



# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**January 2011**

**Issue 62**

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*"... a horse forcene, gorged with a coronet ...."*  
(Picture courtesy MAJ Andy Turner (Retd):President - Bandiana Chapter)

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year has passed, where did it go ? They seem to go much faster as you get older and the pace of life quickens in this modern age of electronic communications and jet travel. This year has been a busy time for the association commencing with our Pilgrimage to the Shrine in January, followed by the meeting in Seymour at Dave Maddick's place, then Anzac re-union which did not attract too much interest and then the March which was well attended. The Reserve Forces Day Parade was a great success and we were honoured with the presence of a VC winner Keith Payne. The new Association Standard was paraded for the first time carried by Peter Cartledge and this attracted many comments from the membership. The Vietnam Chapter attended the Long Tan parade to the Shrine and several members of the executive gave support to this activity. Our nomination of Dennis Clarke for an RSL award was not successful, but was won by an old identity of the Corps in WO1 John Prince.

The annual bus trip usually conducted on Cup Day Weekend did not take place due to lack of support despite the efforts of the committee to keep the costs as the same as the previous year despite receiving some quotes that were \$100 up on the previous year. As we have been successful in obtaining some funding from DVA to support this type of activity we will be seeking your support this year and are investigating some suitable trips but not restricted to the Melbourne Cup period.

Our RAEME Birthday Dinner at the East Malvern RSL was a great success with the numbers up on last years and we also had the pleasure of presenting the Craftsman of the Year Trophy for the Vic and Tas region to Cfn Jason Griffin of 4CSSB Wksp Coy.



Now to the future, the pilgrimage to the Shrine will be held on Sunday 30 Jan 2011 (see separate flyer) we would like your support as we will dedicate the replacement tree and the new plaque. Arrangements are being made for the Anzac re-union and will be advised in the April Flash as will the details for the Presidents Luncheon some time in May.

I trust that you all had a merry festive season and that the new year will bring you health and happiness  
Arte et Marte

**John Boothroyd**  
President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Committee of Management has now settled down with the members adapting to the allocated roles. The changes to the rules and the Patriotic fund have now been approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria and are now in place.

**Bus Trip.** It was disappointing that the Bus Trip over the Melbourne Cup weekend had to be cancelled due to the lack of support from some members who had previously supported this function, our appreciation and thanks go to those members who nominated to attend this function. It should be noted that the new Social Committee of Bruce & Sandra Williams, put a great amount of effort in arranging this function, with the selected coach company which was highly recommended being \$100 cheaper than the nearest Coach Company. DVA has now approved some funding for the Bus Trip which would have resulted in a refund to the original cost. Perhaps it may be time to revisit this function and look at overnight trips. Members suggestions to any changes would be appreciated and can be directed to either myself or Bruce Williams

**Birthday Dinner.** The Dinner was a great success being attended by 51 members and partners with an excellent meal being presented by the Chef Jurgen. President John Boothroyd and our Patron Brigadier Conrad Ermert presented the Craftsman of the Year Trophy and Plaque to Cfn Jason Griffin 105 Wksp Coy 4CSSB. It was disappointing that the RAEME Colonel Commandant Victoria/Tasmania, Colonel Brian Jones, was unable to attend the Dinner due to his absence on work in Canberra.

**Farewell.** Unfortunately Capt Steven Towner 3 Rec Coy has been posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> LHR (QMI) a regular unit in Queensland, Capt Towner has been of great assistance to the Association over the years of his posting to 3 Rec Coy. We thank Steve and wish him all the very best for the future. WO2 Geoff Rolph has also left the Regular Army this Year; Geoff assistance in the absence of Capt Towner was appreciated. We wish Geoff all the best in his future pursuits.

**Spanner Pack ;** We have now forwarded 9 packs of magazines to our RAEME troops deployed in overseas operations.

**The Next Function** will be our Shrine Pilgrimage on 30<sup>TH</sup> January 2011 to remember our deceased comrades and to dedicate our new RAEME Tree and Plaque (our previous tree succumbed to the drought).

**Committee Meeting;** The next meeting will be held at Dave Maddick's home in Seymour on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Details will be forwarded to Committee Members closer the date.

**Alan Rogers**  
Secretary

## SOCIAL REPORT

Hello to all, well since the AGM planning was in place for the annual bus trip and the birthday dinner. The bus trip was a total disappointment as although it was taken over by the new Sub-Committee recently and hours of input and finding a company who not only had a comfortable bus but also a far superior Itinerary than had been planned (Of which we did not have to arrange ourselves) and \$100.00 cheaper than our predecessor we were let down by the members in not joining in this year. Various pick up points including Broadmeadows had been arranged as well. You may like to know that we have had numerous calls and correspondence telling us that those who had taken the time to book were disappointed that the trip was finally cancelled.

