



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

March 2011

Issue 63

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RAEME Reservists on Deployment in CTF 635 Rotation 18, Solomon Islands

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The new year has certainly been a taxing one, both in the extreme weather conditions and in the involvement of the committee and members in activities. In January our annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine took place in Forty degree heat which did not deter the attendance of Over seventy members of the Association from attending including some our long serving members and many others who had not been to this activity before.

We were most appreciative of the attendance of officers, NCOs and Cfn from 105 Fd Wksp (Part of 4CSSB) and drill executed by the Shrine Guard with the .303 Lee-Enfield Rifles with bayonets fixed. For the old and bold it brought back many memories. We were allocated a new tree to replace the one which died due to the drought and although we used it for the ceremony I was approached by the Shrine Governors and asked if we wished to change the location to which we readily agreed and now have a tree on level ground and with mature trees to provide shade for those taking part in the ceremony. My thanks to the Committee members who carried out those duties to enable the day to proceed smoothly. We are also aware that the lunch was somewhat sparse due to the fact that we catered for 51 but 72 turned up, which emphasises the need to ensure that attendees reply to the requests sent out by the date shown as it difficult to cater for late and those who just turn up on the day.



Chaplain John Brownbill has agreed to become our Chaplain and so he was made an Honorary member at our last Committee meeting. Well done John. The new plaque and the old plaque will be installed by the Shrine Trustees in the near future.

Please remember to put the dates of the reunion and the Anzac Day Activities in your diary and don't forget that Easter and Anzac are on the same day (see separate flyers for details). Also give some consideration to the Presidents Luncheon to be held in May, especially if you are in contact with any of the Widows of the Association.

To those of you, who are not enjoying good health, get well soon and please let our Welfare Officer know if we can assist you.

Arte et Marte
John Boothroyd
 President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Committee of Management meeting was held on 12 February 2011 in Seymour at Dave & Sonnyia Maddicks home with members of the Seymour Chapter attending along with Bandiana members and our Colonel-Commandant Brian Jones.

President John Boothroyd and I have been to 3 Recovery Company and met with the OC Major Peter Cave and 2IC Captain Tegan Musumeci who was extremely interested to understand what our Association was about and we look forward to an excellent relationship in the future. We should know in the near future whether 3 Rec Coy are able to supply a vehicle & driver for the ANZAC Day march this year.



Shrine Pilgrimage 2011: The Pilgrimage was well attended with John Brownhill carrying out the service in the Sanctuary and at the RAEME Tree where the new RAEME Plaque was dedicated. After the Dedication members returned to the Shrine function room for a light lunch. Our thanks and appreciation to the troops from 105 Wksp Coy (4CSSB) for their participation in forming of the guard in the Sanctuary and of their attendance on the day. It was gratifying to see the number of children and young adults attending the day with their parents /grandparents.

Association Chaplain: It is with pleasure that John Brownbill has now become Association Chaplain. On looking through past minutes I can find no reference to the Association having ever had an official Chaplain, which will make John our first official Chaplain. John has carried out the service at the last 2 Pilgrimages to Shrine in January which have been a great success.

Reserve Forces Day Parade: The Parade Launch was held on the 20th February with the Associations parading their Standards, this being a prelude to the parade on the 3rd July at the Shrine. On the 3rd it is intended to present medallions to the spouses of past and serving members of the Reserves.

Further information and Medallion forms will be forwarded.

It is important that the forms are returned to the Secretary by the notified date.

Alan Rogers
 Secretary

Social Report

Since the Birthday dinner in November where our numbers were up on the previous year and it was a great night once again, there hasn't been much happening from the social scene of the Association.

So to 2011:- At the end of January we held our **Pilgrimage to the shrine** and it was once again very well attended and the new tree was dedicated. You will probably read more on this else where in this edition. However, Plans of course are now in hand for several functions this year and they are: - **Our ANZAC Re-union** to be held at the **Clayton RSL on the Saturday 16th April from 12.00** and to all our members including the Chapters especially the **local RAEME Vietnam Chapter members** come on down and have a great day with fellow Association members. **The re-union is to be held in the member's bar** of the club and plenty of refreshments can be purchased **at member's prices**. We are not charging an entry fee this year, **but indeed the usual swindle will take place.** (The club Bistro will be open to those who may wish to participate in food at your own cost) Sandwiches, cakes and coffee are available from the bar as well also at your cost.

