



# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

September 2022

Edition # 108

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

Secretary : Alan Rogers

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

Editor/Webmaster: Morgan Cornelius

email - [webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:delacl379@gmail.com)  
*Mail can be attentioned to Dennis - 9 Barrabool Street, Doncaster East 3109*

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Vale Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

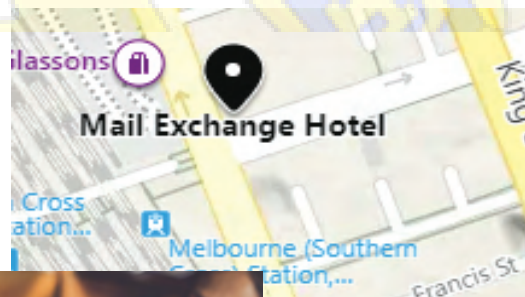
Spanner Club functions are now scheduled and have been advertised. Twelve people attended the August event which was pleasing for the first one in a long while. The September event was attended by only three people which is disappointing.

In addition to the Spanner Club functions we are starting a RAEME casual lunch get together on the third Friday of each month. Partners and guests are welcome to attend these lunches. Details will be notified by the Secretary (maybe before you read this in this Flash). Look forward to catching up with people as they attend.



Four RAEME (Victoria) Craftsman of the Year nominations have been received by the committee and are under consideration with the winner to be presented award and Perpetual Trophy at the RAEME Birthday Lunch held later in the year

Spanner Club get togethers. Please check the calendar dates on page 10 of this edition of the Flash.



Arte et Marte  
Rod Gillett  
President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Corps History Book. Now available at a reduced price.  
Please order form for these on page 13.

Functions- The Xmas in July was poorly recieved with only 23 members attending. Members are reminded that the committee spend time to arrange these functions, in their own time.

This also appears to be the trend in the case of other functions that have been arranged from time to time.

Members should be reminded the our Association is one of the few Associations in Victoria that is still a viable Association. Unless members are prepared to attend / forward fees by the stated date, our Association could have the same fate as many of the other Victorian Associations.

### 2022 - 2023 Committee of Management

President	Rod Gillett
Vice President	Peter Crosby
Secretary	Alan Rogers
Treasurer	Linda Bayly

### Members

Mike Newbond	Noel Goltz
Morgan Cornelius	Rob Watkins

### Chapter Presidents

Hans Seivers	Dennis Clarke
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Annual Birthday Lunch 4th December 2022 Clayton RSL

Further details under separate cover.

Life Member -

Major Frank Bell was awarded Life Membership at the 2022 Annual General Meeting for his outstanding assistance and advise to the Association over many years.

Members / Serving are requested to forward stories & photos etc of interest to the Webmaster for the Lightning Flash. Unit happenings etc.

to (webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au)

For those Members who are yet to pay 2022-2023 it would be appreciated if fees could be forwarded to the Treasurer.

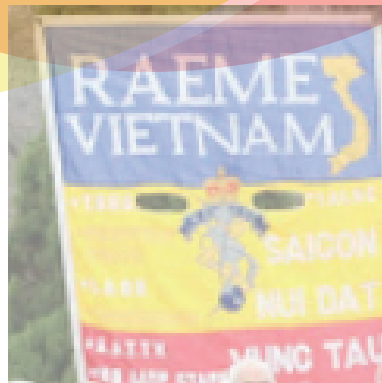
<https://vic.raeme.org.au/index.php/membership>

*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.



Geelong VVAA Group after their Vietnam Long Tan Service.

## RAEME Victoria - MEMBERSHIP BLUE BELLS REPORT

Long time Secretary and member Dennis Meek and wife Rhonda have moved to Eagle point, near Paynesville the other side of Bairnsdale in East Gippsland. Dennis and Rhonda have not only done a great job for us, but have handled the duties for the South Eastern TPI club, as well as the Victorian Ambulance Museum. Thank You both, as you will be missed.

Calling for a volunteer to take on the role of Secretary.

Sincere condolences to Jack Wilson and family for the loss of Joan Esther, wife, mother and grandmother.

We held our last meeting again combined with the VVAA Geelong at the Charles Hotham Hotel on Thursday June 30 th . After the meeting we made a presentation to Marion Musgrave - widow of Robert ex 102 Field Workshop Vietnam.