Now; for the future it has been decided that we will again attempt to offer trips but they will be shorter and not include cup day weekend and most likely be mid week and maybe we could hold at least two trips throughout the year. We ask the Chapters to be more active in these types of functions as well as those members in the metropolitan area who are able to participate in trips of this nature. Your committee as in the past and currently are looking at what we can do to have you comfortably and safely participate in social functions arranged for all of our members including the Chapters. If you have positive suggestions where we can all be included please tell us as we scratch our heads to put functions on to please all 425 members. You have a very dedicated and pro-active committee so please think about the functions they arrange and support them.

The RAEME Dinner was very successful and went off without a hitch. The room looked good and many compliments came regarding the set up this year.



*Jason Griffin is presented with the Craftsman of the Year Award by BRIG Conrad Ermert (Retd)*

For the first time for a while we presented the “ARES Craftsman of the year award” to CFN Jason Griffin of 105 WKSP COY. Congratulations from the Association and our members were passed on by the President when presenting both a plaque and the Perpetual Trophy.

Next year 2011 the dinner is to be moved closer to the RAEME Birthday and in this case it will be Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2011 and designated the “**RAEME Birthday Dinner**” We will be 69 next year and the following year a big one as it will be the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday This way we will be in line with the National celebrations as well, **The RAEME Birthday is the 1<sup>st</sup> December annually.**

To those members who supported the AGM, Bus trip and the Dinner we thank you for your support to those you did not attend either of the functions or even the AGM well you missed out on great times and catching up with old friends and enjoying one another’s company.

The Reunion next year will possibly be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at a venue yet to be decided and will be through the day more on that in the next issue but lock the date away. ANZAC Day we gather for the march and usual (More info in the next newsletter) and on the completion of the March we will again most likely gather in Victoria Barracks. A bus will again hopefully be organised from 3 Recovery COY to transport our infirm to the march where they will transfer to official march vehicles.

Historically all is well and nothing to report.

From your Sub-Committee we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2011

**Bruce & Sandra Williams & Roma Cox**  
**Social & Historical Committee**

## SEYMOUR-PUCKAPUNYAL CHAPTER REPORT

Chapter President Dave Maddick advises:

NIL return from Seymour / Puckapunyal Chapter. I am rapidly running out of time in my preparations for a drive to Toowoomba towing a trailer and 15KVA gen set for Christmas.

To all, and your families, Sonnyia and I wish you a Happy, Safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. At this stage I suspect Sonnyia will be staying on in QLD for some time after Christmas, I will be returning on my own possibly leaving “Sunnyside”, Muniganeen, Qld on or about 02 Jan 2011. If I do not see you before hand, I will see the Committee again at our place in Feb 2011.

## Nomination of CFN Jason Griffin for “Craftsman of the Year” Award

**Major J. Haley**  
Head Of Corps  
Army Logistics Training Centre  
Latchford Barracks  
BONEGILLA VIC 3693

I am writing to nominate 8220531 CFN Jason Griffin for the RAEME Craftsman Of The Year award. In 1993, CFN Griffin joined the ARA as a Tech Elec ECN 418. He was posted to Puckapunyal Log Bn in 1996, 1 CSSB in 2002 and 9 FSB in 2005. In 2007, CFN Griffin separated from the ARA and was posted to 4 CSSB where he still actively works.

Craftsman Griffin is a young member of the EIR section within 105 Workshop Coy. He is a keen member who parades at the unit and participates in various activities regularly including supporting the civilian community during the Victorian bush fires. CFN Griffin is dependable, works hard and achieves well above his expected ability as a tradesman.

Craftsman Griffin had assumed the role of the section supervisor/Corporal role at his own accord in the absence of the ARA EIR Cpl. CFN Griffin had sought the status of the equipment in the section for repair and arranged completion of the remaining tasks. He continued to seek further tasks and employment opportunities for his peers. CFN Griffin also arranged training for his peers to increase their knowledge and standard of repairs and recording of documentation processes.

Craftsman Griffin conducts himself in a manner that brings credit to himself and the ADF. He is consistently of good dress and bearing and reminds others when they are not. He is knowledgeable in military procedures and practices and provides sound advice to his peers and seniors.

Craftsman Griffin has deployed to Iraq in 2006 on Op SLIPPER and Indonesia in 2004 on Op SUMATRA ASSIST as an ARA member. He has also deployed on Op VIC FIRE ASSIST in 2008. His awards include the Australian Active Service Medal with Iraq clasp, Iraq Campaign Medal and Australian Defence Medal.