For those who would like to attend a **local ANZAC Day service**, the Clayton RSL is holding theirs on the **17th April 2011** at the **Memorial Park Clayton Road Clayton** beginning at 12.00 Midday with a **guard from "HMAS Cerberus"** attending. **As usual a wreath from the RAEME Association will be laid at the Cenotaph in the memorial park.** On completion **all members of the Association and their guests in attendance are invited back to enjoy the hospitality of the Sub-Branch.**

A **Dawn service** will also be held on **ANZAC Day Monday 25th April, starting at 6.00am sharp at the RSL entrance** and **RAEME members, their family & friends are invited to come along.** Then at the completion of the service a gun fire breakfast is available with a donation of a gold coin. Hopefully as we did last year members can head to the march in the city from the club and some transport could be available. (TBC) Then of course the train station with free transport for those wearing medals is only a very short distance from the club. Parking at the Sub-Branch is easy, safe and available in the Western car Park

Our **after march meeting point on ANZAC Day in Victoria Barracks** is not yet confirmed at the time of writing this note due to the messes now being closed. I have been communicating with the PMC of VBSM and still awaiting his final confirmation. Although this may be the case **We must have names if you intend to visit the barracks with us, so irrespective of receiving confirmation you must still send me your names just in case and photo Id will be required at the security entrance,** when and if we do meet there after the March. In another section of this newsletter there is the information regarding the official **assembly point Anzac day and the stepping of time.** Then if Victoria Barracks is unavailable you are of course invited back to the Clayton RSL where the Bistro will be operating and from 2.00pm **TWO – UP will be played with all proceeds going to welfare.** Good fun afternoon.

Again the club is only a hop, step and jump from the Clayton Station.

Then on **May 22nd the Presidents luncheon will be held also at the Clayton RSL beginning at 11.30am.** You will possibly hear more on that from John and/or Alan. This year the RAEME birthday dinner will be held on the **1st Friday in December (2nd December)** the closest day to the actual RAEME birthday and as yet the venue is still under consideration. However no matter where it is held **it will be good and you need to make a note of the date now.** Of course the **AGM is to be held in 28th August (Last Sunday)** as usual and will again be held most likely at the Clayton RSL.

We are currently in the process of organising **one or two bus trips during the coming months.** The duration will be shorter and **will not be held over Melbourne Cup Weekend** as has been the case now for many years. Due to the lack of support from members the trip was cancelled last year as we could not fill a bus and if we had proceeded and amortize the cost against those who supported the trip and **there were 30 odd starters** they would have had to pay more than was anticipated and that was not fair to them. **To those 30 thank you and hopefully you will be the first to book the trips this year** once we have locked them away and to the others well, how about supporting the work and effort your committee members put into organising these trips we are one of the largest and most pro-active Associations so what about it, give the Association your support. I can tell you the first trip ever done was in my time in or around 1994 and then of course Peter Cartledge then started regular trips from 1997 along time to let this part of our social Life disappear.

Keep your self updated by viewing the web site www.raeme.org.au/vic/

We look forward to catching up somewhere, sometime, socially

Arte et Marte
Bruce & Sandra Williams
Social Conveners

WELFARE REPORT

Association Patron Brig Konrad Ermert has suffered a heart attack and was hospitalised before being transferred to Wellington Hospital where a quadruple bypass operation was performed.

Konrad is now recuperating.

Get well soon, Konrad!

Membership Report

Since the last Lightning Flash was published the Association has gained several new members:

**Ross Maggs,
Gordon McLean
Ross Newton
Eddie Hatzakortzian
John Scannell.**

We welcome all our new members to our Association.

**Gus Allen
Membership Officer**

Bluebell Viet Nam Veterans Southern Chapter

President: Dennis Clarke: H: 9848 6757; M 0409 518744
Vice-Pres: Ross Smith: H: 5983 1647
Secretary: Dennis Meek: H: 9798 3452; M 0409 907192
Treasurer: Fred Greenway:H: 9874 7806

Our last meeting was our Annual General Meeting held at Legacy House Melbourne on the 16th March, 2011.

The Opening of the first stage of the Luscombe Bowl High Street, Seymour, near Information Centre Viet Nam Veterans Commemorative Walk 30th March 2011 2.30 pm

There will be a meet and greet at 2.00 pm, and an after event celebration. One of our own RAEME Bluebells John Phoenix is part of the Organizing Committee of this great Venture by the Mitchell Viet Nam Veterans in conjunction with the Mitchell Shire Council. You can help support by buying either a single paver for \$50, family double paver for \$100-00 or business paver for \$150-00.