I attended a funeral of Stuart Vaseburn, an Australian born REME soldier. Another REME soldier also attended at the Fawkner Cemetery. Our Vice – President was contacted by one of his comrades from the U.K. and rang me from Queensland to see what could be organized at short notice. Stuart's Partner and Son, who is in the British Army both gave an obituary.

Sad news regarding the passing of Petrus [Peter] De Jong 53387, 81 years on Sunday 18 th September. Peter served from with 1 Armoured Squadron Workshop 12/02/1968 – 4/10/1968 and C Section 1 Armoured Squadron LAD 5/10/1968 – 3/12/1968. Two RAEME and four Armoured Corps Veterans attended his funeral in Sunbury.

Our former secretary Gary [Snowy] Whykes now residing in Western Australia, is sounding out interest for RAEME Adult Tradesmen who may be interested in a Wodonga – Bandiana Re-Union. You can contact Gary via [gwhykes@gmail.com](mailto:gwhykes@gmail.com) mob 0411 810077 – Remember time Difference.

Services were held throughout August, by all the statewide VVAA groups culminating with a large Service at the Melbourne Shrine. Although there is always Corps representation some members prefer to march with their local VVAA Group. This may well be the last major Vietnam Long Tan Day at the Shrine. Our age is starting to show.

The 17 Construction is nearing completion and will be installed at the Peace Garden at the VVAA Museum. Still waiting on 161 Recce Flight.

Why has the Australian Regular Army left Victoria? We have almost the highest population of the States!

Arte et Marte  
Dennis Clarke

President - RAEME Vietnam Assoc.

## RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

17 Construction Squadron Workshop  
Port Macquarie NSW  
October Monday 17 th – Saturday 22 nd 2022  
Contact: Gary Whykes 0411 810077  
gwhykes@gmail.com

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

106 Field Workshop  
Deniliquin RSL NSW \_ Riverina  
November Monday 4 th -- Sunday 6th 2022

One Field Squadron Workshop  
Wodonga March October 21th - 22nd, 2022  
Contact; Mick Leonard  
H 02 6059 2771 M 0429 586668  
mick.jude@bigpond.com

Luncheon @ Steeples Mornington Victoria  
November 14th 2022 Note: 11.30AM for 12-30PM  
Contact : Milton Pearson 0488 050261  
csm1066869@gmail.com

One ALSG  
Broken Hill NSW Vietnam 50 th Anniversary  
March Monday 20 th -- 24 th 2023  
Contact: Tony Brown 0428 852736  
tr4950@optusnet.com.au

One Div S & T Workshop  
Cowes Phillip Island Victoria  
March Wednesday 1 st – 4 th 2023  
Contact: Tony Zammit 0412 604179  
ajmm@virtual.net.au

102 Field Workshop.  
Gannawarra - 29th - 30th  
September 2023  
Contact -  
Noel Lake - 03 54569246  
koonda@active8.net.au



## Spanners on the Front Line!

Over July and into August 2022 a couple of our local Spanners were very privileged to be invited to attend some very moving rededication services conducted for our missing soldiers in France. A rededication service occurs when the identity of an "unknown soldier" is discovered. Over this period, the Un-Recovered War Casualty (UWC-A) section of the Australian Army, working in conjunction with the Army's Jonathan Church Good Soldering Award recipients 2020-22 worked a very busy program to commemorate 16 recently identified Australian Soldiers.

For each individual soldier the previous "Unknown" headstone is removed and replaced with a new headstone identifying the soldier. Families are contacted and invited to attend the service as well as providing with some appropriate words from that soldier's family. During the service eulogies were read, bugles played, prayers were said, and national anthems were also sung. Each service was very moving and attended by Commonwealth, Australian and local officials. Each service also reminded us that behind these headstones was a loved one lost so long ago. Yes, even after over 100 years our government is dedicated to identifying our missing soldiers.

## Enter Fallen Diggers

Of these 16 soldiers dedicated, 15 are the direct result of Fallen Diggers' efforts. Fallen Diggers are a local not for profit group of volunteers who do an amazing job at researching and identifying our missing soldiers. Since 2013 they have successfully identified over 50 missing soldiers. Many more submissions are waiting for approval. Their research has uncovered many more field burials that are waiting for exploration and possible excavation from both WW1 and WW11. They work very closely with UWC-A however, they remain a civilian volunteer group. The work that this group does is amazing, successful, and very interesting.

