



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

March 2021

Edition # 102

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

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

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****Please note****

All correspondence for Victorian Association memberships to be forwarded to -
[RAEME Association of Victoria. Inc.](#) Att: Alan Rogers. 14 B Mahogany Ave. Berwick 3806

****Please note****

All correspondence for [Vietnams Veterans](#) Association memberships to be now
forwarded to - RAEME Vietnam Veterans - Dennis Clarke - delacl379@gmail.com
[Mail can be attentioned to Dennis - 9 Barrabool Street, Doncaster East 3109](#)

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

I trust that you are all having a happy and healthy 2021 thus far.

What a crazy year 2020 was, we saw Bushfires, COVID-19 MK 1, a reprieve, a rather different ANZAC Day celebrating at the end of our driveway, then COVID-19 MK 2, ring of steel etc etc the list goes on and on. COVID-19 saw the Association unable to hold the AGM in September and to celebrate the CORP's birthday on or around 01 Dec in fine style.



Our annual Shrine of Remembrance service was unable to be held on 14 February 2021 due to... you guessed it COVID and the state governments COVID circuit breaker that we had to have. But thanks to the Shrine of Remembrance personnel, they streamed a service for all to see.

Pictures left: President Allan Hawkins, presenting at the AGM, the new Shrine of Remembrance Cross, which he designed and made for all future services.

I would also like to publicly thank those committee members who worked in the background to enable us to hold these two events on 21 February 21; it was a fantastic day.

Due to COVID in 2020 and the non-event of the AGM, a motion was passed to allow me to reside as your President until the AGM in September this year. For that I thank you, the members, on voting and trusting me as your President to continue.

As noted, in the last issue of the FLASH, 105 Workshop Company 4 CSSB scooped the pools in the 2020 Craftsman of the Year, taking out the ARES National and Southern Region and the ARA Southern Region COTY Awards. The CORP Craftsman of the Year (ARMY Reserve) and the Association's perpetual trophy awardee was **CFN Sviatoslav Ponomarev**.

He was unable to receive his award as he has transferred back into the AR and is posted to Brisbane.

The ARA Southern Region COTY Award is yet to be presented. The lucky recipient, CFN Charles Ward from 105 WKSP COY is currently deployed.



I wish to extend our condolences to the Dreschler family on the passing of Mal. RIP Stand Down.

I would also like to thank COL John Lee RTD, for his tribute to Gus Allen during the Birthday Luncheon.

It was a moving dedication to a fine gentleman. Stand Easy Gus, your job is done!



To the committee members that have supported me as your President, I say thank you to every one of you.

I would like to particularly thank Alex Birrell as the outgoing Secretary. Thank you for keeping me on the straight and narrow.

To you our members I also offer my thanks as without you, this Association would not exist

Arte et Marte
Allan Hawkins

President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 2020 AGM in conjunction with our 2020 Annual Birthday Lunch was held 28 February 2021 with 30 members in attendance.

The 2021-2022 Committee was elected with Allan Hawkins elected as President (due to 2020 COVID) until the 2021 AGM held

President Allan Hawkins
Secretary Alan Rogers
Member Mike Newbond
Member Rod Gillett
Member Hans Seivers

Vice President Peter Crosby
Treasurer Aranka Illia
Member Morgan Cornelius
Member Dennis Clarke

Our thanks to Alex Birrell his service to the Association as Secretary, unfortunately Alex has had to stand down for family reasons, the Committee & Members wish Alex all the very best.

GWS Raffle: This year the Committee decided that the proceeds of the Raffle would be forwarded to Seeing Eye Dogs Vision Australia.

At time of print there are still tickets available by contacting the Secretary Alan Rogers (m) 0422888851 or (e) raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

Membership Report

Year to date most members have paid their 2019 - 2020 Annual Membership Fees, For the delinquent members a final notice has been sent out requesting payment prior to the end of the financial year June 20/ 2021.

<https://vic.raeme.org.au/index.php/membership>

New memberships are all welcome. Please find link above for both a word doc. and excel doc. from our website.

