



# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

**SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN**

**February 2007**

**Issue 50**

**The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.**

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## **3 Recovery Company Wrecker at Recent Bush Fires**



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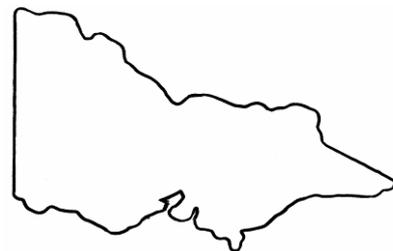
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Representative. (Help Please)**

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TRARALGON & SALE**

**Bill Slegers**

25 Main Neerim Rd,  
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☎ 5625 2232 Mobile: 041 913 6149

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& WELSHPOOL**

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**ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION**

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

How do you find out what is happening in and around the RAEME ASSOCIATION, or in fact RAEME? through 'The LIGHTNING FLASH' of course.

**DISCLAIMER**

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 ?????? Flash  
Monday ?????? 2007

Items to Pat Marley,  
Sec. Gus Allen  
Peter Cartledge

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Cartledge

Leonie and I trust you all had a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to seeing you all at our Associations meetings in the coming year.

Our Corps Birthday Dinner at East Malvern RSL was well attended with Guests of Honour BRIG David McGahey and his lovely wife. This was their last official function as Head of Corps.

Thank you to David for a hard job well done during your term as Head of Corps. With limited staff and doing the job as "a part time," juggling all that together with home life and "a full time" job must have been very difficult!

Our Service at the Shrine this year was attended by about 70 people, with an informative tour beforehand. A very moving service in the Sanctuary was held prior to the laying of wreaths by the Corps and the Association, at the Remembrance Stone followed by the playing of The Last Post and Rouse.

Following that service we made our way to the RAEME Tree in the grounds of the Shrine.

The laying of wreaths and 23 crosses (prepared by COL Terry Beaton Corps Commandant) honoured RAEME members and Widows who have passed away during the past year.

This was a simple but most moving pilgrimage and for those of you who have not attended before may I commend it to you.

There are changing exhibitions at the visitors centre under the Shrine, which you will find extremely interesting

This service is usually held on the first Sunday in February at 1100hrs with a Shrine tour prior starting at 1000hrs. Those who have not done the tour before could learn a lot about our memorial. You would be most surprised as each different guide seems to find something new eg: fossils in the granite columns in the Sanctuary.

There is some discussion about making the tour earlier in the day. However, we must be guided by the Shrine people as to what time the memorial is available.

**Peter Cartledge**  
**President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Gus Allen

The quiet time for the Association is fading away with the Christmas and New Year holidays behind us. However, over this period we have gained several new members:

**Anthony Sever**  
**Adrian Huggins**  
**BRIG Ross Grant AM Ret'd**

The latter member returning to the membership ranks after overseas and interstate sojourns. We welcome them all. Over the Christmas period it is the custom of the Association to send out Christmas cards to the widows of past members. It is with regret that I have to report that some of these cards were returned undelivered.

In some cases the recipient had moved from the address, however, some of our widows had died. One lady I knew was Barbara White widow of Jack White. She was one of those who have passed on. Jack and Barbara were the archetypal English couple.

Should any member know of any of our widows moving on or departing this world kindly let me know.

**Gus Allen**  
**Secretary**

## Welfare Report (Reg Cox)

Early December I Visited Bruce Williams in Knox Hospital. Bruce had a heart attack and is preparing for all the tests and investigations to establish the necessary medication and treatment. Bruce is in good shape and we wish him well.

A call to Ross and Margaret Hope. Both have had hospitalisation and are now in much better health.

Rex and Shirley Foord, both have had treatment. Rex a minor stroke and Shirley hip treatment.

A call to Doug Brazier who has had extensive treatment at PANCH and is now following heart, diet, physio and exercise. Doug is in good shape.

**Reg Cox Welfare Officer**

## SOCIAL REPORT

Peter Cartledge

As noted in my Presidents Report our Corps Birthday Dinner at East Malvern RSL was well attended where presentations were made to a number of people.

Our Annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance was followed by a lunch at the Emerald Hill Hotel in South Melbourne where a number of people enjoyed a meal and "chewed the fat" over a drink.

