



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

February 2009

Issue 56

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

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## Diamonds Are For Ever!



**Congratulations to  
Treasurer Roma and Welfare Officer Reg Cox  
Who Will Celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary  
Married 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1949**

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Representative. (Help Please)**

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**CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA  
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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 August Flash  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Items to Pat Marley,  
Sec. Gus Allen  
Peter Cartledge

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Leonie and I join with your Committee in trusting you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

You will have noticed the change of dates for our Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance. This was due to 4CSSB changing the dates of their first weekend parade from 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Feb to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of February. As we invite the members of 4CSSB and 3 Rec Coy to join us for this service, we were required to change our date so as not to clash with them.

Please note our service and wreath laying will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 1100 hrs** preceded by a guided tour of the Shrine starting at 1000hrs and followed by a short service at The RAEME Tree.

On 28<sup>th</sup> November last 72 members and guests attended a very successful Corps Birthday Dinner at East Malvern RSL.

Our Prince Phillip Banner was paraded in the presence of our new Colonel Commandant COL Brian (Buck) Jones, who gave a very comprehensive run down on the previous Corps Conference in October, also his views on where our Corps was placed as far as Command and Esprit de Corps.

I was so proud both for our Association and personally to be accorded the honour of parading "Our Banner" and my thanks go to The Banner Party LT Alvin Chew, SSGT Tom Beattie, SGT Les Geraghty, Banner Marshall WO1 Allan Hawkins and our Piper SGT Steve Iverson.

A sad note to the evening was that Allan Hawkins learned of the death of his father during the evening which was no doubt a great shock to him. He left the dinner with these words, "the show must go on" and instructed his training WO as to the "casing of The Banner". As a mark of respect, I asked for a few moments silence to remember Allan's father. Allan the condolences of the Association and mine personally are with you and your family.

Our friend, member and resident film maker Doug Brazier has made a DVD of the Dinner, which I will present to The Banner Party, piper and Colonel Commandant and is available for purchase at \$10.00 a copy.

I have seen this DVD and can assure you it is well and truly up to Doug's usual standard and I enjoyed it very much.

If you would like a copy please give me a call on 9802 6406 or [pcart8@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pcart8@optusnet.com.au)

Arte et Marte

**Peter Cartledge**  
**President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another year starts. This will prove to be an interesting time for the Association as there appears to be some changes in the wind. It reminds me of the old Chinese saying or should that be curse:

"May you live in interesting times".

Since the last publication of our newsletter I can report one new member. We welcome Peter Daly to membership of the Association.

Sadly I have to report the passing of our member Gwladys Asker.

Gwladys and her husband Jack Asker often attended the ANZAC Day march.

I was able to pass on to Jack condolences on behalf of the Association at the funeral in November.

Ross Hope, a member of the Committee, was also in attendance.

**Gus Allen**  
**Secretary**

## SOCIAL REPORT

As our tenure at Oakleigh Barracks is a little shaky at the moment, some of our functions there are a little "up in the air." But be assured they will still be on at Oakleigh, Doveton or somewhere!!

Shrine Pilgrimage Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009 at 1000 hrs for the tour 1100hrs for the service then to the RAEME tree (all at The Shrine of course!!)

Annual ANZAC Reunion BBQ lunch 1130hrs Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

ANZAC Day March and following the March Victoria Barracks Sergeants Mess – NAMES PLEASE for the Guard house!!

Widows and Life Members Luncheon Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1130hrs

As soon as venues have been arranged we will send out a notice informing you of where they will be held.

I have covered our Corps Birthday Dinner elsewhere as I guess you have read - WOW what an evening - what an honour for our Association.

**Peter Cartledge**  
Social Coordinator

## WELFARE REPORT

Sonnyia Maddick has been diagnosed with a 17mm Bladder Stone. She is booked into the Waverley Private Hospital for admission Wed 28 Jan, and surgery Thu 29 Jan.

