



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

100th Edition THE LIGHTNING FLASH

**October 2020****# 100****The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.**

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

ABN: 96 873 522 994

Patron: BRIG Konrad Ermert. MSc, FIE Aust, CPEng (Retired)**Colonel-Commandant (Vic/Tas): COL/CMDT COLONEL Martin Griffiths RFD (Ret'd)****President:** WO1 Allan Hawkins**Vice President:** MAJ Peter Crosby**Treasurer:** Aranka Illia**Secretary:** Alex Birrell**Editor/Webmaster:** Morgan Cornelius**email:** secretary@vic.raeme.org.au**Email:** webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au**Web:** www.raemevic.org.au****** PLEASE NOTE****** All correspondence for Victorian Association memberships now needs to be forward to the following –

RAEME Association of Victoria. Inc. Attention A Rogers 14 B Mahogany Ave Berwick 3806.

****** PLEASE NOTE****** All correspondence for Vietnam Veterans Association memberships now needs to be forward to the following –RAEME Vietnam Veterans Chapter – Dennis Clarke – dclarke1947@gmail.com

Print Post Approved: PP 339540061

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Gus Allen – VALE.*From the President -*

So sorry to hear the news that this great man has passed away, he was a stalwart of the association
From the committee and members of the RAEME Association VIC our condolences and heartfelt sorrow to Stuart and the family. Noting we will be unable to attend the funeral due to COVID-19, when the restrictions and other things settle, then I would request that we (RAEME Family) give this gentleman a send-off he so rightly deserves.

Gus Allen being presented with the Life Member Badge and Certificate by the then President John Boothroyd

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 2020

As most of you would be aware by now, that esteemed gentleman WO1 Gus Allen passed away recently. Gus, a Life Member, at times Secretary and of late our Membership Officer, was a great man who was never short of a good yarn or a joke. Due to the current restrictions placed on attendance at funerals, we were unable to attend, but it was available via a web link through the funeral home to see the service. Again we send our condolences and prayers to Gus's family. When the restrictions are lifted, hopefully we can get together to acknowledge this fine gentleman's life as I know he would want us too.

As some are coming to grips with the Stage 4 Restrictions, I trust this finds you in good health and spirits. As previously stated, I hope that things were not too stressful during this time. As stated in the last FLASH, we thought things were slowly going to ease thereby to allow small gatherings and hopefully this will mean we can commence the Spanner Clubs and various other activities again, but alas this was not to be, we will have to wait at to what unfolds at the Premier's update on Sunday 27 Sep 2020 or what is to be in 29 days later when the supposed restrictions are lifted on or around 26 Oct 2020.

I am excited to be your President today as when this edition goes to print, it will mark the 100th edition of this noteworthy journal mainly put together from articles sent in by you. Flicking through some back issues there have been some great stories over the years and hopefully this edition will be packed with some of those. I would like to thank our WEB Master Morgan Cornelius for the long hours scanning past copies* to make them available to you on our RAV web site.

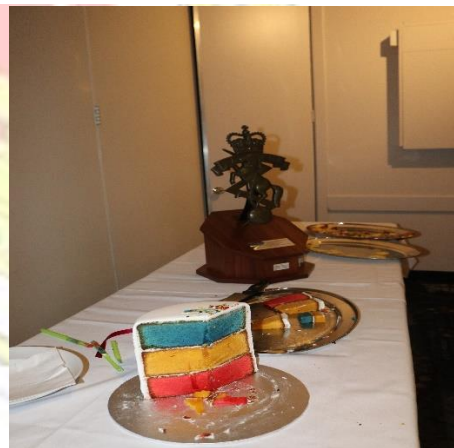
Sep 2020 was to be our AGM, due to things (I'm not going say restrictions) it was unable to be conducted. Consumer Affairs Victoria has given a bit of leniency and we have until Feb/Mar 2021 in which to convene the AGM. As details become available, these will be forwarded to all members to allow plenty of notice to attend.

Finally, as we draw closer to the end of the year, we are still planning to have our annual RAEME Birthday Luncheon on Sunday 29 Nov 2020 at Clayton RSL. I hope to see you there.

Arte et Marte

Allan Hawkins

President



RAEME Birthday Luncheon - TBC

* Past Flash Editions –



Simply click on the PDF file you are interested in.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have all been saddened by the recent passing of Gus Allen. Gus was an active member of the Association for many years, working tirelessly assisting the Association. He will be sadly missed. Hopefully, post COVID-19 restrictions we will be able to get together to pay our respects to Gus.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all our usual activities have been curtailed. I hope that all of you are in contact with family and friends. If you need any assistance or just want to chat, please reach out to us, the Association is here to help our members during the dynamic times we are experiencing.