### RAEME Mafia Badge



*Andy Turner  
(Bandiana Chapter  
President)  
sent this badge for the  
“RAEME Mafia”*

*If Andy knows who  
produced it,  
he ain't sayin'.*

### Sayings of the modern Buddhist

If there is no self, whose arthritis is this?

Be here now. Be somewhere else later. Is that so complicated?

Sip tea and nourish with the first sip, joy with the second, satisfaction with the third, peace with the fourth, and with the fifth, a Danish.

Wherever you go there you are. Your luggage is another story.

Accept misfortune as a blessing. Do not wish for perfect health or a life without problems. What would you talk about?

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single eTag beep.

There is no escaping Karma. In previous life you never called, you never wrote, you never visited. And whose fault was that?

Zen is not easy. It takes effort to attain nothingness. And then what do you have?

The Tao does not speak. The Tao does not blame. The Tao does not take sides. The Tao has no expectations. The Tao demands nothing of others. The Tao is not my wife.

Breathe in, breathe out, breathe in, breathe out. Forget this and attaining enlightenment will be the least of your worries.

Deep inside you are ten thousand flowers. Each flower blossoms ten thousand times. Each blossom has ten thousand petals. You might want to see a specialist.

Be aware of your body. Be aware of your perceptions. Keep in mind that not every physical sensation is a symptom of terminal illness.

The Bible says to love your neighbour as yourself.

The Buddha says there is no self. So maybe we are off the hook.

## BANDIANA CHAPTER REPORT

As usual, many of our members head to warmer climates for winter and we go quiet for a few months. In November all are back and we get busy.

### Bandiana Annual Dinner

Our **Annual dinner on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November** was attended by 70 people including our Deputy Head of Corps LTCOL Todd Ashurst, Colonel Commandant COL Brian Jones, Corps RSM WO1 Jason Ballard, State Association President John Boothroyd and Vietnam Chapter President Dennis Clarke.

It was an enjoyable dinner with a very informative and humorous talk by MAJ Matthew Canning on his time with US Forces in Iraq. Mathew operated with US forces and was awarded the US Bronze Star for his contribution. It is their fourth highest combat award. Matthew's operational experience also includes Solomon Islands (twice). He has also been to the USA, Canada, South Africa, England, Germany, Switzerland and Finland.

We also enjoyed a Corps update from LTCOL Todd Ashurst and Corps Committee information from COL Brian Jones. Our Corps RSM Jason Ballard made sure our Corps Centrepiece, "Harry the Horse" was present at our dinner.

### Corps Birthday Dinner – Melbourne

On 26 November Anje and I went to Melbourne to attend the State Association Corps Birthday Dinner and enjoyed ourselves while getting to know some more of the RAV community. I recommend Chapter members make the effort to attend next year. I'm sure the details of the dinner will be fully reported elsewhere in this Lightning Flash.

### RAEME Birthday

On Wednesday 1 December RAEME Birthday celebrations were held at North Bandiana. There were potted sports followed by a Billy-Cart Derby and Iron-Man competition and a BBQ lunch. Some of our members attended. This was the second year of the "modern" RAEME Birthday sports initiated by LTCOL Todd Ashurst. We had one of our heavy rain events that day which didn't prevent plenty of fun on a well run day.

### Coming up and dates to remember

#### **Thu 3 February 2011-**

RAEME Remembrance Day, 6.00pm at the Craftsman Memorial, South Bandiana. We hope to have several original craftsmen from 1942 and a number of widows present.

#### **Thu 3 Mar 2011**

Annual General Meeting, 7.00 pm SS&A Club

#### **Fri 4 Nov 2011 – Annual Dinner at the SS&A Club**

### **Andy Turner**

### **Bandiana Chapter President**



*On Graduation from Staff College, Canberra, RAEME Major Anthony Evans was awarded the Chief of Joint Operations Prize for the graduate who finished first in the joint operations module of the course.  
Anthony is the son-in-law of Editor/Webmaster Pat & Terri Marley*

## Bluebell

### Viet Nam Veterans Southern Chapter

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V- Pres	–	Ross Smith = H – 5983 1647	
Secretary	–	Dennis Meek = H – 9798 3452	M
0409 907192			
Treasurer	–	Fred Greenway = H – 9874 7806	

Our last regional meeting was held at Phillip Island RSL, where RAEME

President John and Robina Boothroyd, Secretary Alan Rogers and Verna along with Jim and Janine Barling joined the Committee and their wives. We had lunch after the meeting at the RSL and then down to the Museum.