Arte et Marte

Alan Rogers

Secretary

INTRODUCING OUR NEW HEAD OF CORPS –

BRIG JAMES ALLEN



Brigadier Allen was born in Adelaide in 1970. After completing an Honours Degree in Electrical Engineering at Adelaide University in 1993 he was commissioned and appointed to the RAEME. He was initially posted to a range of logistic appointments including Adelaide Logistic Battalion, 101st Field Workshop and Aviation Support Group Workshop. He also completed a six-month detachment with the 4th Regiment Army Air Corps, England, as part of the Officer's Long Aeronautical Engineering Course. In 1998, Brigadier Allen was promoted to Captain and posted to the 162nd Recce Sqn as the TST Commander. During this period Brigadier Allen was detached to the 171st Op Spt Sqn and deployed to Bougainville. In 2000, he was posted, on exchange, to the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky as the Ops Offr of the 8th Maintenance Battalion. During his tenure Brigadier Allen deployed to Kosovo where he performed the role of Task Force Maintenance Officer. In recognition of this service he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

In 2002, Brigadier Allen was posted to the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Project as the Integrated Logistic Support Manager. After studying French at the Australian Defence School of Languages in 2004 he was posted to the Australian Embassy in France as the Technical Liaison Officer and Assistant Defence Attaché. Brigadier Allen graduated from Australian Command and Staff College in 2007 and was posted to the Land 17 Artillery Replacement Project as a Systems Engineer. In late 2008 he deployed to Darfur as a Logistics Operations Officer and Deputy Commander Australian Contingent. Post deployment he returned to the Directorate of Technical Airworthiness as a Deputy Director. In 2011 Brigadier Allen deployed to Kandahar as an embedded J5 within Regional Command (South). In 2012 Brigadier Allen was posted as the Program Manager for the Multi Role Helicopter Project. He was promoted to Colonel in 2015 and assumed the role of Project Director within the same project. In 2017 he was posted as the Director Cargo Helicopter and Unmanned Surveillance Program Office in Brisbane. Brigadier Allen was posted on promotion as the Director General Army Aviation Systems on 31 Mar 20 and assumed the role of HOC RAEME in October 2020. Brigadier Allen holds an MBA from Latrobe University. He also holds chartered status as a Certified Practising Project Director and was recognised as an Engineer Executive by Engineers Australia in 2016. Brigadier Allen is married to Siriporn, and his interests include travelling, jogging and Australian Rules Football.

Arte et Marte
BRIG J.B. Allen

HOC RAEME

Introductory Message from HOC RAEME.

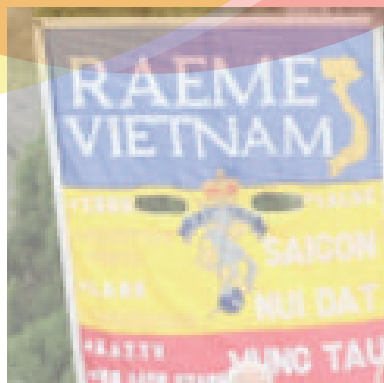
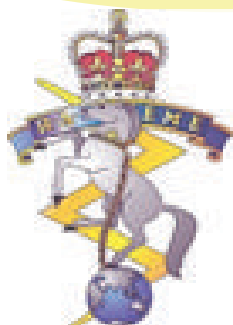
I am extremely honoured to be appointed as your Head of Corps and look forward to representing you and the Corps effectively during my tenure.

Whilst I only assumed the role at the end of last year, I have had an initial meeting with the HOC Cell, and we reviewed the key Corps activities for the year.

Obviously, 2020 was an abnormal year due to Covid and most Corps activities were postponed or discarded. I am keen to restore some normality to the Corps functions and activities during 2021.

We will run a Corps Conference later in the year and initial planning has commenced for that and the Craftsman Magazine and, of course, the Corps Port.

I note the appointment of the Master Artificers at the end of 2019 and I intend to re-energise this initiative. The COL COMDTs are meeting with me in March 2021 and we will focus on how we foster and strengthen relations across the broader RAEME network of regular Army units and organisations, Army Reserve units and organisations, the various RAEME Associations forming the RAEME National Network, and the HOC cell. I will provide a more detailed update in the next Spanner News. I hope to conduct some travel with the Corps RSM and visit regional areas during the course of the year. I look forward to hearing any ideas or thoughts you have on the future of the Corps and RAEME matters in general.



Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter

President - Dennis Clarke

Vice President - Graeme Unmack

Secretary - Dennis Meek

Committee - Neil Bennett,
David Wain,
Robert Gazzara.

RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

One Field Squadron Workshop

Wodonga October 14th – 16th, 2021

Contact; Mick Leonard

H 02 6059 2771 M 0429 586668

mick.jude@bigpond.com

One Armoured Regiment LAD

Bendigo October 15th – 17th 2021

Contact: Robert Bail

r.bail@bigpond.com

M 0419 355721

One ALSG

Lake Hume Discovery Park

8th -- 13th November 2021

33 Boathaven Road Ebdon Victoria 3691

Via Albury – Wodonga

At present, we will have ANZAC Parade from Princess Bridge through to the Shrine, with 1 - 5,000 Veterans marching.
We will have the RAEME Vietnam Banner there.
Registration will take place with ANZAC House straight after Easter Monday.