Pat Marley, after CT and MRI scans diagnosed severe lumbar stenosis (protrusion of vertebrae compressing the spinal cord & nerves), is to be admitted to the Epworth Eastern (Box Hill) on Fri 6 Feb for a lumbar laminectomy operation.

**Reg Cox**  
Welfare Officer



**Gwladys Askar**  
7th November 2008

**Laurie Dunn**  
Date Unknown

**Brian Scott**  
2nd Intake Electrical Apprentice  
passed away in Qld on 22/23 January 2009  
Brian is a first cousin of Jack Westernhagen

## MISSING MATES

All were members of 4 Fld Regt LAD, all RAEME. We are holding a reunion in 2009 on ANZAC day and would like to find them before then.

15722	LAWSON, Robert John
1732017	DOYLE, Trevor Robert
212830	WHIPPY, Edward Ury
15462	ARNOLD, Roy Stanley

Any info direct to me, please.

**Peter Snowdon**  
[pm.snowdon@bigpond.com](mailto:pm.snowdon@bigpond.com)

**Jeffrey V. Rosenfeld** MB BS,  
MD(Monash), MS(Melb),  
FRACS, FRCS(Ed), FACS, FACTM,  
MRACMA is promoted Major General  
and replaces RADM Graham Shirtley  
as Surgeon General Reserves with  
effect from 1 January 2009.

What great news to have an  
appointment so richly deserved and to  
have another Victorian "Two Star"  
Reserve General.

## CUPID'S ARROW RAEME Association Stalwarts

### Les & Hazel Bailey

You may have seen their photo in the Melbourne Herald-Sun of Saturday 22/11/2008 as they celebrated 73 years of married life.

They spent their "Honeymoon" travelling from The Salvation Army registry office to their home in Richmond!!

They went on to have 2 daughters and a son, 10 grand children and 11 great grandchildren.

Les was invited to help cut The Corps birthday cake as it was "the young bugger's" 98<sup>th</sup> birthday within a couple of days of The Corps birthday.

We will not disclose YOUNG Hazels age only to tell you Les was a "cradle snatcher".

We wish you both all the very best and look forward to your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being the next "milestone"

### Reg & Roma Cox

Reginald Weston Cox and Roma Julie Pamela Cox celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

#### History

**Roma** grew up in Malvern, and was the eldest child, having three younger brothers. She attended Korowa Girl's school.

Her father, a retired English army soldier who left England to start a new life had his own metal folding business and had many inventions/patents, the first reinforced shower screens, shields for car headlights during the blackout of WW2 etc.

Her mother, a school teacher, was born in Tasmania.

At the age of 9 Roma travelled with her parents on the liner 'Ballarat' back to England through the Middle East, Suez Canal, Aden (which she recalls smelt of oil) and Colombo (the smell of spice was in the air before you saw land), and Gibraltar.

She was fascinated by a fakir (street magician) in Colombo who performed a trick by pulling a chicken from behind her ear.

She remembers quite vividly her father buying two large carved ebony elephants from an Indian

on the wharf. He put his money in a basket which was lowered down from the ship and the elephants were brought up the same way.

In her teens, Roma was a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers and YHA and loved trekking around Wilson's Prom.

Having a keen interest in politics she was one of the first founding members of the Malvern Young Liberals in Glenferrie Rd Malvern.

Roma also loved archery and skiing and was a member of the club of Victoria.

#### How They Met

She enjoyed skiing around Lake Mountain, Mt. Baw-Baw in particular.

One time, back in 1947 Roma was skiing at Lake Mountain, when further down the slope she saw a young man with blonde hair and said "Not bad!, I'd like to get to know that person". She then saw him turn and talk to another woman, and thought "Oh, he's married, oh well".

Next time Roma was skiing down a slope on Mt. Buller heading for a hut to shelter from a snow storm.

Reg was already inside this hut with his mate, saw her and said, "That's the kind of girl I would like to marry!"

Roma whooshed into the hut, surprised to see someone else there, shared a nip of alcohol and much conversation.