### Future Social Events.

**Annual Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members** to be held at Oakleigh Barracks **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007** at 1130hrs for 1200hrs please see notice elsewhere in this 'Flash'.

**Barbeque Luncheon/Annual Reunion** to be held at Oakleigh Barracks **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007** 1200hrs. The Sergeants Mess bar will be open! There will be a small charge of \$10.00

We are hoping the weather will be a little kinder for us this year as the last 2 years have been cold and /or wet!! (although we all know just how much we need the rain NOT that day please!!)

### ANZAC Day

There will be a **Dawn Service at Oakleigh Barracks** to which everybody is invited, followed by breakfast and then transport by coach to the City for the March.

Any Disabled or Infirm members who wish to attend the March there will be a Toyota Coach (kindly provided by 3 Recovery Company) that will pick you up at Oakleigh Barracks at about 0830hrs, transport you to the City, join the March to the Shrine of Remembrance and return you to Oakleigh Barracks.

Our numbers have been down for the March in the past years so let's all make the effort this year either from Oakleigh Barracks or join us outside the Melbourne Town Hall near Little Collins St. **Just look for our Banner.**

We are starting to arrange our **Melbourne Cup Weekend** more of this in our August 'Flash!

**Peter Cartledge**  
**Social Convener**

## 3 Recovery Company

3 Recovery Company has been busy since our last update on the unit. As the year drew to a close and the final parade and end of year function was being cleaned up, a call came as to the availability of the unit to support the engineers working at the bushfires. After a few days the word was it was a go and the unit deployed 2 recovery teams to Erica. From here the teams were responsible for transporting of TD15 Dozers up to the worksites and back as well as being on standby to recover any vehicles that got stuck. As this was going to be a longer term support task crew rotated out so over a period of 20 days 4 teams spent time at the fires. Two of the teams had the misfortune of being at Erica for Christmas, but this was more than made up for by the food put on by DSE and the crate of supplies that arrived from the unit as well. After arriving back on New Years Eve the crews were stood down as the fire situation was coming under control.

With the 3 Recovery having just arrived back at work and the year is off to a busy start already for the small but dedicated team of members. So far we have had a small crew participate in some testing for DMO as well as a Crew supporting 15 TPT. As well the unit has been assisting the Vietnam Veterans Museum with the positioning of their Centurion Tank in the main building. As the unit is now the only full time recovery provider in Melbourne we are also now providing 4 Bgde Units with day to day work as well.

As with all units the New Year has brought new faces to 3 Recovery, our new OC was to have been Maj Palmer but other priorities have changed his posting and Maj Mike Newbond has now been posted in, Capt Andy Harvey has been a lateral transfer in from the British army, WO2 Geoff Rolph is the new OPSWO and SGT Scott Bernau is the New TRG SGT. So it is looking like it will be a busy 12 months for the only Recovery Company in the Army, The Mighty 3.



**RAEME Assoc. (Vic.) Inc.  
Bandiana Chapter**



*The Craftsman Memorial, Catafalque party, Andy Turner,  
Padre Ben Hall, LTCOL Nick Stanton and Secretary, George Reid.*

It seems that the Craftsman has paused from his work to watch the service.

It was a twilight service and the evening shade was on the participants. A good time for the service. Over thirty people attended on an otherwise very hot day.

In remembering the fifteen craftsmen whose ashes are scattered around the memorial we also remembered the nine ex apprentices whose names are inscribed nearby. We remembered the eighty four craftsmen who died as POW in Thailand, Burma, Changi, Sandakan and at sea and wondered how many others perished in WW2 or have died since then in peace and war.

Padre Ben Hall ran an excellent service and we hope he is here to run our service next year. LTCOL Nick Stanton our Deputy Head of Corps and the CO/CI of ASEME, ALTC delivered a stirring address. He spoke of the number of places around the World where the Australian Army is currently deployed and reminded us that all have Craftsmen in support.

Wreaths were laid for our Association and the presidents of local RSLs and the Murray Border Association of Vietnam Veterans who happen to be RAEME.

The Catafalque Guard, provided by trainees from EES Wing of ALTC was commanded by CPL Matthew Nixon and included CFN Robey Miller, CFN Ben Watchorn, CFN Mark Hallam, CFN Craig William and CFN Mark Carter. Our flag orderly was CFN Shane Worden. Coordinating these fine Craftsmen and looking after our music was the Wing SM, WO2 Jason Sofield. They, of course, marched off to the tune of the RAEME Corps March and our applause.