## A special Presentation at Le Hamel



Some of our local "Spanners" (and Fallen Diggers researchers) Andrew Moon, supported by Tony Moon, Michael Newbond and Peter Zimmerman were privileged to be invited to present Cpl Stan Cochrane's story to the UWC-A and the Jonathan Church award winners. Andrew asked to put some context arounds Stan's life, his experiences, his participation at the battle of Le Hamel and ultimately his fate. Andrew also presented his research and findings that led to Stan's identification at Crucifix Corner Cemetery in France. The presentation was delivered on the actual battlefield site close to the French village of Le Hamel. Those of you with a knowledge of WW1 history will understand that the battle of Le Hamel fought in the early hours of 4 July 1918 and was one of General Monash's early masterpieces. Fallen Diggers felt very honoured

to be asked to present in this environment and to put some context around one of our soldiers. What an opportunity!

**Andrew said,** " We started the presentation by standing on the exact spot where the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn jump off tapes were laid at 03:00 on the morning of 4 July 1918. We presented a ground orientation brief and familiarised the audience with a lay of the land. We then gave a brief of the units involved and their respective tasks. The brief then focussed on Stan Cochrane and his involvement in the battle. We talked about his role, being part of the support company, where he was dropping off stores and equipment for the 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. We talked in depth about the circumstances surrounding his death, how and where it happened. We pointed to these locations "on the ground" and identified

them on the original 1918 battle maps. We also discussed why it was three days before he was buried and why, we think, he was buried without his identity. We then went through to the discovery process, the research methods used, the first principal documents and the approval process that led to the eventual rededication ceremony the following day. On a personal note, Stan Cochrane was a local soldier. He was born and grew up in Poowong. His family remain in the Korumburra area to this day. We know the Cochrane family well. We went to school with them, and my brother Tony lives only a kilometre from Stan's nephew Colin. I hope the audience gained an insight into the entire process and understood that behind each rededication service, there is story of a lost soldier that they are helping to remember."



A set of spanners just three km west of Le Hamel, Peter Zimmerman, Tony Moon, Andrew Moon and Michael Newbond



Spanner and Fallen Digger researcher, Andrew Moon (2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) briefing the UWC-A staff and Jonathan Church award recipients on Stan Cochrane's story at the Le Hamel battlefield. (L to R) Lt Col Russ Lowe, Andrew Moon, Tony Moon, Michael Newbond.



Cpl Stan Cochrane's service was attended by Fallen Diggers researcher Andrew Moon. Andrew and Stan came from the same district and Andrew attended school with members of the Cochrane family. Andrew was pivotal in Stan's eventual discovery. Stan's service was one of 16 conducted over July/August 2022. Stan's service was attended by representatives from the Commonwealth War Graves, the Australian Embassy, the Mayor of Villers Bretonneux as well as UWCV\_A, Fallen Diggers and the Jonathan Church winners from the ADF. n



## Lay in State

A very special event occurred on 14 July when the remains of a recently discovered digger were held "In State" at Menin Gate in Ypres. This soldier was uncovered whilst excavations were being undertaken in the Polygon Wood sector. Our soldier was held In State for 24 hours and then given a full Military funeral at Tyne Cot Cemetery the next day. This was a very emotional but fitting tribute for one of our own. Hopefully, one day, we will be able to place a name on his headstone.

UWC-A latest discovery was laid in state at Menin Gate. This soldier was found in Polygon wood.



Our latest Unknown Soldier was finally laid to rest at Tyne Cot. Hopefully, one day, he will have his identity discovered.

## Meet the Fallen Diggers

If you want to find out more about Fallen Diggers and some of the amazing work or incredible projects they are undertaking they are going to do a "Have a beer with Fallen Diggers Day". It will be \$30 per head. It will be held at the Montmorency RSL, commencing from 1300hrs on Sunday 23 October. There will be finger food supplied and you buy your own drinks. They do a presentation of recent dedication ceremonies in France, and what future Archaeological surveys they wish to do. This event is open to all, so come and say G'day, listen to the presentation. Swap some stories and you never know; you may wish to get involved. You won't regret it.

