



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

October 2021

Edition # 104

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

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

Patron: BRIG Konrad Ermert. MSc, FIE Aust, CPEng (Retired)

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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

Greetings one and all,

Hope this edition of the FLASH finds you all well and surviving our COVID lockdown.

September saw our AGM with a new, or partly new, committee voted in. I was honoured to be voted in as the new president and have little to report at this early stage. I

thank the outgoing committee members for their good work and look forward to working with the new committee going forward.

Arte et Marte

Rod Gillett

President

New Committee member. Welcome to Rob Watkins.

Hey there all let me introduce myself briefly,

I am Robert Watkins, Robb to those out of the green, Watto to those in and I will answer to either. Joined the Army in 2002 I was qualified mechanic prior to enlisting.

I have been posted to 105WKSP since. 2005.

I am a Vehicle Mechanic (229) CPL currently posted in the VM SGT position.

Still manage to get my hands dirty working on the vehicles. As well supervising and mentoring the younger members.

I have been a member of the RAEME Association for some years now, also and had the pleasure of signing up my RAAOC wife Linda to the Corp.

Some would remember us as the couple wining the Penguin prints in the birthday dinner raffles.

We always look forward to attending these fun events.

During my spare I keep fit cycling with friends and as Linda likes to call it “the men’s shed of cycling”, implying we talk more than ride, it’s a great therapy.

When time permits I enjoy motor cycle riding, driving and tinkering with my old HJ Holden.



Whilst lockdowns and restrictions across Melbourne and some regional areas are preventing people to catch up, the use of platforms such as ZOOM have made it easier for the association members to get together for not only the last committee meeting, but the software was also used for the recent Annual General Meeting.

Pictured from top left to right : Mike Newbond, Morgan Cornelius, Alan Rogers, Rob Watkins and his wife Linda & new President Rodney Gillett

If you wish to be involved in future ZOOM conferences, please email your details through to - webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

SECRETARY'S REPORT

2021-2022 Annual Fees

While the majority of members have paid their Annual fee of \$ 20-00, it is disappointing to find that several members have yet to pay their fees.

Those Members are reminded that Annual Fees are due by the 30th June each but no later than 31 August each year in order to retain Association Membership.

Committee Members 2021-2022 as Elected at the 2021 AGM

Office Bearers

President
Rod Gillett

Vice President
Peter Crosby

Secretary
Alan Rogers

Treasurer
Aranka Ilia

Morgan Cornelius

Committee Members
Mike Newbond

Noel Goltz

Chapter Presidents

Vietnam Veterans Dennis Clarke

Bandiana Hans Sievers

The Committee welcomes Rob Watson who nominated for Committee after the AGM where we were one Member short at the AGM.

As Association Secretary, I thank Rod Gillett for stepping up to take on the appointment as The Association President. Rod was President of the Victoria Barracks Chapter for several successful years.

Rod, along with Alex Birrell was responsible for arranging Spanner Club functions, which I recommend to members to attend. (subject to COVID restrictions).

The Committee and the Members who attended the AGM via Zoom would like to convey our appreciation and thanks to our Webmaster Morgan Cornelius for organising the meeting.

The appointment of Rod Gillett has been forwarded to BRIG Ross Grant RNN Chairman, and we look forward to our continued relationship with the RNN in the future.

Life Member;

At our 2021 the Committee recommended to the attending members who voted that Robert Hunter be awarded Life Member of the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc

Robert is a long time member of the Association being a past Secretary / Treasurer

Our congratulations to Robert

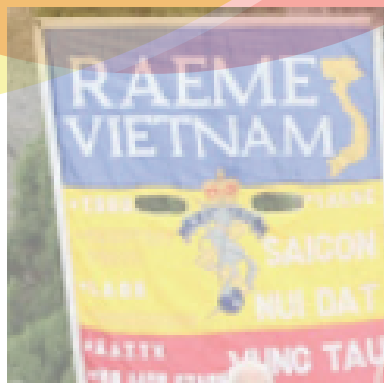
<https://vic.raeme.org.au/index.php/membership>

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



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 DIV S&T WKSP

Cowes, Phillip Island.

