

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Décember 2022

Edition # 109

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)

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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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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Spanner Club functions restarted in August and have been run the second Friday of each month since. Numbers have been low and a bit disappointing but the December function was attended by over thirty people and was a great success. This attendance was due to the added advertising to notify serving RAEME members. Thanks to Noel Goltz for initiating this and to those who spread the word when asked.

The RAEME casual lunch get together on the third Friday of each month has been attended by a few and it has been a great way to catch up on what has been happening around the traps. Partners and guests are welcome to attend these lunches and it would be great to see.

The RAEME Birthday Lunch was a success. The meals were very good and the birthday cake was yummy. The CFN of the year for Victoria was won by CFN Anton Golacki and the award was presented by our Patron BRIG Konrad Ermert. Photos and stories from the lunch appear later in this Flash.

From the President and all the committee members, we would like to extend our best wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year for everyone and their families. Hoping to see as many as possible at events to be held in 2023.



Arte et Marte Rod Gillett President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

80th Birthday lunch was attended by 42 people with the bulk from 105 WKSP COY 4CSSB to were there to support CFN Anton Golacki, the winner of our 2022 Victorian RAEME Association Craftsman of the Year Award.

The Shield is to be presented to Anton's Unit 105 WKSP Coy which is held at the unit for 12 months.

Anton receives a RAEME Plaque, suitably inscribed and a 'Certificate of Award The Award to Anton was presented to by our Patron BRIG. Konrad Ermert





ASM WO1 Sean Halley spoke of Anton's achievements and his service in the Army and announced that Anton's CRA extension had been approved.

Anton was also awarded the 2022 HOC National Craftsman of the year but unfortunately there was no presentation from HOC to be presented to Anton.

CFN Golacki is the only metal smith posted to 4CSSB, 105 WKSP COY and in fact is the only metal smith posted to 4BDE. It should be noted that CFN Golacki is 67 years old.

Part of his motivation is his awareness of the capability gap for metal smiths therefore demonstrating loyalty and Army ethos. CFN Golacki strives for excellence when parading, he rarely misses a unit activity and provides support outside his own trade such as driving tasks, trades assistance and military duties such as GD's to Battalion functions.

CFN Golacki supported 4BDE in all the Jacka Series exercises which culminated in attendance at EX Talisman Sabre.

CFN Golacki attended all the lead up training to EX Borella Strike.

CFN Golacki has completed all mandatory training, including Combat Marksmanship shooting, Army First Aid, Care of Battle Casualty and the Army Combative Program.

CFN Golacki maintains a high standard of physical

fitness and does not shirk PT or BFA, to his credit CFN Golacki still completes the run in the BFA.

CFN Golacki has demonstrated exceptional trade skills as a Metal smith. His civilian occupation is as a weld inspector.

CFN Golacki led the restoration of a World War I artillery gun for Richmond RSL. He was part of a team that restored the gun, he specifically fabricated new wheels using the techniques of the 1900's including wheel-wright skills and hot iron riveting.

I have never seen CFN Golacki deviate from the Army values of Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence.

My Congratulations to Anton on his achievements.

ASM Wo1 Sean Halley

Cutting the 80th Birthday Cake by BRIG Ermert & CFN Golacki



On taking the photos of BRIG Konrad Ermert and CFN Anton Golacki cutting the cake, Anton's wife Fran was getting frustrated that her phone was unable to take photos. After several attempts nothing happened, not until a voice from the members suggested that it might help if Fran removed the cover on the phone (enough said).

Association President Rod Gillett Presenting CFN Carl Leeworthy with his Certificate for his nomination for 2022 Craftsman of the Year by 105 WKSP COY 4 CSS.



Other Nominees not attending. Certificate to be presented at Unit

CFN Cameron Lovering 105 WKSP COY 4CSSB. On Flood Duty CFN Gavin Langton 15 FSS 2 FSB. It was unfortunate that our Association Centre Piece and RAEME Banner was not available to be displayed at our 80th Birthday Lunch.



SECRETARY'S REPORT - 8oth Birthday Celebrations













Future Functions 2023 : Please see 2023 Events calendar.

Unfortunately with only 16 Association Members attending the RAEME 80th Birthday the future of functions such as these looks bleak.