#### The Engagement

After seeing each other for some time, their engagement was announced on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1948 at the Ivor Whittaker Ski Lodge at Mt Buller (which Reg had volunteered to help build). It was also in the skiing magazine Schuss.

#### The Wedding

On 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1949 they were married at St. John's church, East Malvern. The Ski Club of Vic was in attendance and R & R left the church under a line of crossed skis held high.

#### **REGINALD**

Reg grew up in Surrey Hills, attended Canterbury State School.

He was a Boy Scout in 1<sup>st</sup> Mont Albert group and loved learning the various skills.

Skiing was another passion and he loved Mt. Donna Buang & Buller in particular.

His mother was also a teacher who was born in Tasmania.

His father was an engineer, working at the Rosella factory in the city of Melbourne. Reg was 2<sup>nd</sup> youngest, having three sisters and a brother.

He was an apprentice plumber before he and his mate volunteered for the army where he was a craftsman, serving in New Guinea. Because he was underage, permission had to be obtained from his parents.

His duties included cleaning officers firearms, soldering/sealing ammunition boxes and 'fishing' with grenades!

### MARRIED LIFE

They were the first to build their home on a block of land (a wedding present from Roma's father) in East Malvern, a new estate.

They went on to build 5 others over the years. Reg was the only plumber, so he did all of the plumbing for the other residents.

### CHILDREN

14/3/1950 Julie came along with bouncing blonde curls, 2 years later a son Christopher, 6 years later another daughter with blonde curls, Merinda!

Every holiday time Reg would pack the car and trailer and at 4am! the family took off for a camping holiday, away from everything (Bear Gully). Reg was one of the first to forge a track down to this isolated and beautiful bay near Waratah Bay. Here Reg would teach his children how to catch fish, fetch water for camp, learn to swim, etc.

In the 1980s R & R decided to have a country 'seachange' and moved towards Ballarat – a block of land (150 acres!) near Ballan/Wombat State Forest. Freezing snow, bush fires, and isolation forced them back to Melbourne after a few years.

### GRANDCHILDREN

R & R have seven grandchildren – Anthony, Christine, & Tania (from Julie), Dominique and Fabienne (from Merinda) and Chris and Andrew (from Christopher).

Reg joined the Freemasons in the 1960s and still a keen member attending Daylight Lodge.

Roma attended the only womens' Freemasons group in Sydney in the 1960s and formed her own group in Melbourne.

With Reg's Lodge, Julie fondly remembers practising the ballroom dances with her partner brother at the Gardenvale Temple, for her Debut at the St Kilda Town Hall in front of the Grand Master.

Roma was a self-taught tailoress and made clothes for the family and ran a small at-home business in dress-making.

Reg and Roma were a very sociable couple and we often had neighbours over on the weekends for cocktails and progressive dinners.

Reg and Roma loved surfing in the 1960s and were probably the first to make their own surfboards at home.



**Julie Parisi**  
Daughter of Reg & Roma Cox

**Reg Cox on Anzac Day 2004**

**(He couldn't find a bigger poppy)**

**RAEME Association  
Bandiana Chapter**



**Dates to Remember.**

**Wed 4 Feb 2009 -  
RAEME  
Remembrance  
Service**

at 6.00 pm, Craftsman  
Memorial at Bandiana.

There will be a service led by Chaplain Margetson, a catafalque party, our COL COMD – Col Brian Jones, Deputy Head of Corps – LTCOL Todd Ashurst, several soldiers who put their badges on the day the Corps was born and the Corps RSM WO1 Martin Burgess. Please encourage any **RAEME widows** you know to attend.

**Thu 12 Feb 2009 – Spanner Club gathering**  
4.00 pm Greg Dowsett Club at Bandiana. We will run this for serving members and Association members. Proceeds will go to the Spanner Packs project of gift packs to Bluebells on operational service.