Contact - Tony Zammit -

M 0412604179

email - ajmm@virtual.net.au

ONE ALSG

Lake Hume Discovery Park

8th-13th November

33 Boathaven Road.

EBDEN. VIC

via Albury/Wodonga

RAEME Victoria - MEMBERSHIP BLUE BELLS REPORT

RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

Victoria 106 Fd Wkshp Lunch
15 November 2021 Venue:
Steeple Club Mornington
Timings: Arrive 11.30 – Seated 12.30 –
Serving 1300 Hrs
Theme for this lunch is Bye Bye Nui Dat
RSVP 9th Nov to Milton Pearson
E – csml1066869@gmail.com

South Australia RAEME Lunch Gathering
7th September 2021
Venue: Avoca Hotel 893 South Road
Clarence Gardens 5039 12 Noon Sharp
E Contact: Bob Killoran
E - klackers133@gmail.com
He is both a member of RAEME SA
& 106 Fd Unit Grp

Western Australia RAEME Christmas Lunch Perth
13 December 2021
Venue: Club RSL Saint Georges Terrace Perth
The gathering is jointly hosted by 14th Int.
Balcombe apprentices & 106 Fd Wkshp
Contact: for 14th - Steve Cartner E – amia@iinet.com.au
Contact: for 106 Fd Wkshp Col Elton
E – colmagselton@stnet.com.au
RSVP: ASAP or no later than our Corps birthday 1 Dec.
to either Contact.
Our women folk more than welcome.
We are in a semi - private part of the restaurant on the first
with lift access.
Pay on the day to Milton Pearson

Our next meeting will be a zoom meeting online

This year sees the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Nui Le, which was the last battle fought by New Zealand and Australian forces in the north of Phuoc Tuy Province, but near to Long Khan Province South Viet Nam. The enemy were aware of the ANZAC forces gradual withdrawal from Viet Nam in 1971 and had escalated their PAVN forces, which our Australian Sigs. Intel. had determined. The PAVN 33 NVA Reg. made up of two Battalions over 1100 well trained soldiers, believed, inadvertently, that we had dispatched our Artillery RTA. Due to lengthy pre-embarkation preparation for RTA the 48 Medium Gun Tanks along with 4 RAEME ARVs, 3 Dozer and 3 Bridge layer Centurions were taken to Vung Tau and had left five days earlier. B and D Cos of 4 RAR/NZ [ANZAC] along with Victor [Kiwi] was Tasked with reconnaissance in force Operation named Ivanhoe started on September 20. D Company, 3 Battalion, RAR, 1 Tp A Sqn 4 Tp C Sqn 3 Cav. Reg. 2 Tp 1 Fd Sqn, 104 Fd Bat Arty, 104 Sig Sqn & 161 Recce Flt. On the September 19 a PAVN force had rocketed, mortared and attacked with small arms fire a Regional Force outpost at Cam My on Route Two. They then set up ambush sites, expecting the Australian relief forces to arrive. The Australian forces took an alternative route. On the morning of the 21st D Co 11 Plt. Found sawn logs near the S_E part of the Courtney Plantation, which meant bunkers nearby. In the early afternoon September 20, 11 Plt made first contact with a group of 15, killing two enemy during the brief contact, without incurring casualties themselves. B and D Cos harboured in their separate defensive positions overnight. They began searching for the PAVN early on the morning of the September 21. Late afternoon B Co concentrated into a night defensive position where they could receive re-supply and Cas. Evac. At 9.00 while following a track 12 Plt. D Co came under heavy fire just 10M away. RPG rounds killed machine gunner Jimmy Dudd instantly and wounded two others, including Plt. Co 2lt. Graham Skinkston. Private Kemp crawled forward and tried repeatedly to retrieve Duff's body. He was ordered back. As 11 Plt. Approached, they encountered another enemy group, who were driven off. 11 Plt. Continued to repel repeated attacks over two hours and had to be re-supplied with ammunition by helicopter. 104 Fd Bat. Arty and 30 aircraft support were called in by the Forward Observer, which pounded the bunkers with intense firepower for four hours till 15.00. pilots