I have submitted a request to Consumer Affairs Victoria to postpone our Annual General Meeting until we are able to meet face to face. We currently have until the end of February 2021 to convene the AGM. When COVID-19 restrictions are eased to point where we are able to safely convene the meeting, I will send notification to all members.

Unfortunately, our RAEME Birthday celebrations have also had to be put on hold. The Committee is monitoring the COVID-19 restrictions closely and if it is possible we will organise a get together. It is unlikely to be the luncheon or dinner format that you are accustomed to, more likely to be an informal get together. If you have any ideas on functions or their locations that you would like to participate in once we can meet again, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Please enjoy reading through the 100th edition of the Lightening Flash. On behalf of all members I would like to thank Morgan for his time and efforts in producing this wonderful publication. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Rogers for his efforts over many years of production of the Lightening Flash. To all members, be well, stay safe and hopefully we can see each other soon.



Arte et Marte

Alex Birrell

Secretary

RAEME Association Victoria

Spanner Club Events

With current situations & various restrictions still in place, the club functions have been put on hold until further notice. When government changes have been finalised and events are safe to attend, an update on when and where these will be going ahead will be posted via the website and the social media pages.

recently discharged members of the Corps. if anyone secretary@vic.raeme.org.au



Blue Bell

Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter

President - Dennis Clarke

Vice – President - Graeme Unmack

Secretary - Dennis Meek

Committee - Neil Bennett

Committee - David Wain

Due to COVID19 restrictions our meetings will now be on Zoom, instead of visiting various RSL. Our computers and I phones have become tools, for communication and hopefully our skills have improved as a result.

ADF have yet again shown their strength in not only bushfire crisis, but also the pandemic. Skills that are rarely seen on home turf, due to mainly overseas aid, their achievements tend to go unnoticed.

VVAA Museum Peace Garden, where several of the Units have already funded and arranged for their individual plaques. This site has become a real tourist attraction and with the support of Vets donations, local council, along with state government aid it will progress even further.

Emails have been circulating again regarding the Fire Support Base Andersen. The battle of Nui Le, has also had recent publicity.

During the Tet Offensive of February 1968 [Year of The Monkey], the Viet Cong and NVA made numerous fierce assaults on the joint Australian, New Zealand and American Manned Fire Support Base Andersen near the village of Trang Bom, east of Bien Hoa, on the north-easterly outskirts of Saigon. It was the first time 1 ATF had operated outside of Phuoc Tuy Province and was AOP Coburg. Although the first Australian forces into Vietnam including RAEME operatives from 101 and 1 Fld Sqdn Wksp worked from Bien Hoa. The ATF deliberately established FSBs astride the busy Communist lines of communication, expecting that the enemy would attempt to destroy them. 3 Btn. RAR, Aust Kiwi & US Arty, A Sqdn 3 Cavalry, 3 Trp 1 Fld Sqdn along with 2 RAEME 1 Fld Wksp members. During the battle of 17/18 Feb. the VC/NVA attacked with typical ferocity. As part of AOP Coburg FSB Harrison was established closer to Bien Hoa. Tragically, an overnight standing patrol comprising of No.11 Section 3 Trp. 1 Fld Sqdn RAE 10 Sappers, Staff Sergeant, a lance Corporal acting in the role of infantry, were earlier sent outside the wire to a rocky knoll feature some 300 mtrs. from the FSB. To provide an early listening post, important to detect advancing enemy. During early morning enemy assaults, the patrol received direct hits from mortar and RPG fire and was virtually wiped out without any communications back to FSB. The FSB could not call in extra arty support as there were coordinated attacks on other close bases. Four of the Sappers were KIA and three others wounded. In the FSB 2 3 RAR riflemen, one Australian and one American Artilleryman were KIA. A large number were WIA. In a cruel twist of fate, two of the surviving sappers were to be KIA just one month later, in a mine incident during Operation Pinaroo in the Long Hai Mountains within Phuoc Tuy province, S/E of Nui Dat. Dark days indeed for the proud men of 3 Troop of 1 Fld Sqdn RAE.

In May 1968 Balmoral, Coogee and Coral FSBs were established east of FSB Andersen, north of Bien Hoa and Tan Uyen, where the Battle of Coral took place. Tet Offensive of February 1969 saw Australian forces return to a similar area not too far from “Andersen”.

