



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

December 2021

Edition # 105

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Incorporating 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 : Rod Gillett

Vice President: LT COL Peter Crosby

Treasurer: Linda Bayly (2022)

Secretary : Alan Rogers

email- secretary@raeme.org.au

Editor/Webmaster: Morgan Cornelius

email - webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

Website - <https://vic.raeme.org.au/>

****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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Happy Birthday to the Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings one and all,

I hope this edition of the FLASH finds you all well and enjoying the new freedoms post COVID.

As I mentioned in the last edition, the new committee has been voted in.

Again, I would like to thank the outgoing committee members for their good work and look forward to working with the new committee as we head into a brand new year.

With the fast and rapid changes to the current environment with all things COVID, restrictions are looking as they will be minimal heading into 2022, and as such this should allow for the association to get back to some normal activities and gatherings.

With that in mind the new year will see us re establish the “Spanner Club” catch ups. A new calendar will be put together and distributed to members via email along with updated events added onto our facebook page and the website. Keep an eye out for these dates and share with as many brethren as possible to ensure these events stay successful.

We do have our first catch up as a committee on the 11th December, for the Presidents luncheon and I am hopeful that there is good attendance from the current and past members.

On behalf of the association, I would also like to extend our extreme thanks to our outgoing treasurer Aranka Illia for her efforts, support and assistance during her time with the association. We all wish Aranka the best for her health and future endeavours. Thank You.

That being said, we would all like to welcome Linda Bayly to the committee, as she has accepted the role of treasurer for 2022. Mike Newbond will ably assist as the assistant treasurer.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone and their families a very wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy start to the New Year.

Arte et Marte
Rod Gillett

President



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our new President Rod Gillett has now held 2 Committee Meetings Via ZOOM. These were extremely productive and well conducted mainly due to the efforts of our Webmaster Morgan Cornelius.

As our Committee is scattered over the Metro it is envisaged that under the Presidency of Rod Gillett that majority of the Association Committee meeting will be held via ZOOM, (Our AGM will be at a face to face meeting ; Subject to COVID Government Restrictions)

It is with sadness that our long time Treasurer & Committee member Aranka Illia LM has tendered her resignation.

The committee of Management wish Aranka all the very best for the future.

With the easing of COVID-19 Government Restrictions the following functions will be held in 2022

Annual Shrine Remembrance dates are yet to be confirmed by the shrine for our 2022 Shrine day

Further details will be forwarded under separate cover close to the dates.

The President and Committee welcome Rob Watkins and Linda Bayly to the Committee. Linda has accepted the Position as Association Treasurer in 2022 with Mike Newbond as assistant treasurer.

2021 Birthday Lunch Celebration.

To celebrate the 2021 RAEME Birthday, we have set the date for 13th February 2022 at the Clayton RSL. 1200Hr start. If you wish to attend, please advise early so we can cater accordingly.

Membership;

It is disappointing that about 12 members still have outstanding membership fees yet to be paid after several notices have been forward.

Final notices will be forward to these members for their prompt payment, after all the yearly fee is only \$20-00 each year.

It should be remembered that without the \$20-00 yearly fee our Association could become like a number of other Associations that no longer exist

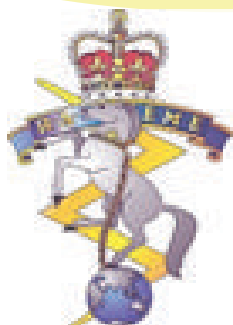
Arte et Marte

Alan Rogers

Secretary

<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.



Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter

President - Dennis Clarke

Vice President - Graeme Unmack

Secretary - Dennis Meek

Committee - Neil Bennett,

David Wain,

Robert Gazzara.

Congratulations go to Murray Lewis ex 101 - 102 Field Workshops Vietnam.

Recipient of the 2021 Melton Senior Citizen Award. Well done for achieving this honour. Dennis.

106 Field Workshop had a most successful luncheon at Steeples Mornington on 15th November with a good roll up of Bluebells from all over the State.