Many moved to the Stump for dinner and refreshments, including the Craftsmen.

**The RAEME Association (Vic.)  
Inc. BANDIANA Chapter  
will hold its  
Annual General Meeting  
on Wednesday, 21 March 2007  
at the STUMP at 1900 hrs.**

**Andy Turner  
President - Bandiana Chapter**



**Garry Howden  
(RAEME Association of Qld)  
Dennis Hubbard ex RAEME WO**

## Seymour / Puckapunyal Chapter Quarterly Report February 2007

Our Major highlight of this quarter was undoubtedly the presentation of our Charter, which took place at the Seymour Club on Wednesday 29 November 2006 in the presence of the Seymour RSL Club, with in excess of 40 RAEME Association of Victoria members present.

A number of apologies and Best Wishes for the new Chapter were read and presented including apologies from Brig Ermert and Brig Ross Grant, both former Heads of Corps; Col. Terry Beaton Col. Comdt Vic and Tas Region was also among the apologies.

I welcome in to the new Chapter the following members;

<b>Gavin (Tex)</b>	<b>ALDERMAN</b>
<b>Frank</b>	<b>AMBROSE</b>
<b>Richard</b>	<b>AVERY</b>
<b>Allan</b>	<b>BEEBY</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>BLACKWELL</b>
<b>Wally</b>	<b>BOHLMAN</b>
<b>James Richard</b>	<b>DUNCAN</b>
<b>Robert</b>	<b>FRIEDRICH</b>
<b>Ron</b>	<b>FULLERTON</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>HARRISON</b>
<b>Joe</b>	<b>HARLOW</b>
<b>Tony</b>	<b>HUBBARD</b>
<b>Jamie</b>	<b>IRVING</b>
<b>Dean</b>	<b>JOYCE</b>
<b>Stan</b>	<b>KIMEL</b>
<b>David</b>	<b>MADDICK</b>
<b>Jeff</b>	<b>MADEX</b>
<b>Geoffrey (Tex)</b>	<b>McPHERSON</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>PHOENIX</b>
<b>Noel (Pi)</b>	<b>PIANTA</b>
<b>Michael</b>	<b>QUINLAN</b>
<b>Lindsay</b>	<b>ROBSHAW</b>
<b>Chester</b>	<b>SCADDAN</b>
<b>Brian</b>	<b>SMITH</b>
<b>Harry</b>	<b>SOUTER</b>
<b>Jack</b>	<b>STARMANS</b>
<b>Brian (Squizzy)</b>	<b>TAYLOR</b>
<b>Brian</b>	<b>VEARING</b>

At the completion of the Charter Presentation David Maddick made a presentation of the Prince Philip Banner Miniature the President of the Seymour RSL Club, Mr. John Blackwell.

Arte et Marte

**David Maddick**  
**President**  
**Seymour / Puckapunyal Chapter**

## New Chapter Opens

More was added to the district's military history with the establishment last Wednesday of the Seymour-Puckapunyal RAEME (Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Chapter. Eighteen months in the making, the chapter recognises regional veterans and serving members of RAEME.



**Presented:** Seymour RSL president John Blackwell received the Prince Philip Banner Miniature from David Maddick, president of the recently-formed Seymour-Puckapunyal RAEME chapter.

The Corps was formed in 1942 in order to provide for a more effective and efficient method of repairing and maintaining the increasing amount and variety of technical equipment used in warfare.

"You are now part of the new history of the RAEME Association of Victoria, following an informal 'RAEME Bash' late in 2005 that started the whole advent of regional chapters for the Association," Col Terry Beaton, RAEME Colonel Commandant Southern Region, said in a statement of apology read during a ceremony at the Seymour Club. "I only hope that you are able to convince any other former RAEME in the area to see the light and join the new force of RAEME in the Seymour area, as well as our region of Victoria and Tasmania. "Changes are happening and benefits are resulting."

Peter Cartledge, president of the RAEME Association of Victoria, travelled with a contingent- from Melbourne to present Seymour-Puckapunyal RAEME Chapter president David Maddick with the charter. During his presentation, Mr Cartledge noted that the Seymour-Puckapunyal region is home to a number of retired and serving RAEME members.