RAEME VIETNAM Unit Re- Unions



1 Field Squadron Workshop

14th – 16th October 2020 – Wodonga VIC

Mick Leonard – (H) 02 6059 2771 – (M) 0414 342819

mick.jude@bigpond.com

“Avondale”

Bray’s Road Gannawarra, Victoria

October 2021

Noel Lake 0354569246

koonda@active8.net.au

1 Armoured Regiment LAD 50th Anniversary.

Bendigo. October 15th – 17th 2021

Robert Bail – 0419 355721 r.bail@bigpond.com

“ONE ALSG”

Lake Hume Discovery Park

8th – 13th November 2021

33 Boathaven Rd, Ebdon Victoria 3691

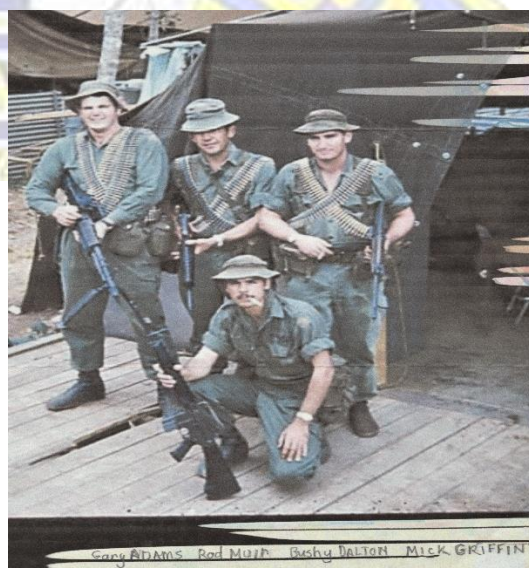
Contact details – TBC.

17 Construction Squadron Workshop – Port Macquarie 2021 – **Further info at a later date**



Dennis Clarke

RAEME Vietnam Veterans



Pictured - Veterans in 1982. & 1 Fld Wksp Sqdn.

RAEME VIC Membership.

Membership Report 2020

2020-21 Annual Fees:

We still have 22 members who are yet to pay their 2020-21 Annual Fees. Further overdue reminders are to be forwarded to these members

To those members who have paid my thanks, I am certain it makes the Treasurer's job easier having money in the bank

2020 Bush Fire Appeal:

My thanks to these Members & Families listed below who purchased 1 or more Raffle Books

Alex Birrell	Alan Rogers	Ian Lock	Brian Cahill	M & R Royle	Les Williams
Bryan Dowell	David Pratt	Shane Lyat	Ian Richards	David Martin	P& L Cartledge
Rod Brazier	Peter Tremain	Frank Bell	John & Lyn Lee	Bob Crawford	John Sloss
Mike Newbond	Anthony Pardey	A Hawkins Family	Bill Cole	Bob Player	Ken Thompson
Cedric Newbond	Bernard Russell	Peter Winter	Noel Goltz	Ray Edsall	Des Condon
Peter Willmette	John Scully	John Brownbill	John Belfield	Noel Jordan	John Boothroyd
Lyall Butling	Robert Player	Michael Fix	Gary Best	Mal Drechsler	John Pearce

Arte et Marte

Alan Rogers

Victorian Association Membership

When Jane initially met Tarzan of the Jungle, she was attracted to him and during her questions about his life, she asked him how he had sex: "Tarzan not know sex!" He replied. Jane explained to him what sex was. Tarzan said. "Oh, Tarzan use hole in trunk of tree!" Horrified, she said. "Tarzan you have it all wrong, but I will show you how to do it properly!" She took off her clothes and lay down on the ground. "Here!" She said. "You must put it in here!" Tarzan removed his loincloth, stepped closer with his huge erection, and then gave her an almighty kick right between her legs. Jane rolled around in agony, but manages to gasp for air and screamed. "What did you do that for?" "Tarzan check for bees!" 🐝



Upcoming Events Calendar

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Spanner Club Function.

Venue –

- 9th October – TBC – More than likely postponed.
- 4th December

Dot Spot Vietnamese.

670 Bourke Street (Just up from the Mail Exchange).

All EVENTS on HOLD until advised.

OTHER – Melbourne Appy get together - Sat 21 Mar

THIS WAS ALSO PUT ON HOLD DUE TO RESTRICTIONS

Date to be advised for later in the year.

Appies (and partners) in Melbourne and surrounds are invited to attend an informal Appy get together to be held at the Ringwood RSL on Saturday 21 Mar 2020, 1- 4 PM. Ringwood R.S.L

- October 23rd – 24th. Maroochydore QLD. Friday night meet & greet. Saturday – Formal dinner. RSL
CANCELLED - NO NEWS IF THIS WILL BE RESCHEDULED.
- 45th Class Apprentices – 30 Year Reunion.
TO BE RESCHEDULED - DATES TO BE CONFIRMED
- Annual RAEME Birthday Celebrations – Sunday 29th November – Clayton RSL – To Be Confirmed.