The Geelong VVAA Drop In Centre 51 Swinborne Street Geelong North 10.00 AM - 3.00 PM

The Centre Manager is another RAEME Bluebell, Andy Treffrey. Vice President of Geelong VVAA is Les Harris who is also a Bluebell.

Vehicle Developments For Mine - Clearing

Ross Smith sent us another article relating to the current status of deterring mines, IEDs, or roadside bombs. This vehicle is called an Assault Breacher Vehicle. [A B V] based on the M1 A1 Abrams battle tank, utilizing a 12 feet wide, attached to its hull. The U.S. Army method of clearing the roads involves shooting a linear charge – a nylon rope beaded with 1750 pounds of explosive C4—so that it lies across the unpaved roadway and then detonating the line to create a safe path more than 300 feet long and 50 feet wide. The system was designed in the 1960s to defeat pressure – fused mines.

RAEME REMEMBRANCE DAY

A thank you to Allan Hawkins and the Shrine Guard, RAEME Association Committee, Shrine Staff and all attendees who make the day successful.

RE-UNION NOTICES

1 Field Squadron Workshop = Melbourne ANZAC Week 2013

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

17 Construction Squadron Workshop 1970-71 = 2011 ANZAC weekend at Ballarat. Contact Don Sims 5581 1328 or 0408 825553

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

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

**Dennis Clarke
President
Viet Nam Veterans Southern Chapter**

Seymour/Puckapunyal Chapter

The Seymour Chapter, unfortunately, has been less active than desirable in RAEME type activities and socialising, however a number of our members are actively involved in another community activity.

The creation of a Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk. This project has been in the design and construction stage for a number of years now, and is finally reaching the opening ceremony stage (*see page 9*).

Our RAEME team is headed up by, John Phoenix, John Blackwell (President Seymour RSL), and Harry Souter to name only three members at this stage. A Leopard tank has already been placed into position in Rotary Park.

Arte et Marte

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

**Life is too short to wake up with regrets.
So love the people who treat you right.
Forget about the ones who don't.
As someone recently said to me :
"Don't worry about old age-----
It doesn't last that long."**

Colonel-Commandant's Report

Unfortunately you will have heard of recent serious illnesses and deaths within our ranks. The RAEME Association exists to provide support to all our members including those serving full-time, part-time or retired. They and their families are in our thoughts and, as true craftsmen, we offer practical assistance where required.

Currently the Corps has 130 members deployed on Operations across all Theatres. The training pipeline is full to bursting with 567 new Craftsmen undergoing training at the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME) and 330 completing the on-the-job component of their trade training (OJT) in various Forces Command Workshops. The need for our repair and recovery services is growing as Army seeks adaptability, survivability and mobility across a networked battlefield.

Three Corps members received awards in the Australia Day Honours List: an AM to our Corps Director BRIG David Creagh for his work as Commander 17th Brigade; a CSM to LTCOL Martin McKone for his work in the Personnel field; and a CSM to SGT Thomas Bauer for his work in support of the Blackhawk helicopter fleet. They all deserve our proud congratulations. BRIG Creagh remains appointed as RAEME HOC but he has left 17th Brigade and is now posted to Canberra as the Director General of Logistic Assurance (DGLA).

The RAEME Corps Conference will be held at South Bandiana over the period 20 - 21 October 2011. As usual, on the evening of Wednesday the 19th an All Ranks Barbecue will be held at the Arnold Sports Pavilion following a Service at the Craftsman Memorial. The Officers Dinner will be held in the Army Logistic Officers' Mess on Thursday the 20th and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Dinner in the Army Logistic Sergeants' Mess on Friday the 21st.

Articles for the now annually published Craftsman Magazine are due to the Editor, MAJ Graham Anderson at the HOC Cell Bonegilla, by the 3rd June 2011. The magazine will be published in July. The HOC Cell is sponsoring the Corps Port 2011, which will commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the presentation of the 'Prince Philip Banner' to the Corps.

Brian Jones
Colonel-Commandant – Victoria/Tasmania

Misunderstanding terms

One reason the Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language.

For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would turn off the lights and lock the doors.