**Thu 19 Mar 2009 - AGM at the SS&A Club**  
Finger food and fellowship with our AGM.

**Fri 2 Oct 2009 – Annual Dinner at the SS&A Club**

Building on our very successful Dinner in 2008 we are planning this earlier for 2009.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year,

**Andy Turner**  
**President**  
**RAEME Association (Vic.) Inc.**  
**Bandiana Chapter**  
**02 60561946**

**RAEME REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

Dear Serving, Ex-serving members and RAEME Association members and their guests:

Firstly I trust all our RAEME brethren and their families had a great Christmas and will have a very happy, healthy and safe 2009



**Reminder of the upcoming activity:**

**Sun 1st Feb 2009 - RAEME Remembrance Service**

A reminder of our "RAEME Association Annual Shrine Service" to be held on Sunday 1st February 2009 starting with the following broad timelines:

- A guided tour of The Shrine @ 1000 hrs followed by
- Marching into The Shrine @ 1100 hrs under our Banners for a short service with laying of Wreaths at the Remembrance Stone followed by
- A service at The RAEME Tree concluding approx 1215 hrs.

Looking forward to seeing a good number of members and their families on Sunday 1st Feb 2009.

Please notify your attendance to the undersigned.  
Arte et Marte

**Guy Langford**  
**Executive Committee member**  
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## BLUEBELL

News from R.A.E.M.E. Viet Nam Veterans  
Southern Chapter  
February 2009

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The Committee would like to wish all members a happy and healthy New Year.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 at Legacy House Melbourne, with the Executive being returned. Next General Meeting will be held at Melton RSL, Reserve Road, Melton Country Club.

RAEME Viet Nam Southern Chapter would like to congratulate 8248070 Trooper Mark Gregor Donaldson on being awarded The Victoria Cross. The first since the Viet Nam War.

My wife and I attended the RAEME Association Dinner. Congratulations to the Social Committee, who again did a great job. It was a special evening as The Corps Banner was presented. The Banner Party and Piper worked to precision and must be commended for their efforts. We sat with some members of our Chapter and had a good night. Arrived at the venue with new Colonel-Commandant Lt.Col Brian [Buck] Jones.

Fred Greenway and Dennis Clarke attended the 3 Recovery Company Demonstration of an Auslab Personal Carrier being ambushed. Rifle Section inside dismounted, went into attack, secured the area and allowed a mammoth Mack Wrecker to retrieve the Auslab. This took place on the day when Melbourne had its heaviest down pour of torrential rain and wind.

It was carried out with a high degree of skill, considering the conditions. It didn't dampen their spirit and was followed by a traditional barbecue and their end of year presentations. RAEME Association and Viet Nam Chapter were made to feel most welcome.

One of our Committee, Treasurer Bill Slegers, has spent his Christmas break in Epworth Hospital with an operation on his back and unexpected kidney trouble. He will be released from the Epworth on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

Dennis Edwards was in the Royal Melbourne for chemotherapy treatment and is now in remission. Paul Mills is receiving treatment for leukemia. John Sinclair and Milton Pearson are also not well.

Received an interesting email from John Loch regarding the repair of the 105 Howitzers in Viet Nam. Anyone who does not have the email facility and are interested in the history of these guns can ring me and I will forward a copy on to you.

## ANZAC Day March

RAEME Viet Nam now have permission to have the 102Fld. Wkshp and 1Fld Wksp banners in the March behind the existing RAEME and 106 Fld Wksp.

The after March Re-union will this year be held in the Victoria Barrack's Sergeant's Mess. For Security Reasons, we will require the names of those attending a month prior to the March.



## 4 CSSB 105 Workshop Company

2008 proved to be a very busy year for the members and workshop at 4 CSSB, with the inception and continuance of project FOCUS (a 2 DIV incentive) as well continued support to all manner of courses and exercises. The beginning of 2008 saw the *posting in* of a considerable number of new ARA and AAR staff. The year also saw the CSM WO2 Bill (I have a plan) Montgomery and CPL Col (I know boats) Mankey being deployed on ops.

The middle of 2008 saw CAPT Chris Beven arrive at the workshop and was given the task of 2IC by the OC and proceeded to develop a "*Pinky and the Brain*" persona by trying to take over everything. Towards the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 saw the farewell to a number of personnel: OC MAJ Peter Cave, who has moved onto greener pastures at HQ 4 BDE.