1. **3776464** Gus Allen
2. Nick Slater – 101 FLD WKSP
3. **58988** Brett Randall Sale
4. **342752** John Norman Kollias
5. **342640** Kevin John Martin
6. **243309** Francis (Frank) Harding Benfield
7. **62018** Kevin Maxwell Riley
8. **22593** TOYER Neil James Edward
9. Paul Rushbrooke – 1998 – 2005 VM
10. Neil Zander (20th Electrical Fitter)
11. Geoff Parker – VP SA RAEME
12. Ernest Frederick "Jim" Morse


Stand Down Gents. Rest Easy.



The people you find on social media.

Pictured on the right–Graeme Unmack, the current Vice President of the RAEME Vietnam. Looking Good Ferrett.



<p>THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc. 14 B Mahogany Ave. Berwick, VIC 3806</p> <p><u>Committee of Management</u></p> <p>President: WO1 Allan Hawkins ☎ (BH) (03) 9282 6926 Mobile: 0409 662 916 president@vic.raeme.org.au</p> <p>Vice President: MAJ Peter Crosby peter_crosby@hotmail.com</p> <p>Secretary Alex Birrell ☎ Mobile: 0419 004 809 secretary@vic.raeme.org.au</p> <p>Treasurer/Merchandising/ Promotion: Aranka Illia ☎ (BH) (03) 9566 9468 ☎ (AH) (03) 9796 4794 treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au</p> <p>Welfare & Betterment/Almoner: MAJ Michael Newbond ☎ (03) 9799 8006 Mobile 0411 769 980 mn31050@bigpond.com</p> <p>Rules & By-Laws, Membership: Alan Rogers</p> <p>Editor / Web Master: Morgan Cornelius ☎ Mobile: 0400 115 109 webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au raemevic@gmail.com</p> <p>Social Convenor Rod Gillett</p> <p>Unit Representative & Army Coordination: MAJ Peter Crosby peter_crosby@hotmail.com</p>	<p><u>CHAPLAIN:</u> John Brownbill</p> <p><u>BANDIANA CHAPTER</u> President Hans Sievers ☎ 0408698439 hanssievers@bigpond.com Secretary: George Reid PO Box 231 WODONGA Vic 3689 ☎ (02) 60593153 reidysnr@inet.net.au</p> <p><u>RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS</u> <u>SOUTHERN CHAPTER</u> President Dennis Clarke ☎ H (03) 9848 6757 Mob 0409 518744 delac379@gmail.com Vice President: Graeme Unmack ☎ - 0429 957505 guferretx23@hotmail.com Secretary Dennis Meek ☎ H (03) 9798 3452 dennis.meek@bigpond.com</p> <p><u>VICTORIA BARRACKS CHAPTER</u> President Rod Gillett ☎ (03) 9622 2848 rodney.gillett@defence.gov.au Secretary ☎</p> <div data-bbox="619 1173 911 1361">  <p><u>PROVINCIAL</u> <u>REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> </div> <p><u>SHEPPARTON</u> Mark Ryan ☎ (03) 5784 3823 Mobile: 0411 708 099 skand.pl@gmail.com <u>BALLARAT/DAYLESFORD</u> George Hepburn 24 Junction St. BALLARAT 3350 ☎ (03) 5331 3153</p>	<p><u>BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/ HEATHCOTE</u> Alan Rogers ☎ (03) 9704 6700 Mobile: 0422 8 88 851 membership@vic.raeme.org.au</p> <p><u>HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG</u> TBA</p> <p><u>WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT</u> Brian Driscoll ☎ (03) 5595 4273</p> <p><u>BERWICK/PAKENHAM</u> <u>WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/</u> <u>TRARALGON & SALE</u> Graeme Vaux ☎ (03) 5199 2724 vauxy58@hotmail.com</p> <p><u>CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA</u> <u>& WELSHPOOL</u> Kevin Moon 1 Hawkins St. KORUMBURRA 3950 ☎ (03) 5655 1545</p> <p><u>ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION</u></p> <p><i>This Newsletter is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.</i></p> <p><u>DISCLAIMER</u> <i>The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.</i></p> <p>webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au</p>
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1st - 100th Edition – In Pictures.

THE LIGHTNING FLASH



The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.