The Army would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat.

The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

Spanner Packs Thanks

I was delighted, very surprised and humbled by a phone call I received pm today on your behalf from the Chief of Army, LTGEN K.J.Gillespie AC DSC CSM.

He asked me to pass on to all involved in Operation Spanner Pack his personal thanks for the support given to his soldiers on operation, particularly by the RAEME Association around the nation.

Operation Spanner Pack is a team effort and without the support of the Association Committees and members nationally, the Head of Corps, the Corps Committee and our major Sponsors, Spanner Pack would not have achieved its major goals to date, of supporting our Corps and support staff on operations and in some small way lift the moral of our diggers who are far from family and friends.

Congratulations to all involved.

Ray Norman OAM
President
RAEME Association of Queensland

bordermail.com.au 4 Feb 2011



● RAEME association president Andrew Turner speaks during a remembrance service at Bandiana last night. Picture: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

Service to honour army tradesmen

BY NATHAN PARTENZA

A MEMORIAL service was held at Bandiana last night to honour the former army tradesmen who trained at the base.

The base is regarded as the "spiritual home" of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps.

RAEME association president Andrew Turner said about 50 people, including seven widows of former soldiers, attended the service, as soldiers laid a wreath to honour their former comrades.

The service was attended by current and

retired members of the corps, which was founded in 1942.

"We have a service annually and it's to remember past members of the corps, people who wore the badge, it's not veterans it's anybody who wore the badge, whether it was in peace or in war," Mr Turner said.

Yesterday marked the anniversary of the opening of the RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana in 1951.

Its successor is now the Army School of Electrical Mechanical Engineering at the nearby Latchford Barracks.

Bandiana Chapter

Our sixth RAEME Remembrance Day on 3 Feb 2011 was, again, well attended with approximately 60 people under welcome cloud cover. Around 20 gathered at the "Stump" for dinner afterwards. There were positive local media articles published about our Service. It was pleasing to see good attendance by RAEME widows. We were led by Chaplains Charles Vesely and Rick Tilden with aplomb. Everyone enjoyed the Chaplain's address (*reproduced this page*)

Our Corps RSM WO1 Jason Ballard recited the Corps Prayer. Support from the ASEME was excellent thanks to our DHOC LTCOL Todd Ashurst who also bought us up to date on current RAEME activities and deployments. The Ode to Remembrance was recited by Blue Rushby who joined the Corps in 1951.

Our AGM was held on 3 March at the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmans Club in Albury. Mike Kusterig stood down due to his relocation to Jerrabomberra and was replaced by Hans Sievers. Mike had served well as our Treasurer since we were chartered and will be missed on committee. We enjoyed refreshments and food at an enjoyable social gathering after the meeting.

The Committee is now:

Chapter President - Andrew Turner, Secretary - George Reid, Treasurer - Anthony Heald, Committee - Phil Stephenson, John Colville, Rodney Bolt and Hans Sievers.

Our next major event is our Annual Dinner on Friday 4 November in the meantime members will be able to attend Spanner Club functions at Bandiana, the Corps Seminar and Annual Corps Dinners.

Andrew Turner
President
Bandiana Chapter



COL Norm Hicks-Hall
Former OC 106 Fld Wksp SVN
(Result of house fire)

SGT John England
(Served as Recovery Mechanic SVN)

RAEME Memorial Service Address 3 February 2011

The Craftsman Memorial, South Bandiana Chaplain (Major) Charles Vesely,

Picture a very large tent, covered in the dust off the desert in Afghanistan. A flag, of blue, gold and red, flies proudly on a pole high into the Afghan sky. Inside this tent are a couple of Bushmasters and an ASLAV. Working in the heat and dust are the craftsmen and women.

The ASM has a worried look on his brow, and calls out of his corner to his workers: "*come on fellers the CO wants that LAV out tonight.*" The truth is that they have been working on the 'beast' since dawn; it is difficult to repair when parts are difficult to come by. So the welder is tasked to weld the metal, the fitter will prepare it for the VMs to fit, electricians will connect the wires, and the 'beast' will go again.

Friends, such was a common scene when I had the honour to serve as padre to our troops in Afghanistan in 2009. The wonderful work that members of RAEME could achieve were just amazing to be seen. The other thing was that those same members would double to do their fair share of piquet's, driving and other soldierly duties. These RAEME soldierly and trade qualities was something that the 'war-fighters' would learn to respect.