Some of the Re-Unions that were arranged for 2020, did not go ahead due to the Covid19 restrictions. Hopefully 2021 we will be able to continue with our Re-Unions.

We are continuing with the plaque installations within the RAEME Section of the Peace Garden at V V A A Museum Phillip Island. 1 Armoured Regiment LAD and 1 Field Squadron Workshop are being manufactured. 17 Construction Squadron Workshop is in the design phase. Plans have been submitted to the council for a whole new updated V V A A Museum at Phillip Island close to the existing location.

Mick Leonard from 1 Field Squadron Workshop has produced a second movie on their activities in Vietnam, including a section on the important clearing of the 11 Kilometre long, Dat Do barrier fence and minefield, which became a source of ordnance for the local V C. It contained over 20,000 powerful M16 powerful mines. For protracted periods, our own mines caused over 50 per cent of all Australian Task Force casualties. From the leadership and men of the workshop over 4 year span it was an almighty effort. A lot was learnt.

All those that sent off photos and information to Mick are to be thanked.

This movie has been well received by the Canberra War Memorial.

Ray Piper, who was involved in the minefield clearing program has written two books, regarding the workshop' activities.



[Click HERE](#)

Arte et Marte
Dennis Clarke

President - RAEME Vietnam Assoc.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



2021 JANUARY

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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27	28	29	30	31		

Spanner Club Function.

Venue – To be Confirmed for 2021

New 2021 Dates to be confirmed.

These will be posted to RAV social media pages, along with being loaded up on the website.

ANZAC Day march - Details and information for those wishing to attend will be listed on page 9.

At this stage, no other functions have been scheduled, but any changes and additions will be added to the RAEME Vic website, along with posts being shared via its social media pages, Facebook & Instagram,



- MAJOR Malcolm Drechsler. Long time Member of the Association
Passed away 6/3/2021
- 45460 Paul Maxwell Boundey (25th intake E F)
- 553947 Timothy Parker Reynolds (36th Intake VM)
- Captain Sir Thomas Moore (30 April 1920 – 2 February 2021)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcouA_oWsnU
- Don Horsley - Sadly, today we lost a real RAEME stalwart.
- CPL Stuart Burney - Royal Australian Engineers.
Dedicated soldier and bloody decent bloke.
Stu was an instructor at Elec Wing in 2010.



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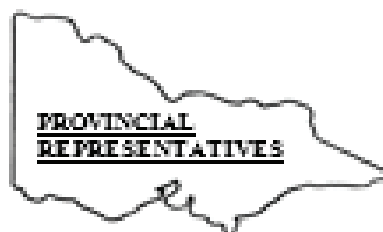
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*The views and articles expressed
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of this Association.*

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

ANZAC DAY Details.



Dear Kindred Organisations and Unit Associations

ANZAC Day 2021 will be commemorated in Melbourne and across Victoria this year within the State Government's COVID-Safe event's framework.

RSL Victoria has been working closely with the Victorian Government and the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council on all State-wide COVID-Safe commemorations, which of course includes the Melbourne ANZAC Day Dawn Service, City March, and commemorative service.

Under the current health restrictions, the march to the Shrine of Remembrance will go ahead, with an approved maximum of 5,500 participants marching along St Kilda Road.

Registrations will open on Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 9am, at which time you will be able to register your wish to participate in the march. Please share this information with any veterans (serving or ex-serving) in your networks or to any veteran who may not be linked to an association or group.

On Tuesday 6 April, at 9am you can click on the below link to register your wish to participate:
register.rslvic.com.au

We aim to contact veterans over the age of 90 directly, to gauge their intention to march and offer individualised assistance they may require.

It is important to note that we must adhere to all COVID-Safe requirements. The health and wellbeing of all veterans is paramount and ensuring their safety is priority.

Please note, when registering your wish to march:

- Registration does not automatically guarantee a place – once you submit your registration online, you will receive an automatic response to let you know your registration has been submitted. You will then receive further communication the week commencing Monday 13 April.
- Priority will be allocated to Australian and New Zealand Veterans (current and former members of the Defence Force). If places remain, tickets will then be assigned to allied forces, followed by descendants.
- Allocation of tickets will be considered based on the time of when registrations are submitted, and the priority listed above.
- All registrations will be stored in a centralised system. If health advice changes to allow more participants, additional tickets will be released accordingly.