WO2 Brett Snelling discharge from the AAR  
CPL Nathan Fulton, discharge from the ARA  
CPL Jao Andre, discharge from the ARA  
PTE Bjorn Mair (roach), discharging from ARA  
Gents, thank you for your support and commitment throughout your posting to the workshop and may your endeavours be fulfilling and rewarding.

2009 sees the arrival of new personnel:  
OC MAJ Mike Newbond (who will have to remember what all trade groups do rather than just Recce Mechs).  
CAPT Mark Grulke relinquishes his cushy job at HQ 4 BDE to get down and dirty in the Workshop.  
SGT Tim Sloan – AAR (Recovery)  
CPL Rod Beaman – ARA (Fitter)  
LCPL Andrew Edwards – ARA (Veh Mech)  
CFN David Browne – ARA (Elect)

This year (in light of last year's effort) will be no different, with the boys starting the year off with support to a number of driver's courses. Thanks to those who put their hand up or were pushed to the front of the line. The support to many and varied will continue with a number of personnel being panelled to undertake the necessary trade or promotional courses to ensure that compliancy and skills are retained.

This year will also see the holding of the inaugural ASM's sports day, which should provide a number of great sporting achievements by the masses. The committee (ASM as the chairman and overall arbitrator) will review all the possibilities on the type of sports to be held. Whether the chosen sports are not to your liking or you are a past master of that

particular discipline it is envisaged that everyone comes along and participates in a jovial and friendly atmosphere.

The 105 Spanner Club will be holding a number of functions this year, date, time and location is TBA at this stage, these will be open to the RAEME Association and other members of the brethren in Southern Region.

To all fellow spanners, hope you have a great and successful new year.

*ARTE ET MARTE*

### The Rusty Shifter



## HOCUS POCUS we now have FOCUS – A RAEME perspective

Project FOCUS is the name for the 2nd Division response to AHQ DCA directive 13/06 – Enhancing Army Reserve Regional Command, Control (C2) and Administrative Review. It is aimed at optimising C2 and administrative structures to better support the efficient and effective delivery of the *Raise, Train and Sustain* functions of Reserve capability across all of the Brigade units within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

The Chief of Army agreed that the current C2 arrangements for the Reserves are not optimised to support the Hardened Network Army- Reserve (HNA-R). Chief of Army further agreed in principle that the current construct of applying deployable ARA unit governance and management structures within every Reserve unit is unsustainable and inefficient. Project FOCUS involves the rationalisation all logistic elements within their respective Brigades.

Project FOCUS was set in motion at the beginning of 2007 with the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Brigades being the pilots for the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div Brigade Units.

To undertake the proposed planning for Project FOCUS a gathering of the AAR Workshop commanders and ASM's within 4 Bde came together to form a working group (WG). The WG, after a lot of consultation, developed a number of objectives and goals.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Bde Project FOCUS EME objectives were to:

- rationalise and optimise command and control of the 4 Bde RAEME Reserve elements to ensure directed HNA-R outputs;
- Reduce the demand upon ARA critical ranks and trades by introducing effective and efficient management of logistic business structures and processes; and
- Reduce overall unit maintenance through a review of equipment entitlements and the enhanced use of equipment pooling arrangements

The 4<sup>th</sup> Bde Project FOCUS EME goals were to:

- identify and provide an EME chain of command for the implementation and successful operation of Project FOCUS across 4 Bde;
- Identify and coordinate the EME tasks and functions that exist within the brigade that can be centralised, rationalised or improved;
- Identify the EME processes that exist within the brigade that can be standardised or streamlined; and
- Implement a culture of acceptance of FOCUS by creating confidence in the outcomes.

