

\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*\*\* All correspondence for memberships now needs to be forward to the following –

## RAEME Association of Victoria. Inc. Attention A Rogers 14 B Mahogany Ave Berwick 3806.

<u>Previous PO BOX details are no longer in service</u>

Print Post Approved: PP 339540061

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## **RAEME Birthday Day 2019**

Images aslo available on the website within "photo galleries".





#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT March 2020

Happy New Year.....

To one and all, the committee and I hope that you all had a safe and prosperous Christmas and the new year has got off to a bang (not literally).

As you were aware the RAV CORPS Birthday function was held as a luncheon on 01 Dec 19 instead of the traditional dinner being held on the Friday night prior to the 01 Dec. From my perspective it was a huge success and allowed our more senior members and guests to attend without the major worry of *"How do I get home so late at night?"* We were honored with our COL COMDT VIC/TAS COL Martin Griffiths and the CO 4 CSSB LTCOL Paul McArthur in attendance. COL Griffiths gave an overview of current activities and direction of the CORP. He, with the CO 4 CSSB and MAJ Bart Kohler, assisted with the formal part of the day with the presentation of awards to our awardees.

WO2 Adam Ireson Training WO – 105 WKSP COY 4 CSSB received the Artificer of the Year award for being the Student of Merit at the SUB 4 Warrant Officers Course held in 2019. This was indeed a pleasure as this shows the caliber and determination of WO2 Ireson to earn this prestigious award.

CFN Anthony D'Addona VM 105 WKSP COY 4 CSSB received the 2019 National ARMY Reserve Craftsman of the Year and the RAV Inc. Craftsman of the Year award. CFN D'Addona displayed a solid commitment to the unit, his family and his greater community. No job was to big or small and he would always put his hand up to support any activity.

Christmas came and went and I hope that the jolly red fella was good to you all.

The New year started with many our Emergency Services, CFA, SES and Defence force personnel being called out to assist the State and Federal Government in combating the terrible bushfires that wreaked havoc in all parts of Australia.

4 CSSB provided a very large logistic support element to Victoria's Gippsland area from transporting much needed supplies, donated goods, providing medical assistance and including the undertaking of all the maintenance requirements on Defence Equipment in the area. Well done to the ASM WO1 Sean Halley who, ably assisted by his SNCOs/WOs, orchestrated the maintenance on such a large scale (area wise) and to the Craftsmen and Corporals who were the doers and made the stuff happen. To those personnel, I give a heartfelt thanks for your support, dedication, courage and integrity showing what Australians do for each other.

16 February 2020 saw the Association's AnnualRemembrance service, held at the Shrine ofRemembrance. From reports there were approximately40 personnel in attendance. I was unable to attend so,for more details, please see the Secretary's report.

Notated in the FLASH will be Spanner Club dates. Please come along and support, have a chat with old friends and make new friends.

Award recipients – Above Photo. Left to right:

- RAEME Association of Victoria President WO1 Allan Hawkins
- COL Martin Griffiths
- Artificer Award recipient WO2 Adam Ireson
- Army Reserve Craftsman of the Year recipient CFN Anthony D'Addona. (CFN D'Addona was also National ARES CFN of the Year.)
- MAJ Bart Kohler, holding the perpetual Craftsman of the Year award.



Arte et Marte Allan Hawkins

President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

## **Spanner Club Events**

Regular Spanner Club events are organised by the Victoria Barracks Chapter. Events during 2019 were a great success. The Victoria Barracks Chapter has secured a new venue for 2020.

Spanner club events dates are listed within the calendar of events with each event commencing at 1600HRS.

#### Information

I am looking for innovative ways to attract new members to the Association from currently serving or recently discharged members of the Corps. if anyone has any ideas they believe can assist us to attract new members, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at <u>secretary@vic.raeme.org.au</u>

#### **2019 Birthday Luncheon**



Cutting the Cake – True Colours!

BRIG Konrad Ermert and CPL Josh Colombo

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, the Association members present made the decision to transfer the 2019 RAEME Birthday Dinner to a Luncheon function.

On Sunday 1 December 2019 almost forty members attended the luncheon to celebrate the 77th birthday of our wonderful Corps. All attending declared it a resounding success. It was really pleasing to see a number of younger members in attendance. I look forward to expanding the potential of the luncheon function theme for 2020.