I was struck by the ethos of service that RAEME members always displayed. One could say that our craftsmen and craftswomen are "salt of the earth." Jesus in his well known Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel according to St Matthew, chapter 5, spoke of the faithful as being "salt of the earth and the light of the world." Encouraging the faithful to let their lights shine before men that they may see their good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.

The good deeds of the RAEME soldier bring help and service to his or her unit, corps and places that he or she may be serving. It is not about them, but about greater service just as Jesus calls us all to fulfil. I am sure that as we stand here there will be a RAEME Craftsman or woman making a memorial plaque in Tarin Kowt for CPL Atkinson, there are RAEME personnel in 3 Brigade preparing to assist and indeed assisting with operation IRONBARK in North Queensland post "TC Yasi". To you the faithful past members of the corps, thank you for the example you have left us, to be salt and light of the earth. To you the new members of RAEME follow the good work that has preceded you and hold to the legacy that your corps sets before you of selfless service.

ARTE ET MARTE



VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE WALK

Chairman
Ross Stewart
0407 646 988

A project of
**Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Mitchell Sub Branch**

Secretary
Ross Gregson
0417 973 573

Patron:
Major General D J McLachlan AO

Postal: PO Box 764 Seymour 3661
Email: vvaamitchell@westnet.com.au
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STAGE ONE OPENING CEREMONY

Assemble; from 1415hrs, 30th March 2011
Start time; 1430hrs, 30th March 2011

- 1430 Welcome by Master of Ceremonies
- 1432 Speech by Chairman of Committee, Ross Stewart
- 1435 Speech by Maj Gen David McLachlan AO
- 1440 Speech by State Minister for Veterans Affairs
- 1445 Unveiling / ribbon cutting by Patron and Minister
- Move to Cairn**
- 1450 Introduction by MC to the Memorial Cairn
- 1452 Speech by Maj Gen Peter Haddad,
- 1455 Speech by Cindy McLeish
- 1458 Unveiling of Cairn
- 1500 Dedication of Cairn by Monsignor Toms Catholic Priest,
Rev. Norm Hart Anglican Priest, Rev Don Kaus Uniting Priest
- 1530 Close of Ceremony



HONOUR THE DEAD BUT FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING

DATES TO REMEMBER 2011

<u>MARCH 2011</u>	<u>APRIL 2011</u> 16 th ANZAC Day Reunion Clayton RSL 25 th ANZAC Day March
<u>MAY 2011</u> 23 rd Presidents Luncheon Clayton RSL	<u>JUNE 2011</u>
<u>JULY 2011</u>	<u>AUGUST 2011</u> 17 th Les Farrant Award 18 th Long Tan Day 28 th AGM Clayton RSL 1130hrs
<u>SEPTEMBER 2011</u>	<u>OCTOBER 2011</u>
<u>NOVEMBER 2011</u> 4 th Bandiana Chapter Dinner 11 th Remembrance Day	<u>DECEMBER 2011</u> 2 nd RAEME Birthday Dinner

Note: Timings & Locations will be notified separately.

Other functions may be included as arranged by the Social Committee from time to time.

As the Social Committee spend an extraordinary amount of time arranging these functions your support will be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to your support.

John Boothroyd
President



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

Presidents Luncheon

22nd May 2011

*Clayton RSL
Carinish Rd Clayton
Opposite Clayton Railway Station*

*Timing: 1130hrs for 1200hrs to 1600hrs
Members & Life Members & Guests @ \$30-00 p/hd
3 Course Meal, Wines & Soft Drink on table
Widows to be Presidents Guest
Drinks at Bar Prices
Ample Parking
Smart Casual Dress*

Please notify of any Dietary Requirements

RSVP BY 16TH May 2011

Note; Due to catering restrictions, late returns cannot be accepted



I _____ and _____ Guests will/will not be attending
the Presidents Luncheon

Guests' names are: _____

Enclosed Payment \$ _____ ; _____ for Persons
Cheque- Money Order- EFT
(Please tick appropriate Account)
EFT Bank. NAB. BSB; 083 547 Acct No; 28634 9442
Payable to RAEME Assoc Vic Inc
6 Chestnut Crt
Wheelers Hill 3150

RAEME ANZAC Day Reunion



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

Saturday 16th April 2011
Clayton RSL Carinish Rd Clayton
Opposite Clayton Railway Station
From 1130hrs to 1500hrs