How to Contact Fallen Diggers

Find us on our Face Book contact page (Fallen Digger Inc) or,

Web site Find us at Home - Fallen Diggers

Email address: <https://www.fallendiggers.com.au/contact>



HRH Queen Elizabeth II - 1926 - 2022.



Ralph Newman (22A)  
Wayne Cook 28th Intake,  
Norm Goodhew, 15th VM  
Fred Voight 41st ET  
WO 1 Tom Donnelly  
Ernest Liddiard  
JUERS, Donald Alwin - 4403  
WO2 Terry (Bluey) Howard  
Ray Scammell  
WO1 Malcolm Lloyd

*Stand Down Gents. Rest Easy.*



**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION**  
(Vic) Inc.  
14b Mahogany Ave, Berwick  
Vic 3806  
Committee of Management

CHAPLAIN:  
John Brownbill

BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/ HEATHCOTE  
Rob Bail  
926 Alternative Calder Hwy. Lockwood  
Mobile: 0419 335721

BANDIANA CHAPTER  
President Hans Sievers  
☎ 0408698439  
[hanssievers@bigpond.com](mailto:hanssievers@bigpond.com)  
Secretary: George Reid  
PO Box 231  
WODONGA Vic 3689  
☎ (02) 60593153  
[reidysnr@inet.net.au](mailto:reidysnr@inet.net.au)

HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG  
TBA

President:  
Rodney Gillett  
☎ (BH)  
Mobile: 0449 502 337  
[rod.gillett8@gmail.com](mailto:rod.gillett8@gmail.com)  
  
Vice President:  
LTCOL Peter Crosby  
[peter\\_crosby@hotmail.com](mailto:peter_crosby@hotmail.com)

WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT  
Brian Driscoll  
☎ (03) 5595 4273

Secretary  
Alan Rogers  
☎  
Mobile: 0422 888 851  
[secretary@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@vic.raeme.org.au)

RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS  
SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
President Dennis Clarke  
☎ H (03) 9848 6757  
Mob 0409 518744  
[delad379@gmail.com](mailto:delad379@gmail.com)  
Secretary Dennis Meek  
☎ H (03) 9798 3452  
[dennis.meek@bigpond.com](mailto:dennis.meek@bigpond.com)

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

Treasurer/Merchandising/  
Promotion:  
Linda Bayly  
☎ (BH)  
☎ (AH)  
[treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au)

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

Welfare & Betterment/Almoner:  
MAJ Michael Newbond  
☎ (03) 9799 8048  
Mobile 0411 769 980  
[m31050@bigpond.com](mailto:m31050@bigpond.com)

Rules & By-Laws, Membership:  
Alan Rogers

Editor / Web Master:  
Morgan Cornelius  
☎  
Mobile: 0422 144 808  
[webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:peter_crosby@hotmail.com)



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



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

# 2022



### January

M	T	W	T	F	S
					1
3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15
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31					

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27	28					

### March

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### April

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### May

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29	30	31				

### June

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### July

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### August

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28	29	30	31			

### September

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### October

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31					

### November

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### December

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Spanner Club - Are confirmed & highlighted in Green.  
 Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Service 4th August - 3.00pm.  
 106 Fd Wksp - 4th - 6th November- Deniliquin RSL-  
 1 Field Squadron Wksp - October 20th - 22nd Wodonga  
 1 Armoured Regiment LAD - October 15-17th - Bendigo  
 17 Construction Sqn Wksp 17th - 22nd October.

#### 2023 Calendar

1 DIV S&D Wksp - 1st - 4th March 2023 - Phillip Island.  
 One ALSG - 20th - 24th March 2023 - Broken Hill.  
 102 Field Wksp - 29th-30th September 2023 - Gannawarra VIC.



## RAEME Merchandise

As we head into the festive season and are unsure of what gifts you wish to get for those family members and friends, please keep the merchandise items in mind for that special gift that is always going to hold a special connection for those that have ties to the Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. Form is attached to the newsletter, but items can also be ordered via the website.



**RAEME Association of Victoria (Inc)**

Arte et Marte (With Skill and Fighting)

### RAEME CORPS MERCHANDISE

The items indicated below available for sale from the RAEME Association of Victoria Inc.