#### RAEME Remembrance Service 2020

RAEME Remembrance service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 16 February 2020. Unfortunately, a number of our members, especially Vietnam Veterans were unable to attend. The service was well attended with most attendees remaining for the post service luncheon.

Due to poor weather on Saturday and an even poorer forecast for Sunday, the Committee decided not to place the crosses at the RAEME tree and to hold the second part of the service in the Shrine West Gallery instead of at the RAEME tree.

Sunday morning was poor weather, but in true RAEME spirit, as the service was being conducted in the Shrine Sanctuary, the sun came out.

Everyone attending was able to move to the West Gallery without the inconvenience of inclement weather.

Arte et Marte Alex Birrell

*Secretary* RAEME Association Victoria











**Blue Bell** 

## Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter

President	-	Dennis Clarke
Vice – President	-	Graeme Unmack
Secretary	-	Dennis Meek
Committee	-	Neil Bennett
Committee	-	David Wain

RAEME Vietnam Southern Chapter held last meeting at Bell Park RSL Vasey House. Firstly, we must thank Graeme Unmack [Ferret] for organizing the meeting and following a quite an

exquisite barbecue cooked ex Armd Reg Lad Chef Peter [Sully] Sullivan and David Unmack

Vasey House Veterans Centre, which is loaded with memorabilia. We visited Les Harris ex 1 Fld Sqdn Wksp member, who had suffered a stroke at nearby Grace House.

VALE: Colin Pugh on 19 – 2 – 20 309302 161 Recce Flight 3 – 3 – 70 4 – 3 - 71

50th Year Anniversary of Operation Hammersley. One of the last major ANZAC Battles.

1 Armoured Regiment celebrated it at a Service at The Canberra National War Memorial.

April 1969 saw a major land clearing operation start at the base of the foothills of the Long Hai mountain range just west of Long Dien. The area was broken up into alphabetical squares.

It was then cleared in a non- sequential fashion to create an un – predictable programme of operation, in an attempt to confuse the enemy located in the hills.

The Hammersley operation began on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1970 when C company of the Eighth Battalion; Royal Australian Regiment with 1 Field Engineer Squadron Splinter teams, Centurion tank, APC and mortar support with some of the carriers to the western side of the Long Hai mountain range, known as the Minh Dam Secret Zone. An alternative site, to the quarry established on Nui Dat One Hill within the Task Force base. Quarry operations were to be developed by 17 Construction Engineer Squadron. Fire Support Base "Isa" was established by C Company.

After a number of successful ambushes, the Company had continued contact with the local VC D445 battalion, who relied on supply from local villages. The operation became quite large with good use of the tanks and APCs to mobilise and give the infantry protection. There was also artillery support from the nearby "Horseshoe" fire support base. Both RAEME ARVs were involved during the operation, including recovering an APC, which was hit with an RPG, caught fire and later a satchel chard thrown into the vehicle killing the crew. A very large cache of ammunition, RPGs, launchers, grenades and weapons were captured from the enemy. Land Mines played a tragic part toward the end of operations which was 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1970. The "Grey" Eighth Battalion received a citation for their brave efforts. Further information can be had at the Canberra War Memorial Website.

183 Recce Flight – New Guinea

A number of Viet Vets joined the Unit post-Vietnam. Mark Fletcher who resides there had the

183 Flight Banners produced in Hoa Chi Minh City. His father in law Khiet [**Kit**] found a co -operative printing company who translated the instruction with assistance of his sister in law Tu [Two]. His father in law on motorbike then carried the completed banners 16 kilometres return back to Thu Duc [Two Dook] district. Mark was most grateful.

**RAEME VIETNAM Unit Re- Unions** 



**183 Recce Flight [ New Guinea]** 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - Contacts

David Williams – Brisbane 0427 529195 or

Murray Lewis – Melbourne 0429 50005

burnsidemurray@yahoo.com.au

"<mark>Avondale</mark>" 601 Bray's Road Gannawarra Victoria

October 2021

Noel Lake 03 5456 9246 koonda@active8.net.au

## 1 Armoured Regiment LAD 50th Anniversary.

*(of their Vietnam Departure)* October 15th to 17th 2021

Bendigo

Robert Bail 0419 r.bail@bigpond.com

**17 Construction Squadron Workshop** Port Macquarie 2021

Further info at a later date.

1 Field Squadron Workshop Hervey Bay Queensland

14<sup>th</sup> – 21st August 2020

Norm Barrett 0414 342819 normbarrett@bigpond.com.au

Edie Grice 0419 182177 eddie\_grice@yahoo.com

On a final note - disappointing to make a further 31 crosses for deceased mates and then have them not used on RAEME Remembrance Day.