reported large numbers of enemy leaving the bunker system and heading northwards. D Co Commander told his platoon commanders, that they would have to assault the bunkers. At 15.40, D Co attacked, within 10 minutes and 50 M into the system they were in the fire lanes of a skilled enemy, who were following commands and concentrated their fire on D Cos machine – gunners. Privates Brian Beilken and Rod Sprigg were immediately killed. They fell just 15M from the bunkers. Private Keith Kingston – Powles was also killed while attempting to bring his machine gun into action. Private Ralph Niblett was critically wounded in the chest and died later. Private K.G. [Fred] Casson into the fire to check the dead and retrieved M60 and ammo belts and crawled back. 2Lt. McKay also moved forward and retrieved the other M60. He then used it to deter the enemy who were trying to outflank and move back. Meanwhile enemy groups left their bunkers and followed up behind the withdrawing troops. Staying close to avoid air and arty support also taking advantage of the jungle canopy. At 1815 D Co moved back into a night circular position, allowing platoons to link up, with a total of 85 men. The NVA, continually harassed with RPG, grenade and small arms. Lt. Gregory Gilbert D Cos forward observer, unable to read his map, had to recall grid references and mentally calculate distances to walk in arty fire 100M of the perimeter. At 2100 2 Lt. McKay was shot in the shoulder by sniper in a tree. He had to sit out the night, with his wound bleeding. This was last of the enemy activity and the arty dropped their support for the “Long” night. Wounded soldiers within the Co position who could not be medi-vaced due to the situation. September 22 morning at first light D Co sent out clearing patrols. They found one dead NVA soldier, armed with a loaded RPG2, some heavy drag marks and blood trails. The enemy had withdrawn during the night leaving few other traces. September 23 saw Victor Co [NZ] moved up to support D Co. In torrential rain, the two Cos moved back into the abandoned NVA bunker area and retrieved the bodies of the three Australian soldiers killed 2 days earlier. Victor Co cleared a track to a winch point, where Kiwi riflemen formed an impromptu “guard of honour” in tribute as the litters passed. Five Australians were killed and 30 wounded. 14 NVA bodies were recovered from the battlefield. 2 Lt. Garry McKay was awarded the Military Cross. Captain Gregory Gilbert distinguished Service Medal and Private Kevin Casson Mention in Dispatches.

This battle is similar to Operation Coburg with Charlie Co 7 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment bunker attack in Bien Hoa province February 7 1968, as illustrated in the book; “All Day Long The Noise of Battle”.

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 finished and paid for. I will deliver them to the museum ASAP. 17 Construction Squadron Workshop is in the design phase

RAEME Victoria - MEMBERSHIP BLUE BELLS REPORT

Obituaries:

George Glen [Tiny] Hepburn 36417 Corporal passed away on 20/09/2021

Tiny served with 161 Independent Reconnaissance Flight Viet Nam

27/05/1967 – 28/05/1968 Glen was born 18/03/1931 and was a Life Member of the RAEME Association.

Arte et Marte May He Rest in Peace

Bruce Maxwell Tinkler 337713 Major passed away on 26/09/2021

Max was a popular O/C of 102 Field Workshop ALSG Vung Tau Viet Nam

10/03/1968 – 25/02/1969 Max was born 9/09/1930

Arte et Marte May He Rest In Peace



Arte et Marte

Dennis Clarke

President - RAEME Vietnam Assoc.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



2021 JANUARY

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SEPTEMBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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At this stage, no other spanner club functions have been scheduled for VIC due to the ongoing covid restrictions. Any changes and additions will be added to the RAEME Vic website, along with posts being shared via its social media pages, Facebook & Instagram.

There is a reunion scheduled for an Apprentices Border Reunion for the dates of 30th & 31st October 2021 . Please see the expressions of interest flyer on page 10 of the newsletter. Again, please check with your LGA requirements and ensure travel to these areas is permitted.



Noel Perkins 18765 - 17th VM.