To meet FOCUS requirements, all ARA EME staff were to be co-located in an appropriate central WKSP location to provide the most effective and efficient tasking of these resources. The EME WG considered three locations would provide the most effective and efficient site for provision of the main/central EME support for 4 Bde. The EME WG recommended that one main workshop incorporating the EME Operations staff (EMEOPS) be established within the MUD facilities at Simpson Barracks Watsonia (the current 4/19 PWLH Workshop), and maintain the other two workshop (Broadmeadows & Oakleigh) as well as maintaining a facility at current Bde units for utilisation by deployable FRT's and inspection teams provided by the Joint Logistic Unit currently based at Puckapunyal.

It was envisaged and identified that current AAR members will parade within their current unit location on Tuesday night to undertake soldierly skills and the ever present AIRN and consolidating on specified weekends at the central workshop facility at Watsonia for tasking as required in the way of FRT's or services of a Tradesperson to support a 4 Bde unit activity.

4<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Victoria's own) has now undertaken this giant step for the betterment of *our CORP* with the transition from units with integral RAEME support to a centralised EME Workshop and the subsequent role of the resultant EME organisation. The possibility of maximising trade repair has been identified, as well as the streamlining of processes, Technical Regulatory Framework (TRF) requirements for the Bde, a Bde Material Maintenance Plan (MMP) and the establishment of self-assessment teams which will provide assistance to Bde units in a routine fashion, rather than prior to mandatory audits.

Twelve months on from the inception of FOCUS and the general feeling is that it has achieved its intent (as minor as it seems), it has certainly proved to be a significant challenge, although slight adjustments to the left and right of arc along the way, helped to keep the main objective in sight.

To all the areas that contributed to the success a big thank you (you know who you are). A number of lessons learned during this first twelve months will provide the basis for the ongoing enhancement of the processes and procedures which will benefit all units within the 4<sup>th</sup> BDE for the future.

It may be seen by some as a backward step (the old Service CORP & 3MD as verbalised to the writer) philosophy, but as active AAR we all have to adapt to a certain amount of change and re-direction in order to survive otherwise we as a CORP will not be able to sustain or maintain anything. The AAR in our Corp within the southern region is diminishing at a rate faster than we can recruit and as all personnel from the newest crafty up to those of the dark side are bred for survivability and project FOCUS is to be seen as an exciting challenge and time in which to prove to the knockers and sceptics that we can and will survive no matter what is thrown at us.

Finally it is responsibility of us all to help, support and foster esprit de corps, whether a change of the old guard, going to a new location, helping the old & bold or just saying G'DAY.

**To all Ex-Army Apprentices,  
RELEASE OF 60th CELEBRATIONS DVD**

The DVD of the Celebration weekend at Albury and Bandiana in October 2008 is ready for release.

Having seen a “draft” I can only say that it is a MUST for all who attended and is also of great interest to those who couldn’t make it.

The 40 minute DVD has been professionally made and covers all events of the weekend. It not only captures images and the many faces, but also the “soul” of the weekend. The many interview snippets are heart warming and at times will bring tears to your eyes. The coverage of the march is stirring and the standard of drill after so many years is nothing short of surprising.

If your children and grandchildren have difficulty in understanding the “Masonic-like” camaraderie that exists in what the Chief of Army described as one of Australia’s most exclusive clubs, this DVD will make it clearer.

The Australian Army Apprentices Association has purchased 100 copies of the DVD and I appeal to all Apprentices to go to our web site, [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org), and complete an order form and get it to **Jack Westernhagen AAAA Vice-President ASAP**. The \$40 cost is well worth the memories that the DVD will recall over many years.

Again, this letter is only distributed to Association members with email addresses, so please use your intake networks to spread the word further.

**Frank Poole LtCol (Retd) RAE**  
**President**  
**AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES**  
**ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**  
ACT Incorporation No A04404  
GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601  
[www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)

**Patron: Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie,**  
**AO, DSC, CSM, Chief of Army**  
**(23<sup>rd</sup> Intake Army Apprentice Bricklayer)**



**Lt.Gen Ken Gillespie Dedicates the  
Army Apprentice Memorial**



**Army Apprentice Memorial Plaque**



**Retired RAEME ex-Army Apprentice**



*Technical Squadron  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regt  
Reunion 2009*



This letter is just an initial contact so that I can find out who is interested

Background –  
Hello Everyone,

Buzzard here. In 2007, I ran into Hughsey in Melbourne and started to discuss the possibility of an Opera House reunion. Then by chance, I stumbled upon Deadly about three months later and we decided that it was about time we got together. I mean it's only been 22 years!!!