1st pic is of two Tunnel Rats.

The second is of the RAEME and Cooks of A SQN 1 ARMD REGT I to r CFN Wayne(Dick) Burton, CFN Adrian(Gomer) Probert, CFN Terry(Ton) O'Neil. CFN Mark(Micmoc) Arnold. CFN Graeme(Ferret) Unmack, Cpl Darryl Johns AACC, Pte Peter Sullian AACC.Seated OC A SQN Maj Jack Chipmam RAAC

## Dennis Clarke

**RAEME** Vietnam Veterans

President

## **RAEME VIC Membership.**

#### **Membership Report 2020**

#### 2020 2021 Annual Fees

Notice for fees will be forwarded to Members late May for payment of fees no later than June 30 2020.

Annual fees for 2020-2019 will remain at \$20-00 Service Member \$15-00 Associate Member

Last year we lost a total of 7 members not paying their dues by the prescribed time and ignoring repeated overdue notices.

However, we did gain several new members which was pleasing.

<u>RAV Inc. Bush Fire Appeal</u>; Has been launched with Members being sent a notice detailing the Associations promotion to assist Farmers and those Communities affected by the Fires.

All members are urged to support this appeal at only \$20-00 per book of 10 tickets.

At time of the Flash we have had 6 replies 20 books sold (Attached Form within the newsletter.)

RAV Inc. Remembrance Day; Member attendance on the day was marginally down in comparison to recent years.

The crosses that are normally placed at our RAEME Tree were not laid out this year due to the inclement weather on the Saturday with the Tree Service being in the Western Gallery as the ground around the Tree was considered to be too slippery for Members to negotiate.

Thanks to Denis Clarke Crosses, Alex Birrell Standing in for our President, Mike Newbond

and to Chaplain Barrie Sutton for John Brownbill,

## Alan Rogers

Membership

Arte et Marte

Upcoming Events Calendar

# 2020

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Spanner Club Function.Venue –• February 21st570 Bourke Street (Just up from the<br/>Mail Exchange).• 17th AprilMail Exchange).• 14th August\$5.00 beers,• 9th Octoberfrom 15:00HRS – 19:00 HRS• Ath DecemberFood available also, at own expense.

Appies (and partners) in Melbourne and surrounds are invited to attend an informal Appy get together to be held at the Ringwood RSL on Saturday 21 Mar 2020, 1-4 PM. Ringwood R.S.L

- We invite ex-appys to come to the Border Apprentice Reunion to be held on 16 May 2020 just out of Albury/Wodonga. The Facebook page for the Reunion is: Border Reunion Army Apprentice Association
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>. Maroochydore QLD. Friday night meet & greet. Saturday Formal dinner. RSL
- 45<sup>th</sup> Class Apprentices 30 Year Reunion. Coincides with above reunion, Friday evening

ANZAC DAY - 25<sup>th</sup> April. March up details to follow. After March Venue - The committee of the VBM Chapter has decided that we will not host the RAEME ANZAC Day function for the foreseeable future. This will be discussed at the next State committee meeting. And if anything changes, we will let you know.



10

- 7. **342626** James 'Jim' Robert Harper, BEM (8.5 Intake)
- 8. **3112460** Bruce Gibson Johnstone.

Stand Down G<mark>ents. Rest Easy.</mark>





Members Standing for the ODE. Wall of Poppies, Western Gallery – Shrine of Remembrance.



#### THE RAEME ASSOCIATION

(Vic) Inc. 14 B Mahogany Ave. Berwick, VIC 3806

#### Committee of Management

President: WO1 Allan Hawkins T (BH) (03) 9282 6926 Mobile: 0409 662 916 president@vic.raeme.org.au

Vice President: MAJ Peter Crosby peter\_crosby@hotmail.com

Secretary Alex Birrell Mobile: 0419 004 809 secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

Treasurer/Merchandising/ Promotion: Aranka Illia 2 (BH) (03)9566 9468 2 (AH) (03) 9796 4794 treasurer@vic.raeme.org.au

Rules & By-Laws, Membership: Alan Rogers

> Editor / Web Master: Morgan Cornelius

Mobile: 0400 115 109 webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au raemevic@gmail.com

> Social Convenor Rod Gillett

Unit Representative & Army Coordination: MAJ Peter Crosby peter\_crosby@hotmail.com