William (Bill) John Hyland. August 2021

WO2 Ryan Leslie
CFN Brendon Payne

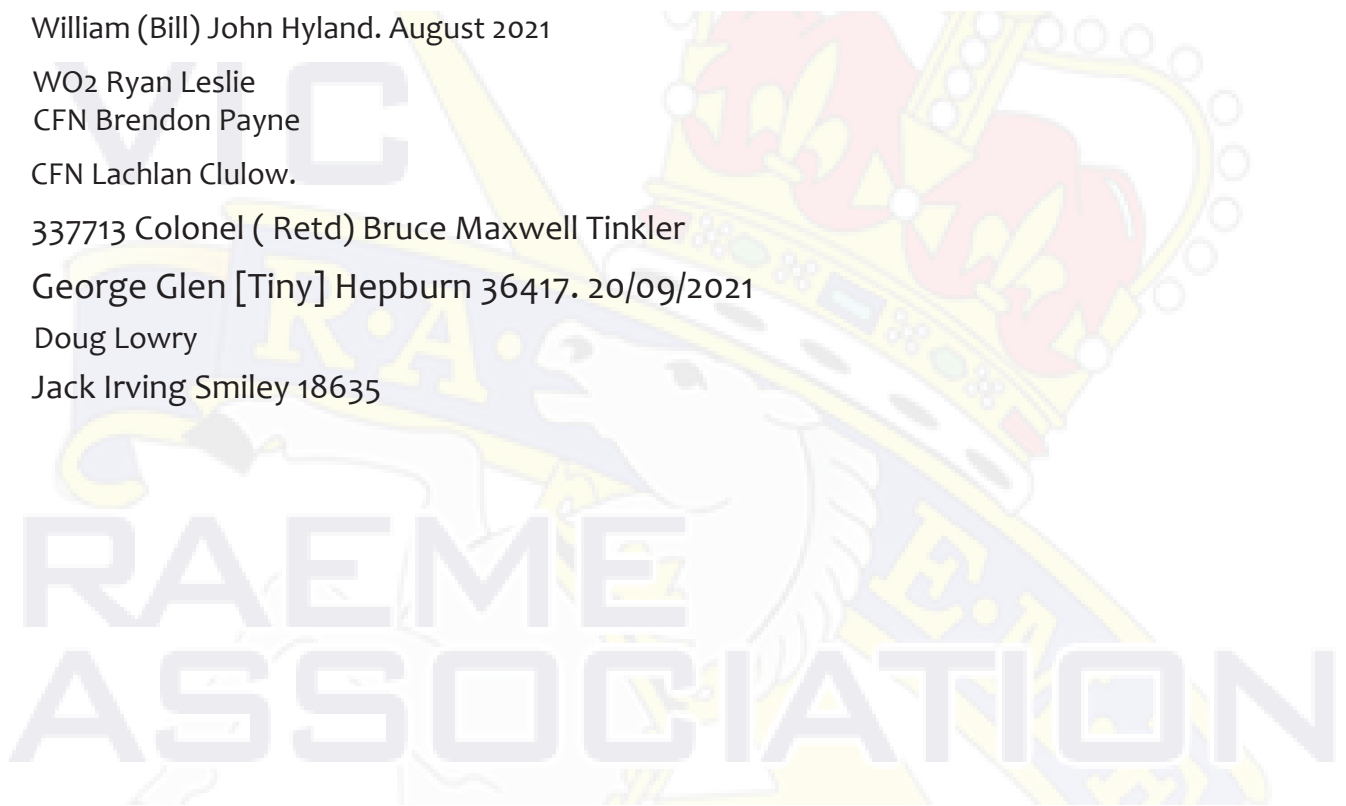
CFN Lachlan Clulow.

337713 Colonel (Retd) Bruce Maxwell Tinkler

George Glen [Tiny] Hepburn 36417. 20/09/2021

Doug Lowry

Jack Irving Smiley 18635



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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.

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

"Horrie the War Dog"

Adopted in Egypt

Early in 1941, Private Jim Moody, VX13091, 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion found a puppy in the Ikingi Mariut area of the Western Desert, Egypt. "Horrie" became the unofficial mascot of the battalion, travelling with them from Egypt to Greece, Crete, Palestine and Syria then back to Australia in 1942.

Horrie was intelligent and easily trained. He acted as a guard dog and many times gave early warning of the approach of enemy aircraft. He survived the sinking of the Costa Rica on which the unit was being evacuated from Greece to Crete. In Crete, he was wounded by a bomb splinter, which had to be removed with a knife. To keep him warm in Syria's severe cold, Horrie was issued with a coat cut from a soldier's service dress tunic.

Smuggled into Australia

When Moody returned to Australia in April 1942, he smuggled Horrie ashore inside a modified travelling pack. The pack was lined with wood and had slits cut in the back for ventilation.

Horrie lived in Australia for almost three years before disaster struck.

Discovered by quarantine officials

Horrie's story was about to be published in a book by Ion Idriess, *Horrie the wog-dog: with the A.I.F. in Egypt, Greece, Crete and Palestine*. Moody offered to use the publicity Horrie would get from the book to assist the Red Cross Society's fund-raising efforts. This alerted quarantine officials to the dog's history. They were adamant: Moody had to surrender Horrie, who was destroyed on 12 March 1945.