Our recent Committee meeting was held in conjunction with Geelong VVAA at Geelong North Federal Wool Stores restaurant on 18th November.

After our meeting and lunch, we had a combined presentation of flowers to Annie Harris, recent widow of Les.



RAEME Victoria - MEMBERSHIP BLUE BELLS REPORT

RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

One Field Squadron Workshop
Wodonga March October 14th – 16th, 2022
Contact; Mick Leonard
H 02 6059 2771 M 0429 586668
mick.jude@bigpond.com

One Armoured Regiment LAD
Bendigo October 15th – 17th 2022
Contact: Robert Bail
r.bail@bigpond.com M 0419 355721

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 14 th- Steve Cartner E – amia@iinet.com.au
Contact: for 106Fd 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

One DIV S&T Wkshp
Cowes Phillip Island
Contact Tony Zammit M 0412 604179
Email – ajmm@virtual.net.au

RAEME Victoria - MEMBERSHIP BLUE BELLS REPORT

Nui Dat TAOR Patrols

As there were 700 plus riflemen available for operations both in and outside the ANZAC Total Area of Responsibility. This situation put stress on the infantry battalions. TAOR patrols spread out around the Nui Dat Base not unlike a spider web. They were essential to give the base early warning of attack. A lesson learnt from the Long Tan Battle. Some RAEME Units were tasked with TAOR patrols, from Nui Dat to support the Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment.

Training of NCOs for 1 Field Squadron Workshop by 9th Battalion was established in early December 1968. 17 Construction Squadron Workshop combined with 5th Battalion. At a similar time 106 Field workshop commenced training NCOs with the 4th ANZAC Battalion. This arrangement continued with the replacement Battalions. The "TAOR" Patrol consisted of a seven soldier section, and although RAEME Units were tasked, other Corp members who were part of the Units were included. The Section comprised of two forward scouts, section leader [an NCO], radio operator, two on the machine gun and two rifle men. Weapons practice would be held at the range during the prescribed day. Claymore mines would be carried by the patrol. A briefing was held with the NCOs prior to the start of the Unit Patrols by the specific Battalion the Section would be patrolling for. Sometimes patrols left from Nui Dat base, late in the afternoon, on foot and other times the sections would be taken out by truck, to their start position.

An 1850 Curfew was imposed on the South Vietnamese population which they did not always respond to. The radio operator would use a three horizontal, three vertical grid position figure code, which would be converted to letters, using the phonetic alphabet. Net frequency would change at midnight. Radio contact was of major importance in case of any interlopers, other lost patrols, or the need for fire support, or dust – off.

When we had gone out 1800 metres we would harbour up in an ambush triangle, with a coms cord connecting us. Claymore mines would be set up in arcs of fire. One person at each point would be on guard concentrating on any activity around our location during the night. Always advisable not to be in the company of a heavy snorer, as a kick from a GP boot was usual method of reducing the noise. Our food would be a bar of high energy chocolate, which left unattended would be devoured by the famed "Muncher Ants". Returning in the morning we may be met by people, coming from the local villages heading out to work in the paddy fields. On return would be given the morning to get back into order. Cleaning and returning weapons, claymores, radio, compass, code book etc.

Arte et Marte
Dennis Clarke

President - RAEME Vietnam Assoc.



Report on Kindred Organisation & Unit Associations Forum

The Kindred Organisation & Unit Associations Forum was held on Tuesday 7th Dec 2021 at ANZAC House. As Jamie Twidale was stood down under a cloud, the acting CEO is currently Brian Cairns. The 7th Bn RAR Assn (VIC); Raymond Carr, (son of a past member) and 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Assn all had written to ANZAC House complaining, in general, about the restricted numbers that were allowed to attend the ANZAC Day march compared to the 82,000 fans who were allowed to attend an AFL game. As well as the changing rules leading up to ANZAC Day.

The Chairperson, Mr John Cullen OAM said that the RSL had employed a full-time person to manage registrations for ANZAC Day and to work with DHHS regards rules and regulations. Apparently, the rules from DHHS kept changing, virtually daily! In addition, the Health Department and the City of Melbourne had differing opinions surrounding the rules. It was stated that VICPOL worked well with the RSL team. On the day of the March, the Govt sent down 8 inspectors on site to observe if any rules were being breached!