SUMMER
1991

SEND IT TO US
THE LIGHTNING FLASH
NEEDS ARTICLES AND
PICTURES



Editor R W Hunter

WANTED
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
for 1993-94



Harry Wallis SWITZER



ANZAC EVE REUNION 24 APRIL 1997



Remembrance Day
Wednesday 11th November 1998



Tasket of the Unknown Australian Soldier flanked by official Pall Bearers



Members of the RAEME Assocn (Vic) Inc. at Puckapunya
Other Ranks participants of the 4 BASB Military Skills A
h Regional winners for the Craftsman of the Year for Trophy
the Victoria & Tasmanian Region



Award	Recipient	Unit
ARA	CFN A.M. Jung	26 Tpt Sqn Wksp
ARES	CFN C.S. Daley	26 Tpt Sqn Wksp



THE LIGHTNING FLASH



RAEME Viet Nam Veterans Southern

President: Dennis Clarke H 9848 6757 M 0409518744

Vice- President: Ross Smith H 5983 1647

Secretary: Dennis Meek H 9798 3452 M 0409 907192

Treasurer: *Nominations Sought*



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN



*Craftsman of the Year
Perpetual Award*



The RAEME Corps History Project

*The time has come to announce that
the RAEME CHP is calling for
expressions of interest in the purchase
of the finished book.*



**Royal Australian
Electrical and Mechanical Engin**



**100th
Edition**





Welcome to the Army Museum of South Australia



<https://amosa.org.au/>



SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
MELBOURNE

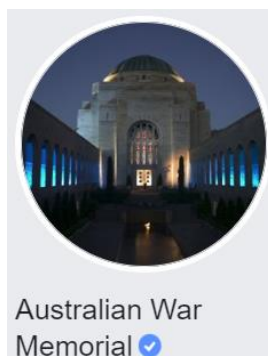
<https://www.shrine.org.au/Remembrance/Services>

WITH
YOU
WITH
ME

<https://www.withyouwithme.com/>



Shared Communications.



Looking for a short trip away, and want to feel like being part of the extended family?

Please see below details for those that may be interested in helping out a veteran, and in doing so, helping others find a small retreat away from home. <https://cockatooriseretreat.com.au/>

Please email - digger1254@aussiebb.com.au to register your interest.

For those that would like to get an inside view of the importance of tattoos in the military. This is a very interesting and insightful look at why people get their tattoos, and the significance behind them.


Australian War Memorial

22 September at 10:30 · 🌐

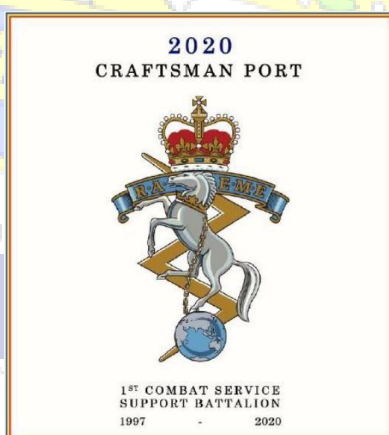


Australian War Memorial ✓

Did you serve in Australia's military forces? Are you a family member or friend of someone who has served? Do you have a military tattoo?

Share a photo of your ink on social media using the hashtag **#InkintheLines** and tell us what it means to you. Your tattoo could be shown on their digital display within the Ink in the Lines exhibition at the Memorial or on the Memorial's website.

Ink in the Lines will open 25 September 2020. See what's been shared and book your free tickets at awm.gov.au/ink



The RAEME Corps Port is an annual Corps institution started in 1982.

1 CSSB have chosen a stunning Bastardo Port from Kies Family Wines in the Barossa Region, to deliver to the Corps this year.

Purchasers can pickup their purchase from one of the local barracks in their area, or have it posted to them at extra cost.

On Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 11:59 PM

LOCATION

1st Combat Service Support Battalion
RAAF Base Edinburgh, Edinburgh, SA 5111

CONTACT DETAILS

[CONTACT EVENT ORGANISER](#)

Link details - <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=655886&fbclid>

Web Site Updates and Changes.

Please send any and all photos from past and present events to - webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au or raemevic@gmail.com if you wish to have these added into an album. The more the merrier.

All the old paper documents of the Flash Newsletter are now uploaded to the website. These have all been scanned and saved electronically for future prosperity.

Again, if you have any old documentation that you would also like saved for history purposes, please send through a scanned copy.

ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

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DISCLAIMER

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Let's hear from you!

Deadline for next Newsletter – Late September 2020

Items to Morgan Cornelius:

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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14b Mahogany Ave, Berwick VIC 3806

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PLEASE SAVE WRAPPER

Change of Address

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



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

Membership Officer -

RAEME Association of Victoria Inc.

Attention - A Rogers, 14B Mahogany Ave, Berwick VIC 3806

Name(Block Letters)

Address

.....Post Code Ph: No.....

Email