So, it has come to pass, that we, former members of Technical Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment **AND** Partners are getting together during the period of the October long weekend (No long weekend in Victoria) 2009 in the Seymour/Puckapunyal area.

We have so far been in contact with the following members –

R. Mark "Hughesy" Hughes, Jack Starmans, Gary Ball, Glen "Deadly" Ernst, Pete "Butts" Buttery, Dave - The Menz, Peter "Yatesy" Yates, Paul "Fozzie Bear" Foster, Graeme "Gull" Seccull, Mick Ellis, Paul "Clemo" Clements and Dick Kop (ulator).

A.L.W.A.Y.S. Club members (Non-Tech Sqn personnel included, that means you Coxy) are expected to attend without excuse. Make sure you have ample supply of spring washers and condoms. (If you don't know what the club is, you aren't a member - Yet)

I also need your help, if you know of anyone else's whereabouts send them a copy of this or get them to contact me or my secretary Mrs. Elona Hughes. (yes, they are still married)

Outline –

A rough itinerary would go something like this:

- Arrive Friday night for informal drinks etc at the Railway Hotel
- Saturday Morning – Afternoon. Members to tour School of Arty (old opera house), Partners day tour.
- Saturday Evening Dinner at Prince of Wales Hotel and possibility of going on to Railway Hotel Disco or the Donovan Joint
- Sunday BBQ lunch and farewell

Accommodation possibilities:

Nagambie Lakes Caravan Park

Seymour Motels

Jacks' Place?

Cost – Unsure at this stage, will get a better idea when I have numbers

RSVP Buzzard or Elona as soon as you can so that catering, transport and venues can be organised.

I am open to any suggestions on locations or activities for the weekend and will try to keep everyone happy.

If I have left anything out, let me know

Cheers for now,

**BUZZARD**

Anthony McKenzie  
70 Jacka Street  
CRIB POINT VIC 3919  
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Mobile 0403841466  
Email suseanthony@mysoul.com.au

Elona Hughes  
40 Allied Drive  
CARRUM DOWNS VIC 3201  
Phone (03) 97830730  
Mobile 0415358813

## “RAEME” Equivalent in Israeli Army 1969



**Sinai Desert 1969 War of Attrition.  
Jeff Gould is the opened shirt one.**

Jeff Gould writes “RAEME in Chapel St wouldn't let me go to Vietnam, said I was too old so I said bugger it and went to Israel and joined the army there. They put me in the Israel Army RAEME doing field tank repairs. If you know your job you don't need to know the language.

Oct. 1973 Yom Kippur War - Sinai. I was there and I helped launch the bridging barges. It took 2 days to get them to us (they got lost in the desert. We were getting knocked about so badly that General Ariel Sharon disobeyed High Command orders and ordered our armoured division to cross the Suez Canal and cut the Egyptians off from supply.

It saved the day and we surrounded them. My best friend was killed on the first day.

Hope you find this interesting.

**Jeff Gould**

*(Provided via Bruce Williams)*

## Veterans

When a Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

1. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.
2. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.
3. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, or reserve- is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of their respective Country' for an amount of 'up to and including my life'. . . and military wives are as much veterans as their spouses.

From one Veteran to another, it's an honour to be in your company.

**Thank you Veterans.**

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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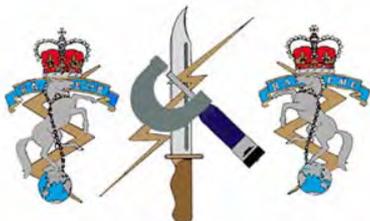
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SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

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