\\_crosby@hotmail.com](mailto:peter_crosby@hotmail.com)

**Secretary & Membership**  
Alan Rogers  
☎ (03) 9704 6700  
Mobile: 0422 8 88 851  
[secretary@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@vic.raeme.org.au)  
[membership@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@vic.raeme.org.au)

**Treasurer/Merchandising/  
Promotion:**  
Aranka Illia  
☎ (BH) (03) 9566 9468  
☎ (AH) (03) 9796 4794  
[treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au)

**Welfare & Betterment/Almoner:**  
MAJ Michael Newbond  
☎ (03) 9799 8048  
Mobile 0411 769 980  
[mn31050@bigpond.com](mailto:mn31050@bigpond.com)

**Rules & By-Laws:**  
Alan Rogers

**Editor / Web Master:**  
Pat Marley  
☎ (03) 8555 9561  
Mobile: 0407 056 298  
[webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au)

**Social Conveners:**  
MAJ Michael Newbond  
Alan Rogers  
(Details Above)

**Unit Representative  
& Army Coordination:**  
MAJ Peter Crosby  
[peter\\_crosby@hotmail.com](mailto:peter_crosby@hotmail.com)

**CHAPLAIN:**  
John Brownbill

**BANDIANA CHAPTER**  
President Gavin McMahon  
☎ 0410 280 783  
[bandiana@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:bandiana@vic.raeme.org.au)  
Secretary: George Reid  
PO Box 231  
WODONGA Vic 3689  
☎ (02) 60593153  
[reidysnr@iinet.net.au](mailto:reidysnr@iinet.net.au)

**SEYMOUR CHAPTER**  
President David Maddick  
☎ (03) 5793 8396  
[seymour@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:seymour@vic.raeme.org.au)

**RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS  
SOUTHERN CHAPTER**  
President Dennis Clarke  
☎ H (03) 9848 6757  
Mob 0409 518744  
[vietvets@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:vietvets@vic.raeme.org.au)  
Secretary Dennis Meek  
☎ H (03) 9798 3452  
[dennis.meek@bigpond.com](mailto:dennis.meek@bigpond.com)

**VICTORIA BARRACKS CHAPTER**  
President Rod Gillett  
☎ (03) 9622 2848  
[rodnev.gillett@defence.gov.au](mailto:rodnev.gillett@defence.gov.au)  
Secretary Phil Coulton  
☎ Mob 0400 386 513  
[pcoulton@msn.com.au](mailto:pcoulton@msn.com.au)



**SHEPPARTON**  
Mark Ryan  
☎ (03) 5784 3823  
Mobile: 0411 708 099  
[skand.pl@gmail.com](mailto:skand.pl@gmail.com)

**BALLARAT/DAYLESFORD**  
George Hepburn  
24 Junction St. BALLARAT 3350  
☎ (03) 5331 3153

**BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/  
HEATHCOTE**  
Alan Rogers (Secretary)  
☎ (03) 9704 6700  
Mobile: 0422 8 88 851  
[secretary@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@vic.raeme.org.au)  
[membership@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:membership@vic.raeme.org.au)

**HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG**  
Rex Foord  
598 Thompson Rd.  
NORLANE 3214  
☎ (03) 5275 1728

**WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT**  
Brian Driscoll  
☎ (03) 5595 4273

**BERWICK/PAKENHAM  
WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/  
TRARALGON & SALE**  
Graeme Vaux  
☎ (03) 5199 2724  
[vauxy58@hotmail.com](mailto:vauxy58@hotmail.com)

**CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA  
& WELSHPOOL**  
Kevin Moon  
1 Hawkins St.  
KORUMBURRA 3950  
☎ (03) 5655 1545

#### 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 February Flash  
Friday 20 January 2018  
Items to

[webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto: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

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

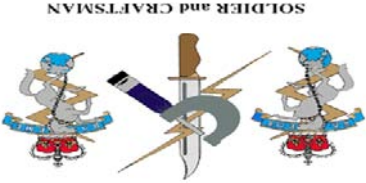
**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

**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: .....