*Large orders of 20 items or more attract a 20% discount.*

Download an Order Form, complete the details and post (PDF) or email (Excel) it to the address given on the Order Form or contact the Merchandising Manager via the "[Contact Us](#)" page.

**Download the Order Form you require:**

PDF (post) version

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# RAEME Association (Vic) Inc Merchandise

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BASEBALL CAP AFGHAN	15-00		
BASEBALL CAP ARTY	15-00		
LADIES DRESS BROOCH 1	45-00		
LADIES DRESS BROOCH 2	45-00		
BOMBER STYLE JACKET (Zip Close)	POA		
RAEME VEST ZIPPED SLEEVELESS	POA		
POLO SHIRT BLUE	POA		
POLO SHIRT WHITE	POA		
RAEME STICKERS REAR WINDOW	2-00		
MUG COBALT CERAMIC	10-00		
THERMAL MUG	12-00		
RAEME ASSN LAPEL BADGE	10-00		
RAEME TIE TACK	10-00		
ARTIFICER TIE TACK	10-00		
RAEME STICK PIN	10-00		
ARTIFICER LAPEL PIN	10-00		
RAEME TIE BAR	10-00		
RAEME TIE BAR ENAMEL	10-00		
ARTIFICER TIE BAR	10-00		
RAEME CUFF LINKS pr	20-00		
ARTIFICER CUFF LINKS pr	20-00		
MOUSE MAT	6-00		
RAEME PLAQUES	POA		
PENS 70TH BIRTHDAY	5-00		
RAEME VEST (Zip Closure, Sleeveless)	POA		
RAEME Coasters	2-00		
RAEME STUBBY HOLDERS	10-00		
CREDIT CARD HOLDERS (PHONE)	5-00		
RAEME CARRY BAGS WHITE	2-00		
RAEME CARRY BAGS BLUE	2-00		
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	POSTAGE		
	TOTAL		

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Mobile

Email

Address

Signature

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 or [merchandise@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:merchandise@vic.raeme.org.au)





**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED**  
Incorporation No.A0022655Z

**RAEME Corps History With Skill and Fighting**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ORIGINAL PRICE</b>	<b>Now \$40-00</b>	<b>PAID</b>		
<b>Corps History book With Skill and Fighting</b>	\$80-00 +Postage	+ Postage \$16-00	<b>EFT /CHG CIRCLE OPTION</b>		
Number Required		\$ Total	\$		
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Name	Address	Phone/email - contact details			
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>			

**HOC HAS RELEASE A LIMITED NUMBER OF CORPS HISTORY BOOKS**  
**An interesting read about the history of our Corps**

**Delivery; Members may opt to pick their Corps History Book as discussed with the Secretary**  
**e.g.; Annual Birthday Lunch, Spanner Club, Other Functions,**  
**or By Post**

**Note All Payments' must be made when ordered**

<p><b>Payment To RAEME Association (Vic) Inc</b></p> <p><b>EFT; Bank NAB BSB 083 547 Account No 28634 9442</b> <b>EFT Details; Merchandise CORPS HISTORY</b></p> <p><b>Please Advise EFT payment to email ; <a href="mailto:alang.37@bigpond.com">alang.37@bigpond.com</a></b></p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Thank you for Payment**

## Web Site Updates and Changes.

Please send any and all photos from past and present events to - [webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au) or [raemevic@gmail.com](mailto: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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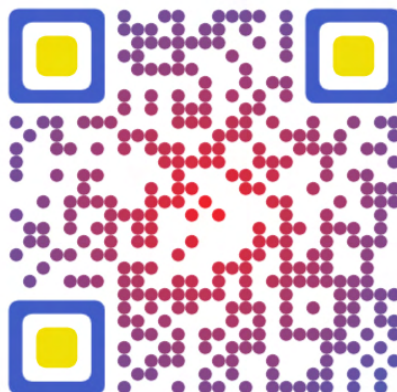
The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.

Let's hear from you!

Deadline for the next edition of the news letter is -  
Wednesday 7th December 2022.

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

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



## THE LIGHTNING FLASH

If undeliverable return to  
The RAEME Association (VIC) Inc.  
14b Mahogany Ave, Berwick VIC 3806

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Membership Officer -

RAEME Association of Victoria Inc.

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

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