Next year (2022) the proposed Form Up Point (FUP) for the March is opposite the Art Centre – on the City side of Linlithgow Ave. It is also proposed that we will go back to the normal march format, with our banners as well as the Vets in cars! (As long as no further restrictions are imposed upon us). However, registration will be required together with proof of Vaccination.

Guidance on how to do all this, together with instructions will be sent out to Associations in January 2022. It was suggested that Associations are not keeping the RSL updated with changes in Contact details of key personnel in their Associations.

A memorial service for Albert Jacka is to be held at the St Kilda Cemetery on 16 Jan 2022 at 1400h. You are welcome to attend.

The next KO&UA meeting is scheduled for Monday 7 March 2022.

Michael Newbond





342784 David William Wilson . 12th intake Plumber

Brian Seymour 12th VM

53396 WO1 Kevin James CRAIG - 1st Armoured Sqn Wksp and C Sqn Sect 1st Armd Regt LAD

SGT Steve Davidson, ASEME

211623 Geoffrey Alan CLEWS - 31st / 32nd Veh Mech

WO1 Ian James Risk

Maj Terry Francis Gross [16th Radio Mech]

342755 Major Graham James Moon

Colin Albert Jones 26th EF

58775 Sgt Graeme Leslie Armstrong

Ray Jamieson 7th intake Plumber

Colonel (Ret) Marc Hitch one of the Education Corps teacher, Balcombe

MILLS - Keith Powell Mills BEM

John Wayne Mcphail

342545 Nev Flannagan

Mick Elliott - 31st ET



THE RAEME ASSOCIATION

(Vic) Inc.

14b Mahogany Ave, Berwick
Vic 3806

Committee of Management

President:

Rodney Gillett

☎ (BH)

Mobile: 0449 502 337

rod.gillett8@gmail.com

Vice President:

LTCOL Peter Crosby

peter_crosby@hotmail.com

Secretary

Alan Rogers

☎

Mobile: 0422 888 851

secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

Treasurer/Merchandising/

Promotion:

TBA

☎ (BH)

☎ (AH)

treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au

Welfare & Betterment/Almoner:

MAJ Michael Newbond

☎ (03) 9799 8048

Mobile 0411 769 980

mn31050@bigpond.com

Rules & By-Laws, Membership:

Alan Rogers

Editor / Web Master:

Morgan Cornelius

☎

Mobile: 0422 144 808

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

Committee Members

Morgan Cornelius

Mike Newbond

Noel Goltz

Rob Watkins

Unit Representative

& Army Coordination:

LTCOL Peter Crosby

peter_crosby@hotmail.com

CHAPLAIN:

John Brownbill

BANDIANA CHAPTER

President Hans Sievers

☎ 0408698439

hanssievers@bigpond.com

Secretary: George Reid

PO Box 231

WODONGA Vic 3689

☎ (02) 60593153

reidysnr@iinet.net.au

RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS

SOUTHERN CHAPTER

President Dennis Clarke

☎ H (03) 9848 6757

Mob 0409 518744

delac1379@gmail.com

Secretary Dennis Meek

☎ H (03) 9798 3452

dennis.meek@bigpond.com

BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/ HEATHCOTE

Rob Bail

926 Alternative Calder Hwy. Lockwood

Mobile: 0419 335721

HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG

TBA

WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT

Brian Driscoll

☎ (03) 5595 4273

BERWICK/PAKENHAM

WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/

TRARALGON & SALE

Graeme Vaux

☎ (03) 5199 2724

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.