Anthony Hill's book *Animal heroes* suggested a different ending for Horrie. Hill claimed that a look-alike dog was surrendered in Horrie's place, and that Horrie lived the rest of his life near Corryong, Victoria.

More sources of information and books can be found by following the link below -

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/horrie>





OUTLINE PLAN

The Problem



Australia is facing a chronic skilled farm labour shortage, following our international border closure and the nation's hard border stance during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

Our Grains sector is at risk of reputational harm and market failure especially from a lack of skilled heavy farm machinery operators as well as truck and other farm workers, who are central to the proper functioning of the entire grains supply chain. Potential losses on some farms could be many \$millions, with \$billions at risk on a national level. Australia is at or close to the technical threshold of "full employment", putting the grains industry in the difficult situation of competing for workers in a very tight labour market, particularly with a booming mining economy that also requires workers with the same or similar skill sets.

The industry, initially in WA and Queensland, requires access to a suitable workforce by early mid-September 2021 in preparation for the upcoming harvest season. The situation in most other States is similar, if slightly delayed as the grains in WA are the first due for harvesting. Please note the short lead time.

Australian broadacre agriculture urgently requires thousands of experienced heavy farm machinery operators and truck drivers as well as a range of other trades.

It is vital to have these people, to ensure our grains sector remains globally competitive, and to avoid losing our markets to international competitors – this is a likely scenario if the required tonnages are unable to move into port to meet the needs of overseas markets.

Harvesting barley at Boyup Brook farmer Ben Creek's property. Picture: Cally Dupe



If you are interested in helping out. Please follow the links.

WA/SA - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360895489034795/about>

Qld/NSW/Vic - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1741781399347127/about>

Craftsman Magazine - Request for articles.

Good Morning Everyone,

I have received advice from MAJ Steven Howells, the Editor of the Craftsman Magazine, that he is seeking articles for the next edition due out later this year.

He is particularly keen to have articles from ALL Associations in the RNN, and has asked me to follow up on his request with you.

This is a good opportunity to let the current Corps members know what is happening in each state-based association as well as the unit associations across Australia.

It is also a perfect opportunity to encourage membership for your associations from the many ex-RAEME folks, who may live near you - to give them a feel of what is going on in their locations.

I encourage you to help Steven make this a good edition of the Craftsman.

Steven needs the articles on any topic, but specifically about your associations' activities (WITH PHOTOS), to him by **NLT 1 Nov 21**

treasurer@qld.raeme.org.au OR
stephen.howells@defence.gov.au

Merchandise



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RAEME STUBBIE HOLDER	\$8-00	
CREDIT CARD HOLDER	\$5-00	
CAP & STUBBIE HOLDER	\$20-00	
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ADDRESS		

All items are PLUS POSTAGE

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or

sm2aranka@optusnet.com.au

All Merchandise Photos in RAEME Association (Vic) Inc Web Site.

www.vic.raeme.org.au/html/corps_merchandise.html

COMMUNICATIONS



Welcome to the Army Museum of
South Australia



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



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



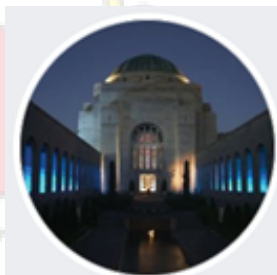
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Looking for a short trip away, and want to feel like being part of the extended family?
Please see below details for those that may be interested in helping out a veteran, and
in doing so, helping others find a small retreat away from home.

<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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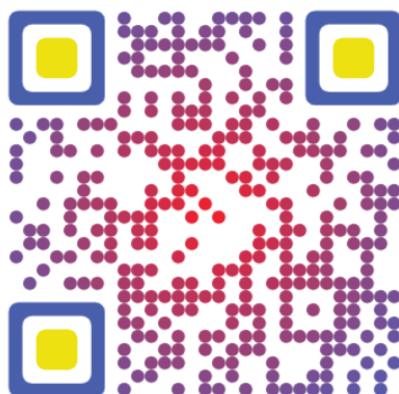
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Let's hear from you!

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

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

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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If not, please fill in the spaces below &
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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