Viet Nam Veteran Rod Gallagher, a draughtsman is drawing up a location map of Vung Tau base and needs some assistance from any RAEME members who served with 1 ALSG. Rod resides at 68 Toorak Road Inverloch. He can be reached on 03 5674 3766 or email rgallagher@lonnexus.net.au

This year we were able to attend not one RAEME Dinner but two. The Bandiana Chapter, Andy Turner, his wife Anje and the Committee made us feel very welcome at their dinner at the Albury Services Club. It was great to catch up with a number of “Heartland” People, including past President, Alby Cunningham, who these days is doing administration at the Myrtleford RSL. The following day we had a combined Committee meeting at the Bandiana Museum. You could eat your lunch off the floor of the Museum. It is an absolute credit to the Volunteers who maintain and keep developing it with more exhibits.

Our RAEME Birthday Dinner was also a success, with Allan Hawkins giving us an update on the current RAEME standing. It is still the second largest Corps, as it was during the term of the Viet Nam War.

#### Plaque Dedication at Saint Paul’s Cathedral 2-10-10

Fred Greenway, Dennis Clarke, Dusty Miller, Gary Vapp and a number of other Vets attended the dedication of a Viet Nam War plaque by the Geelong Viet Nam Veterans Association. RAEME Vet Andy Treffry was a member of the committee who did an excellent job in organizing the Event. Well done Andy.

#### Plaque Dedication at the Viet Nam Vets Museum 28-11-10

A large number of Australian and Vietnamese Veterans attended the Plaque Dedication by the Vietnamese Veterans at the Phillip Island Museum. Good to see the support staff of Jim Coghlan and Gary Elliot working hard to make for a successful day. It was interesting to see that most of the Vietnamese Veterans could fit into their original uniforms, unlike many of us. John and Krishna Methven and their team have worked hard to get the second stage of the

museum hangar completed. It houses a yet to be restored Canberra bomber and Sikorsky Sea King helicopter.

Ross Smith sent us an article relating to the current status of deterring mines, IEDs, or roadside bombs, which caused nearly 60 percent of U.S. deaths in Iraq. Developing mine clearing vehicles such as the “Buffalo” using a V shaped hull, similar to the “Auslab”, with an elevated body and of heavy grade steel which encases electric lines, suspension and fuel tanks. A Mack 400 Hp turbo diesel engine is mated to a five speed automatic transmission, with a modified transfer case to drive the six wheels. The tyres are 15,000 pound rated Michelin XZLs, along with inserts that provide run flat ability for over fifty miles. It utilizes a 30 feet hydraulic interrogating arm with a “spork” attachment, which, is operated by camera and remote control from inside the vehicle. It supersedes the use of robots, weighs 45,320 pounds and has a top speed of 55 mph.

#### RE\_UNION NOTICES

1Field Squadron Workshop = Melbourne ANZAC Week 2013

17 Construction Squadron Workshop = 2011- A 4 day Cruise out of Sydney. Date to be announced.

1 Armoured Regiment LAD = Adelaide – Glenelg October 2011 Russell Cunningham 5766 2413

102 Field Workshop = “Avondale” 601 Bray’s Road Gunnuawarra  
30<sup>th</sup> September 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011 Noel Lake 03 5456 9246

RAEME Viet Nam Southern Chapter Committee wish all Members and their Families a merry and safe Christmas.

#### Old RAEME Banner

This banner was found stored and forgotten.



Sandra Williams carried out some restorative repairs, and it was displayed at the Birthday Dinner.



*The Army Apprentice Memorial and Plaque at Bandiana, to which our Association contributed*



# **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**

## Annual Shrine Pilgrimage

30<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Tour of Shrine 1000hrs-1100hrs

1100hrs-1200hrs

A Short Service and Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary followed by the  
Dedication to the RAEME Tree and Corps Plaque;  
Our original tree succumbed to the drought and has been replaced

All Serving ; Retired Members, Relatives and Friends of the Corps are  
invited to attend this day to Honour those Members who are no longer  
with us

A Light Luncheon will be Available after the Service  
At a Cost of \$10-00 P/h

For Catering Purposes  
RSVP to Bruce Williams  
6 Chestnut Crt Wheelers Hill 3150  
by  
23 January 2011  
P/n 9561 8354; M 0418 104 895  
E-mail [bruce.w1@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.w1@bigpond.com)



I Will ; Will Not \_\_\_\_\_ be attending the Service  
I Will ; Will Not be attending the Luncheon  
No of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ for the Luncheon

Enclosed is my Cheque/Money Order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Direct Debit Bank NAB; BSB 083 547 Account No  
28634 94 Payable to; RAEME Assoc Vic Incorp  
6 Chestnut Crt Wheelers Hill 3150

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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 April Flash  
Monday 28th March 2011

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or  
[pat@patmar.id.au](mailto:pat@patmar.id.au)

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