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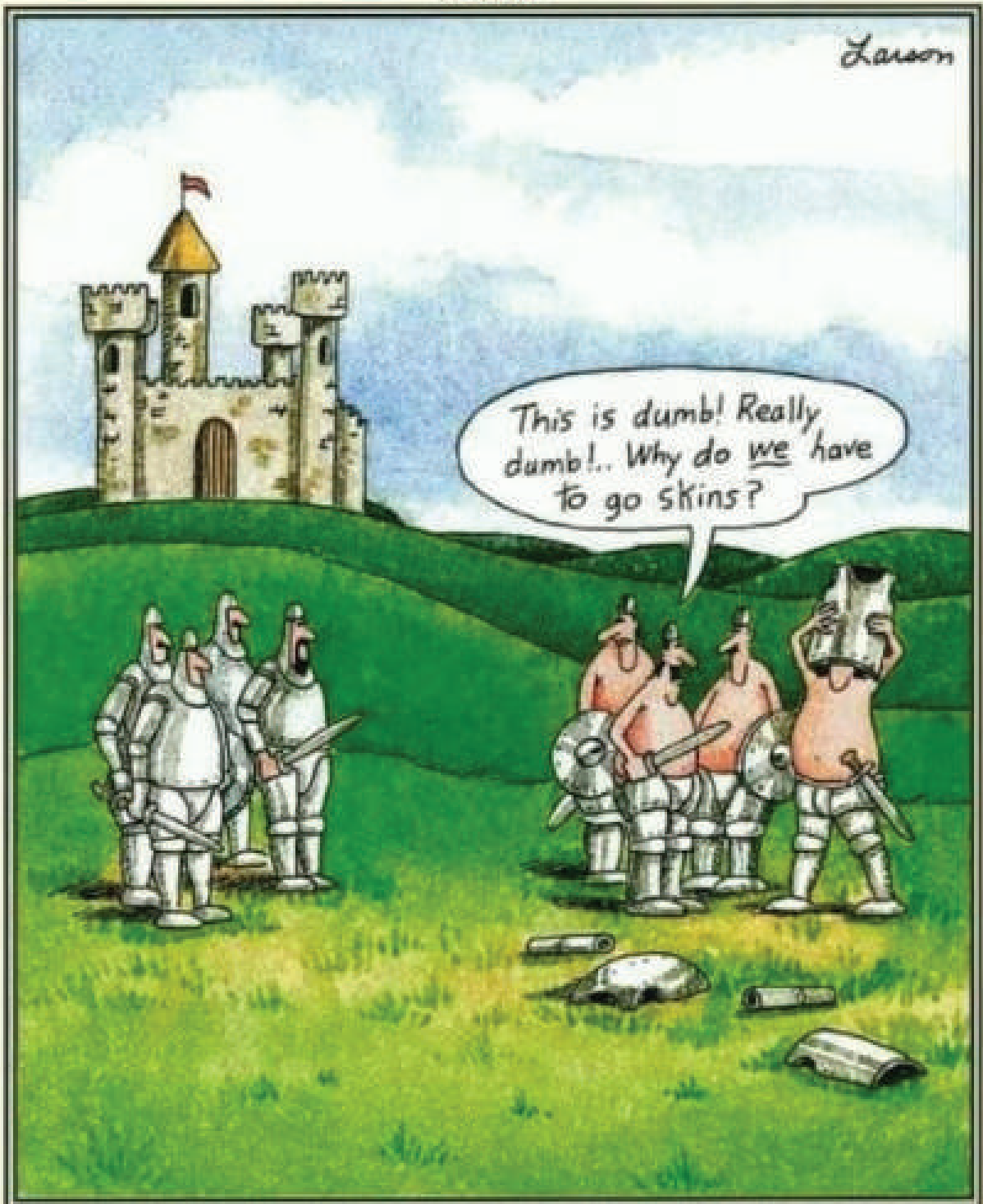
The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

**PROVINCIAL
REPRESENTATIVES**

7/25/90

Larson



Medieval pickup battles

War History

The war memorial stands in the middle of Memorial Park, Tambar Springs, NSW.

The memorial includes an obelisk of Italian marble surmounted by a marble sculpture of a young soldier, with downcast eyes and resting easy. Inscribed on the side with the Honour Roll, and relief sculptures of crossed swords adorn the base of monument.

The memorial is said to be the earliest memorial erected in country Australia to World War I Servicemen.