#### CHAPLAIN: John Brownbill

BANDIANA CHAPTER President Hans Sievers 2008698439

hanssievers@bigpond.com Secretary: George Reid PO Box 231 WODONGA Vic 3689 2 (02) 60593153 reidysnr@iinet.net.au

SEYMOUR CHAPTER President David Maddick (03) 5793 8396 Seymour@vic.raeme.org.au

RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS SOUTHERN CHAPTER President Dennis Clarke 2014 (03) 9848 6757 Mob 0409 518744

dlclarke1947@gmail.com Vice President: Graeme Unmack 2 - 0429 957505

guferretx23@hotmail.com Secretary Dennis Meek 2 H (03) 9798 3452 dennis.meek@bigpond.com

VICTORIA BARRACKS CHAPTER President Rod Gillett (03) 9622 2848 rodney.gillett@defence.gov.au Secretary Phil Coulton Mob 0400 386 513 pcoulton@msn.com.au

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

SHEPPARTON Mark Ryan (03) 5784 3823 Mobile: 0411 708 099 skand.pl@gmail.com

BALLARAT/DAYLESFORD George Hepburn 24 Junction St. BALLARAT 3350 26 (03) 5331 3153

#### BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/ HEATHCOTE Alan Rogers

☎ (03) 9704 6700 Mobile: 0422 8 88 851 membership@vic.raeme.org.au

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.

#### 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

**Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers Association (Vic) Inc.** 

Communications.

**Bush Fire Appeal** 

**RAEME Association Vic Inc. Bush Fire Appeal** 

#### **GWS Community 2020 Car Raffle**

#### Notice to all Members requesting they each purchase a Book of 10 Tickets for \$20-00 All proceeds will be donated to 2020 Fire Appeal e.g.; Buy a Bale



As only a limited number of tickets will be available we will require your commitment with the attached form & payment of the number of books you wish to purchase Books will be allocated on '1st in basis'

The Raffle will be drawn at Garry Warren Smith Honda / Kia 875 Princess Highway Springvale Vic 3171 at 6-00 pm on Monday 13th July 2020 Interested Parties are welcome to attend

## RAEME Association Vic Inc. Victorian 2020 Fire Relief Car Raffle 2020 GWS Community Car Raffle

Wish to purchase Number of Raffle Books at \$20-00 per book         No Books       \$ Amount       How Paid       Cheque       EFT       Order         Please Circle       Payment Option         PLEASE NOTE TICKETS BE PAID FOR PRIOR TO POSTING         Forward Payment to RAEME Assn Vic Inc. to;         Cheque to;	er Money
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55	2.
In order to reduce Administration, we request that Raffle books of are paid for in adva	
\$20-00 per book of 10 tickets @ purchased will be forwarded to the purchaser when a	wallable upc
payment of requested books.	
Completed Butts must be returned to Alan Rogers no later than 15th June 2020 Please	se retain you
tickets	
If all RAEME Members and other identities commit to a minimum of \$20-00 per book	it is envisage
that we as a group could raise up to \$6000-00 for this appeal	

1







For those interested in engineering of a different kind. Great skill and work is evident and on display when the finished products look as good as this.

Over the March long weekend, there will be many more like this on display and the Wooden Boat Festival in Geelong. If you and/or any members are looking for a day out, or are in the area, please feel free to drop in for a visit.

Full details can be followed via the link. <u>https://yachtbuilding.wordpress.com/</u>



Well done!







Memorial 📀

Web Site Updates and Changes.

Please send any and all photos from past and present events to - <u>webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au</u> or <u>raemevic@gmail.com</u> if you wish to have these added into an album. The more the merrier.

I'm also in the process of having all the old paper documents of the Flash Newsletter, 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 like saved for history purposes, please send through a scanned copy.

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## Let's hear from you!

Deadline for next Newsletter – Late February 2020

Items to Morgan Cornelius:

webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au

#### THE LIGHTNING FLASH

If undeliverable return to The RAEME Association (Vic.) Inc. PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805

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## PLEASE SAVE WRAPPER

## Change of Address

Is your address shown above correct? If not please fill in the spaces below and return This whole sheet in an envelope to:

李朱素

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

The Secretary,

RAEME Association of VICTORIA Inc.

Attention A Roger; 14 B Mahogany Ave Berwick 3806.

Name	(Block Letters)
Address	
Postcode:	Ph. No
Email:	