To be a viable function such as a important Birthday we need a minimum of 50 members, It is easier to run a function for 100 people than for 42 (42 is not viable)

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

Arte et Marte Alan Rogers

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



FALLEN DIGGERS INCORPORATED



This year we were privileged to have Dennis Frank (President) and Andrew Moon (Senior Researcher) as our 'Guest Speakers' from Fallen Diggers. They are two enthusiastic and modest gents who are a part of a larger team that do extraordinary work to identify the graves of some of the 35,000 Australians who have died in War and do not have the honour of a known grave. They explained the painstaking and methodical method that they employ in cross referencing diverse sources which have not been compared before. Efforts which to date have proven conclusively the final resting place to almost 30 Australian Soldiers.

They do this work in their own time and at considerable cost (often at their own expense). Their presentation was well received and genuinely appreciated by all present.

Our sincere thanks to Dennis and Andrew for their heartfelt and sincere presentation and they deserve our support in any way that we can.

Mike Newbond



We at Fallen Diggers Incorporated are dedicated to research missing WW1 and WW2 Australian military personnel. In finding these brave souls we are affording them a dignified and honourable burial that these amazing and courageous souls deserve.



BLUE BELLS REPORT

Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter

President - Dennis Clarke Vice President - Graeme Unmack Secretary - Dennis Meek Committee - Neil Bennett, David Wain, Robert Gazzara.



Our Vice - President has been travelling in different directions across Australia keeping up with a number of re-unions within the Armoured Corps Regiment and RAEME LAD. One Armoured RAEME Technical Support Group in South Australia.

106 Field Workshop recently held their annual dinner, which is held between Remembrance Day and RAEME Birthday at Steeples Mornington. Their next 2023 Dinner will celebrate their fifty -fifth anniversary of the 106 Field Workshop formation, which is the first of November. There is a photo of their Birthday cake within this Bluebell edition. 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 mob 0411 810077 – Remember time Difference.

The 17 Construction plaque is finally completed and will be installed in the Peace Garden at the VVAA Museum. Still waiting on 161 Recce Flight. We will now be organizing Infantry RAEME Attached to the Nine Battalions of Royal Australian Regiment and RAEME LAD of the 1, 4, 12 Artillery Regiments and 131 Divisional Locating Battery Regiment plaques.

The Committee would like to wish all "Bluebells" a merry and safe Christmas. Happy and prosperous New Year.



Arte et Marte Dennis Clarke

President - RAEME Vietnam Assoc.

I was only nineteen, but now I'm seventy!

BY DON HUGHES

VIETNAM VETERANS from around Manningham recently gathered at the Doncaster RSL to pay tribute to Australian lives lost and commemorate 50 years since Australia's withdrawal from Vietnam.

Under the careful stewardship of Doncaster RSL President Philip Webb, and Senior Vice President Dennis Clarke, the ceremony featured a fine oration by Mr Bob Elworthy AM, President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Victoria.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Minister, Rev. Andrew Price superbly acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Floral tributes were laid in remembrance by numerous dignitaries including the Mayor of Manningham, Councillor Michelle Kleinert and the Deputy Mayor Councillor Deirdre Diamante along with several Councillors and other distinguished guests.

Musical support was provided by bugler Emily Dean of Templestowe College, and the National Anthem was sung by Elina Jayamanna of Doncaster Secondary College.

The Melbournians Harmony Chorus entertained the guests providing a wonderful succession of melodies from the era along with superb musical interludes by Vietnam Veteran violinist Lyle Douglas and organist Bey Hoare.

In the background, Doncaster RSL Secretary Dot Haynes, and Treasurer Martha Clarke, ensured all guests were made to feel at home and welcome.

A superb Vietnamese-style smorgasbord was provided by local Vietnamese Restaurant Viet-Nom, whose proprietor Mike Huynh was a Vietnamese refugee.

This gesture really showcased the close bond Australians now have with the people of Vietnam.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war began with a small commitment of 30 military advisors in 1962. Ultimately, approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war; 521 were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded.

Compounded by great social and political dissent, a controversial conscription system, and even negative sentiments from some WWII veterans, many thousands of Vietnam Veterans suffered social exclusion and problems readjusting to society.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was eventually formally recognised as a psychological diagnosis way beyond the former "shell shock" or "battle fatigue" of earlier wars.