Devastating losses had been sustained and would continue to unfold throughout the war, but for a farmer in north-west NSW the greatest tragedy had already come to pass. A telegram had been delivered to Thomas Turner and his wife, Alice, at their property 'The Folly' in the Tambar Springs district. It delivered the news that their son, James, had been killed in action at the Battle of the Somme and his body unable to be recovered. Thomas and Alice bought some land and commissioned the Italian marble piece, and it was erected at a cost of £400, including £100 for purchase of land, fencing and original gates and £300 for the erection of the monument, kerbing, railing and lettering. History states that 92 servicemen and the highest number of servicemen per capita from the small rural village of Tambar Springs and district answered the patriotic call.



For those that love the history of our countries service and sacrifices, there is an opportunity to purchase an oil painting that has beautifully captured this memorial. *(as per below image).*

The artist, Darlene Lavett is a school friend of mine *(the editor)* and has also served within the Army in Australia and overseas.

I myself have purchased one of the limited prints, where it will be displayed with pride at our working pub & training centre.



If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful prints, please make contact with Darlene, where she will provide you with all the information for payment. If you are interested in any other artwork, below is a link that will direct you through to her website.

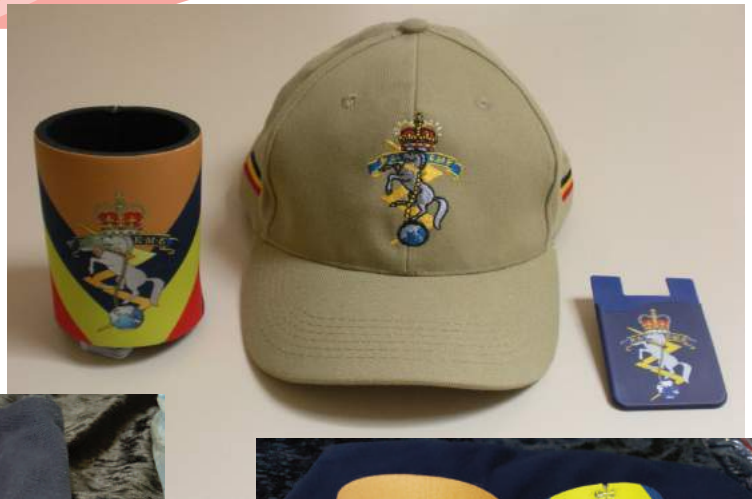
Darlene Lavett
Australian Artist



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

RAEME - Merchandise

Looking for Christmas Ideas?



Thermal Mug



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
MELBOURNE



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

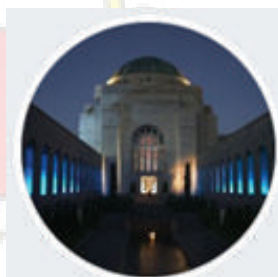
WITH
YOU
WITH
ME

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

Shared Communications.



GEELONG RSL



Australian War
Memorial



<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.

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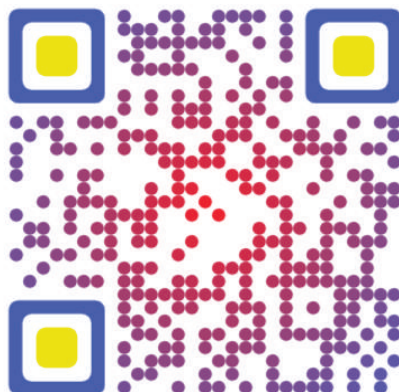
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Let's hear from you!

Deadline for the next edition of the news letter is - March 2022.

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

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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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

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

2022



January

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Spanner Club - Dates to be confirmed.

ANZAC Day March - 25th April - Details to be confirmed.

ANZAC Day Function - Venue & Details to be confirmed.

1 Field Squadron Wskp - October 14-16th - Wodonga

1 Armoured Regiment LAd - October 15-17th - Bendigo

1 DIV S&D Wskp - TBA - Phillip Island.

KO&UA meeting is scheduled for Monday 7 March 2022

2021 Birthday Celebration - 13th February 2022 - 1200HR