Old and Bolds

Why not come and reminisce with old buddies who we have not seen in several years and enjoy each other's company, talk about the good old days

Lunch available in Bistro at own expense

Cheese & Nibbles in Members Bar
Drinks at Bar Prices



Information from the RSL
ANZAC DAY 2011
Monday 25 April 2011

COMMEMORATION MARCH AND SERVICE

GENERAL GUIDELINES

As ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance, the aim of the ANZAC Day Commemoration activities of the Church Service, Dawn Service, Gunfire Breakfast, the Commemoration March and the Commemoration Service at the conclusion of the March, is to give the participating veterans and the general public an opportunity to honour those who served in the defence of Australia or its interests, especially remembering those who paid the supreme sacrifice or otherwise suffered as a result of their service.

ORDER OF MARCH

The Order of March will be

- Boer War/WW1
- NZ veterans
- Women's Services
- WW2 RAN and subsequent deployments
- WW2 Army
- WW2 RAAF and subsequent deployments
- BCOF
- Korea/Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Post 1975
- Commonwealth and Allies

Banners will be grouped behind the respective Service formation leaders, followed by veterans (WW2 veterans in vehicles) and then descendants.

Provision now exists for veterans of the Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor conflicts to march in the Post 1945 section of the Commemoration March

ELIGIBILITY TO MARCH

Anyone eligible to be a member of the Returned and Services League of Australia can participate in the March.

A descendent of a veteran can march with a formation as a carer (one per veteran marching). All other descendants are invited to participate in the March at the rear of the respective formation group. One descendent of a deceased veteran may honour their relative's service by wearing his/her medals on their right breast.

KEY POINTS

- All marchers should march 6 abreast unless otherwise advised by a March Marshal.
- Dress should reflect the dignity of the occasion and children should be of discretionary years.
- Veterans who are unable to march should make use of the vehicles attached to their respective formation groups.
- Do not stand in any vehicle during the March.
- First aid stations and golf carts will be provided along St Kilda Road. However, if a veteran must fall-out of the March, he or she should be directed to a March Marshal for assistance.
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the March other than at the Assembly or Dispersal points.
- The ANZAC Day March is not a military parade, therefore no vehicle, animal, weaponry or memorabilia (including photographs) may be included without the prior approval of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council.

ASSEMBLY

The Chief Marshal will have overall responsibility of the Commemoration March. The Assistant Chief Marshal, Assembly will be responsible for the Assembly Area.

March participants should complete assembly by 30 minutes prior to the expected time for their formation to step-off.

Arms

Escorts to Colours etc, may carry arms. Otherwise the carrying of arms is not permitted.

BANDS

The Senior Marshal Bands is responsible for the placement and assessment, as required, of the bands participating in the Commemoration March.

SALUTING THE ETERNAL FLAME

As the head of each formation/unit approaches the Eternal Flame, hats are to be removed (by following the leader's movements or by direction) and the right hand held over the heart and kept in that position until the formation/unit passes the Eternal Flame, then the reverse is to be followed. Heads are to be turned towards the Eternal Flame when passing it. Banners and flags are to be dipped. Defence Force formations are to salute the Eternal Flame as they pass it.

DISMISSAL OF MARCHERS

Formations are to be dismissed on the March after they have given an 'eyes right' at the Eternal Flame and have passed the flag poles on the eastern side of the Shrine Forecourt. Units are to move well clear of the dismissal area after they have completed the March.

Participants can then take advantage of refreshments provided by the Salvation Army prior to proceeding to the Commemoration Service at the conclusion of the March.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

A simple, but poignant service will be conducted at the conclusion of the Commemoration March on the northern steps of the Shrine of Remembrance.

The real reason we place our hand over the heart
(from the RSL)

I was recently asked what was the history behind the placing of our right hand over our hearts at funerals and remembrance services and such like. After some research I found the following and was surprised to learn that we are actually placing our hand over our medals. If you could forward to Sub Branches for their info I would appreciate it.

The Salute by Veterans at the Cenotaph or Wreath Laying Ceremony (Remembrance Service) It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph Veterans will place their Right Hand over their "Left Side" many may believing that they are placing their 'Hand over their Heart' in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades";- this is not so.

The Veterans Salute to their "Fallen Comrades" originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners. The ceremony concluded with a march past.

The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION
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