The link provided for registrations will be live next Tuesday 6 April, and if you have any queries please forward them to adminservices@rslvic.com.au and we will respond as soon as we can.

Images from the Annual General Meeting & Combined Birthday Celebrations.



For those interested, please find below the informational link to the PDF document that outlines the development project for the AWM, along with a timeline history of how it came to be, and the importance of creating the museum.

https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/162531/files/digital-pages-ocs-information-booklet_fa.pdf



ASSOCIATION

27th Intake Army Apprentices 50th Anniversary Reunion



Visit our Reunion website & be apart of it !

Clear your calendar for 4-6 March 2022

Find information on the events, dates, locations, timings and so much more in one place.

Go to the site

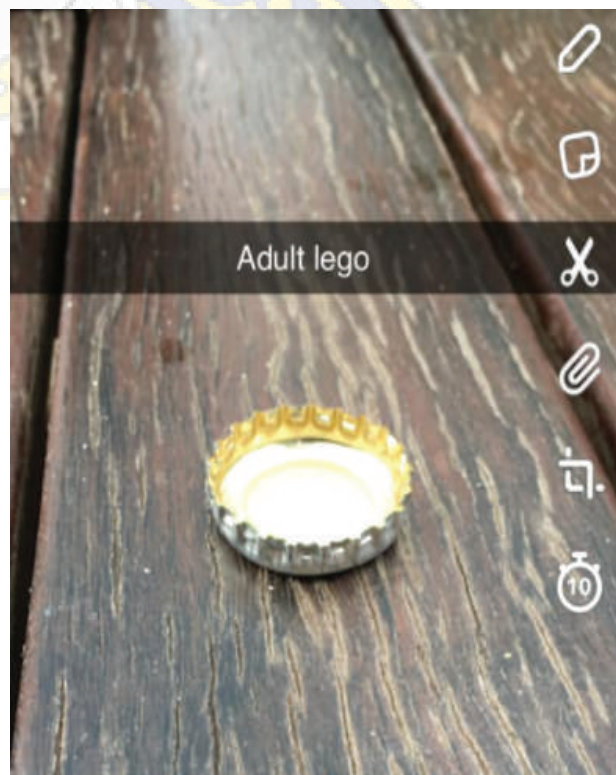
The Reunion theme is
'meet, greet & reconnect 50 years on'
Why not join in and share the memories

Web: <https://www.27thappies.org/>

Email: 27thappies@gmail.com



The Snakes of War



For those looking to transition old training and qualifications over to the current certification levels, this maybe of interest to you.

For many of the trades that went through the Army Apprentice School scheme, much of the certification that was provided has since been changed and the old qualifications are no longer seen as valid to meet today's current qualifications.



The Learning Professionals may be able to assist in having your old qualifications mapped over to the current skills framework for your trade.

If it's engineering or automotive, they have a simple yet thorough RPL (Regonition of Prior Learning), program that can assist you in upgrading the qualifications you have.

Simply call, or send through an email to -

Leon - leon@thelearningprofesiionals.com.au - 0478 127 937

<https://thelearningprofessionals.com.au/>

Looking to get a boat and/or personal watercraft (PWC - jetski) Licence.

The learning Professionals also provide training for marine licencing.
They cover areas of Albury/Wodonga and Murray River.
Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast.
Sandringham, Melbourne & Ballarat.
Westernport, Philip Island and Bass Coast.

Follow the online link to make a booking.



COMMUNICATIONS



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.



GEELONG RSL



<https://www.veteransretreatsaustralia.info/>

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/>

Goorambat Veterans' Retreat
Veterans Organization



Directions

21 Trewin Road, Goorambat Victoria 3725

03 5764 1468

Suggest an edit · Your business? Claim now



<http://www.rdveteransretreat.com.au/>

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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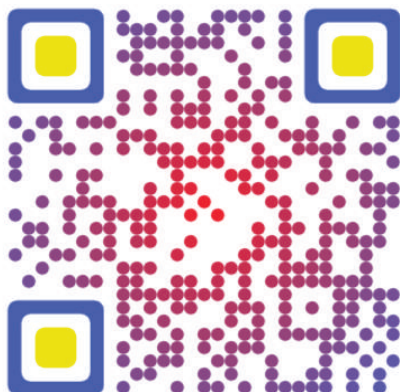
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Let's hear from you!

Deadline for the next edition of the news letter is -
Late June 2021.

Items, Images, Posts and/or information -
To: Morgan Cornelius.

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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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)

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