Finally, a "Welcome Home" parade was conducted in 1987 and the "Vietnam Forces National Memorial" was dedicated in Anzac Parade in Canberra in 1992.

The great legacy of the conflict was the creation of the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (now Open Arms) and the close and endearing friendship we currently enjoy with the people of Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans' Day

On August 18, Vietnam Veterans' Day, the 56th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan was marked with a ceremony at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Several hundred veterans from across Victoria marched either with their Battalions or with their RSL Branch. The Diamond Valley Vietnam Veterans Sub Group made a strong showing with around 50 members joining the march.

Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau AC, and Premier Daniel Andrews spoke to the attendees, thanking the Veterans for their service.

"We thank you for your service, acknowledge you sacrifice and acknowledge the weight of your service. "A weight made heavier to carry because of the terrible way you were treated when your service ended.

"It is never too late to say sorry, especially when you mean it," Mr Andrews said.

Veteran performer Normie Rowe, along with entertainers who performed for our troops in Vietnam performed once more for the returned servicemen and women and their families.

Icons of the era Denise Drysdale and Marcie Jones performed alongside Mike Brady, and John Schumann. Schumann, the composer of the iconic Australian anthem performed by Redgum, I was only Nineteen, dedicated the song to the more than 50,000 who served and the 521 who did not return home.

"My hope is that in the future we can settle our differences without pointing a gun at each other," he said. This was the last parade in the current marching style format, with many of our older Veterans finding it more difficult to march each year.

It's a long march from cadets!



RAEME VIctoria - MEMBERSHIPSBLUE BELLS REPORT

RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

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

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

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

106th Field Workshop Annual Luncheon @ Steeples Mornington Victoria November 20th 2023 Contact : Milton Pearson 0488 050261 csm1066869@gmail.com

> 17 Construction Sqdn Workshop Mount Gambier - South Australia Monday 20th-22th November 2024 - gwhykes@gmail.com

1 Field Squadron Workshop Time and place to be arranged.



The LAD Banner at Pandanus Park 18 Aug 2022 . L to R Ian (1080) Bignell RAAC , Graeme (24C) Munsell RAAC, Gavin Bicknell RAEME, Graeme (Ferret) Unmack, the 4 are members of our Assoc. Craig Rhodes, kneeling Barry Locke, and Rob Greenwood are younger Vets, all RAEME

Would you believe?

Nothing seems to be understood in life when we look at it from a simple point of view.

Until you see the 6 degrees of seperation for those that are searching for a better outcome.

In the following story, you can see that the best efforts are not always achieved.

There is a story of one gentleman, from Gemany, that was trying to avoid the oncoming conflict, but fate would have it otherwise.

The story of CFN Rolf E Schnitzler is a classic example, where he tried to avoid conscription within his own homeland, only to be caught up within our own system and servicing with RAEME.

Vietnam Veteran Andrew Treffry whilst perusing items at a local market in Vietnam came across items that belonged to Rolf.

The item in question was the classic Zippo Lighter, which was engraved with the name and corp badge of Rolf.

When returning to Australia, Andrew contacted the VVAA in the hope he could return the sentimental item.

Luck would have it that the VVAA were able to track down the details of Rolf and had the item returned to him in Germany.

It was interseting to note that Rolf was provided the rank of Craftsman, but the Corp badge was infantry.

l∕ietnam V	/ar Service	VIETNAM 1969-70	
/eteran Deta	ils	A B	
Name	SCHNITZLER, Rolf Erich	Ser.	
Service	Australian Army		
Service Number	3795050		
Date of Birth	12 Jul 1947		RE. Schnitzler
Place of Birth	GERMANY		
Rank	Craftsman		
National Service	Yes		
Corps	Royal Corps of Australian Ele	ectrical and Mechanical E	Engineers
Honours	None for display		





Robyn Smithwick - (Wife of SSGT Noel Smithwick), Dennis Edward Tucker, Dave Woodward, WO1 Walter (Wal) Hausman, Richard Kop - 34th F&T, Kevin White, 28thET, 313592 Phillip Francis Butterfield, Dennis (Danny) Tucker 13VM, Laurie Rieger 20th RM, David 'Spick' Valenta 27th F&T, Wayne Cook 28th, Kevin White, Peter 'FJ' Ford 35th VM, WO1 Malcolm Lloyd, Paul Weaver 21st VM.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR - 2023