Formal recognition of the chapter was followed then by the presentation of the Prince Philip Banner Miniature from Mr Maddick, on behalf of the Seymour- Puckapunyal RAEME Chapter, to the Seymour RSL for its support and contribution to the forming of the chapter. Prince Philip on March 5, 1959, accepted appointment of Colonel-In-Chief of RAEME and presented a banner during a parade conducted at the Corps' Training Centre at Bandiana in 1986. The banner miniature was developed as a limited 20th anniversary edition, and the one presented last week is 207th of 600.

**'SEYMOUR TELEGRAPH',**  
**Wednesday December 6, 2006**

## BLUEBELL

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RAEME Vietnam Veterans Southern held their A.G.M. at Legacy House in Swanston Street Melbourne. The Current Committee was returned without challenge.

The President of the RAEME Association of Victoria Mr. Peter Cartledge and his wife Mrs. Leonie Cartledge along with Seymour Chapter President Mr. David Maddick and his wife Mrs. Sonnyia Maddick were present.

Mr. Peter Cartledge on behalf of the RAEME Association Victoria carried out the official presentation of the Charter to RAEME Vietnam Southern Chapter. During his presentation he spoke of his great pleasure of this moment and wished the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Southern a successful future.

The Charter will be held on the wall in a prominent position at Legacy House.

Just prior to the Vietnam A.G.M. a number of RAEME Vietnam Veterans along with H.O.C. Brigadier David McGahey and his wife attended the Colonel Commandant's Dinner hosted by Terry Beaton and wife Sheila, who maintained the good spirits of the evening.

Thanks must go to the RAEME Association Committee who put in a big effort to make the Dinner a huge success at the East Malvern R.S.L. Must be the greatest cross section of RAEME people gathered in one centre from junior to senior, creating a high level of banter. Most interesting particularly Corps History.

During the course of the evening Terry Beaton paid tribute to the late Max Moore, although not a "vet" along with his mate Peter Cartledge he had always given our R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Association tremendous support.

R.A.E.M.E. Vietnam Veterans Southern has had a healthy increase in membership, with seventy-five financial members. At this stage we are finding large numbers of veterans who don't know we have reformed, due to change of address since the original listing was made. Thanks must go to a number of "vets" Murray Lewis, Andy Treffrey, Mick Latimer, Peter Bassett and Harold Baker for help in this area.

Interesting article from the November 2006 6 RAR Quarterly Newsletter "Stand To" submitted by Murray Lewis formerly of 102 Fld Wksp. It reads:

A question answered but another raised. In the February 2006 "Stand To" [page 4], I asked if anyone could provide information about the two men, who flew out on the ammo flights to "D 6" at Long Tan.

We were aware that Owen O'Brien and George Chinn were on one chopper and Owen had thought that one of the men on the other chopper was WO2 Sid Brent, then CSM Admin Coy.

Well, I've been contacted by Bob Service who was the fourth man, but he raised another question - he thinks the other man on his chopper was Bill McCutcheon who was the Admin Coy Q Store.

Bob was a RAEME Craftsman [their equivalent to our private] Armourer attached to 6 RAR. He was the last man in the line carrying boxes of ammo to the chopper, when ran up with a bundle of blankets and climbed aboard. Bill started wrapping the ammo boxes in blankets, the chopper crew was hurrying him along so Bill ordered Bob aboard to assist with the blanket wrapping.

Next thing they knew, the chopper lifted off with them aboard. They continued wrapping blankets around the ammo boxes as the choppers raced to the rubber plantation.

Once there, the door gunners started to push the ammo boxes out, so the other helped, still hanging on for dear life as they weren't strapped in as the door gunners were.

Job done, the choppers returned to base, but not to 6 RAR - they flew to the Task Force HQ pad, so Bill and Bob - without personal weapons - had to make their own way back to 6RAR. Bob went for his

weapon and was asked why the hell he was there and not on the Alpha Coy perimeter where Admin Coy had been sent , when Alpha left on the APCs.