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2023 Calendar

Remembrance Day Melbourne Shrine; TBA Under separate Cover, Early 2O23 depending on Shrine Displays. Harry the Horse Lunch; VILLAGE Green Hotel Springvale Every 3rd Friday of Month 1130h Contact Alan Rogers 0422 888 851 Spanner Club; Mail Exchange Hotel Cnr Spencer & Bourke Sts Melbourne Opposite Southern Cross Station Every 2nd Friday of Month 1600h Contact Rod Gillett 0449 502 337 SHRINE Remembrance Day; 5th March 2023. Date subject to Melbourne Shrine displays Mid Year Lunch TBA June/July Under separate Cover AGM August/September TBA Under separate Cover 81st Birthday Dinner November /December TBA Under separate Cover 1 DIV S&D Wskp - 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 (Vic) Inc Merchandise ALL ITEMS + POSTAGE

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RAEME VEST ZIPPED SLI		POA	10			
POLO SHIRT BLU		POA	1-3			
POLO SHIRT WHI		POA	3			
RAEME STICKERS REAF		2-00				
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RAEME ASSN LAPEL		10-00		31		
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or merchandise@vic.raeme.org.au



THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED Incorporation No.A0022655Z

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

RAEME Corps History With Skill and Fighting

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Thank you for Payment

Mens Health

THE AGEING EYE

any of us are aware of the deterioration of our eyesight as we begin to age. Most individuals over the age of 50 require reading glasses as the lenses in our eyes stiffen and lose their ability to change shape to focus on near objects. This deterioration in vision is called presbyopia and is not a disease but just a reflection of ageing. Fortunately, it is easily remedied with reading glasses.

A common condition affecting the eyes as we age is cataract. In this condition, the lenses in the eyes lose their transparency and gradually become opaque. Vision becomes dimmer and it is sometimes described as 'like looking through tissue paper'. Cataract surgery has now become quite sophisticated and the a few are fortunate enough to not need any glasses at all.

In recent years, laser-assisted cataract surgery has been introduced but unfortunately the high expectation of better outcomes compared to usual surgery have not been shown. So there is no justification for spending a few hundred dollars more for laserassisted cataract surgery.

Prevention of cataract is still important by avoiding ultraviolet light. Wearing of hats and sunglasses is now recommended to protect the eyes, even for children.

Another eye disease associated with ageing is called age-related macular degeneration (ARMD). The macular is the part of the retina at the back of the eye, which is used for best or central vision. We use peripheral vision mainly to

identify moving objects and then look at fine detail with our good central vision such as when reading, writing, watching television and recognising faces.

ARMD is now the most common cause of permanent visual loss in Australia. It usually appears as: a gradual decline in the ability to see objects clearly; distorted vision; dark or empty spaces blocking the central field of vision; and dimming of colour vision.

ARMD affects one in seven Australians over the age of 50 and increases with age, affecting nearly one in five people over 85. It is about three times more common in smokers and appears at an earlier age. Ceasing smoking for 20 years reduces this risk to about normal. The associated visual impairment affects healthy and independent aging and is associated with a risk of falls, depression, hip fractures, and earlier admission to nursing homes.

'Wet' ARMD is twice as common as the 'dry' type and is associated with an increase in new blood vessels in the retina. These can leak or bleed, destroying the cells in the retina. The exciting news about macular degeneration is that the injection treatment developed a decade ago now appears to stop or reduce the progression of the 'wet' form of this disease. The injections into the eye reduce the growth of new blood vessels. The treatment is now widely available and is listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule. This has been one of the most exciting developments in preventing blindness in recent years.

The sooner ARMD is detected, the better the outcome, so we recommend regular eye checks.

Dr Warren K Harrex DVA Medical Adviser

cataracts can be removed through a very small incision in the eye and a replacement intraocular lens inserted though the same incision. Preoperative measurement of the eye will allow a lens with the appropriate correction to be inserted. Many individuals can often get by with minimal correction after cataract replacement surgery while

Christmas Cheer







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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.

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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

Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers Association (Vic) Inc.

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

This Newsletter is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

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Let's hear from you!

Deadline for the next edition of the news letter is -TBA - March 2023. Items, Images, Posts and/or information -To: Editor.

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