So - interesting facts emerge: there was a RAEME connection at Long Tan, we now have a query on whether the other man was Sid or Bill, and in any case , these men have never been "recognized" for their deeds on that day. I trust this leads to proper recognition. And if someone has a RAEME Connection , I'm sure their Corps will be interested in their Long Tan connection.

Thanks Bob, for sharing your memories with us. I guess I should say 'sorry' that you got into trouble for not being where others thought you should be, but please be assured that we under the resupply choppers appreciated your efforts.

Dave Sabbern  
Mt Eliza

RAEME National Day of Remembrance was again held at The Shrine and the RAEME Tree on the 4 th of February, where crosses in memory of RAEME Deceased members were laid by Ordinary, Associate and Honorary members of R.A.E.ME and RAEMEVietnam Southern Chapter. Mimi Asche,,Diane Stephens and Joan Mercieca laid crosses for Manfred, Len and Bernie.

Apologies from Judy Kerr, Mary Wadwell and Margaret Woolley.Thanks must go to COL Terry Beaton , wife Sheila and the Reverend Bryan Nicholls for all their preparation in making this important day a success. Thanks also to John Dobeli and Frank Frok for carrying the "Banner".

At the completion of the ceremony we headed off to the Lewis Family Emerald Hotel for a lunch and a most refreshing drink.

The Committee travelled to Ballarat R.S.L. for our regional meeting with a good number of Bluebells. Discussed a number of topics including the benefits of reforming as a Chapter.

A number of Armoured Squadron were in attendance and asked about support for a small banner they wish to have made. After some discussion they were asked to come back with a costing for our next regional meeting. Next Regional meeting to be held at Bendigo in March. Stay tuned for further info.

## WIDOWS & LIFE MEMBERS LUNCHEON

A reminder regarding the Widows and Life Members Luncheon on the 18th of March.

## ANZAC DAY MARCH

Max Farrow has got permission to have the "106 Fld Wkshp Banner " included in the march, so all you "106" Blue bells will have your own Banner. Should add more RAEME Vietnam colour to the ANZAC DAY MARCH. Maybe 1Field Squadron Wkshp could look at doing similar for next years march with their Banner.

## AFTER MARCH RE-UNION

We will again be holding an after march re-union at the Emerald Hotel located at 415 Clarendon Street South Melbourne. Corner of Clarendon & Raglan Streets. Catch Tram 112 to get there. Melways Map 57 H2

**BE THERE**

## INTERSTATE RE-UNIONS

1 Field Squadron Workshop in Sydney. Contact Ray Piper  
H 02 9596 0845  
Villa 1/33 Delves Street Mortdale  
NSW 2223

101 Field Workshop in Darwin.  
Contact Fred Greenaway  
H 03 9874 7806 or  
Clive DeJussing  
W 9655 5521

17 Construction Workshop in Darwin.  
Contact Eddie Ermanis  
H 03 9436 1406  
M 0427 139478

**Dennis Clarke**  
**President**  
**RAEME Vietnam Southern Chapter**

# LUNCHEON TO HONOUR OUR WIDOWS AND LIFE MEMBERS

**Our Annual luncheon to honour our Widows and Life Members will be held at OAKLEIGH BARRACKS**

**On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**At 1130 hrs for 1200 hrs**

**Dress Smart Casual please**

**All members and Guests are invited**

## Menu

**Succulent roast rump pork and crackling with apple sauce**

**Tender seasoned leg of lamb with mint sauce**

**Juicy roast beef with horseradish, mustard and gravy**

**Roasted jacket potatoes with lashings of sour cream and chives**

**Gourmet freshly cut, garden green salad**

**Various other salads including coleslaw, potato, pasta and rice**

**Baby beets**

**Buttered breadsticks**

**A selection of Desserts**

**Drinks will be available at Sergeants Mess prices**

**Cost \$28.00 per person**

...tear here.....

I.....

I will/ will not be attending the Annual Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members

Please find enclosed Cheque/Money order for \$..... being for .....persons

My guests names are.....

RSVP to 8 Neera Crt Glen Waverley by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007 PLEASE!!

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

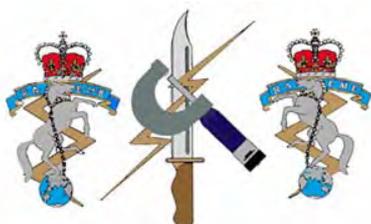
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