

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

January 2014

Issue 74

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc. Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994
Patron: BRIG Konrad Ermert. MSc FIEAust CPEng (Retd)
Colonel-Commandant (Vic/Tas): BRIG David McGahey (Rtd) CSC

President: MAJ John Boothroyd RFD.ED (Retd)
Treasurer: Aranka Illia
Editor/Webmaster: Pat Marley
16 Clematis Street, Glen Waverley 3150
Phone (03)9802 0637
email: patmar@melbpc.org.au
or pat@patmar.id.au

Vice President: Allan Hawkins
Secretary: Alan Rogers
Web: www.vic.raeme.org.au

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President John Boothroyd with Alkira Secondary College (Cranbourne students David Ramos (RAEME Award recipient) on the right and Jacob Bird (the recipient of the Anthony Byrne MP Award) on the left. The Awards were in relation to the VCAL Program "In Their Footsteps", in which the students researched the sacrifices made by Australian Servicemen & women in various conflicts.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since the last issue of the Flash the association and its office bearers have been very busy with matters relating to both the association and its sister organisations. The annual Corps Conference was conducted in Canberra in a very abbreviated form due to the financial restrictions. RAV was represented by our Colonel-Commandant Brian Jones.

In November the Association was represented at the Nov 11th ceremonies at Clayton RSL and at the Caulfield RSL where We joined the Jewish Ex Service Association and the RSL at their first combined service. At the Clayton service I laid a wreath on behalf of the Reserve Forces Council due to a mistake in the order of proceedings.

I also attended the funeral of S/Sgt Alex Andrews (Ex 15th Field Regt LAD) who although not a member at the time of his death had been a long serving member of the Association. The Corps also lost LTCOL Ed Sullivan who helped many of our older members in their younger days at Chapel St Depot.

The passing of LT Jack Westernhagen, a Life Member of the Association just prior to Christmas came as a shock to us all and the Association was well represented at the funeral, although I was not able to be present due a severe medical condition at the time.

ALKIRA SECONDARY COLLEGE

Our link with the college was cemented for the future with the attendance at the final assembly for the college year being attended by myself, Alan our Secretary and Pat Marley.

At this function the students were presented with awards for outstanding work and contributions to the college

Community. I presented an award to the top VCAL student and to Nicole Scott the teacher, also a medal sent down by Andy Turner (Bandiana Chapter).

I trust that the Association will approve the request for a perpetual award that the college can add to those presented by the Vietnam Veterans Assoc. and the Dandenong /Cranbourne RSL. We have also been requested to assist the students in 2014 with a History in Box project. This will involve providing a box with memorabilia, photos etc. that the students will research and provide a written history similar to those produced in 2013. If you are interested please contact me.

I trust that 2014 will be a good year for us all and that our troubles of the past year will fade, may you enjoy good health and happiness.

Please support **YOUR** Association throughout the coming year at the activities as detailed in the "Lightning Flash", and please ensure that returns are accurate and on time especially when catering is involved.

ARTE et MARTE

MAJ John Boothroyd RFD ED (Rtd)
President

LEST WE FORGET



LT Jack Westernhagen
3rd Intake Army Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic
Died 18 December 2013

CAPT Dennis Edwards
20th Intake Army Apprentice Blacksmith
Died 26 December 2013

LTCOL William Edward (Ed) Sullivan
9th Intake Army Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic
Died 27 December 2013

Rex Johnson
Died October 2013

Tibor (Tibby) Illia
Brother of Treasurer and Life Member Aranka Illia
Died 29 December 2013

Cyril Ferne
Died 5 January 2014

The funeral for former Vice-President and Life Member Jack Westernhagen was attended by a number of members of the RAEME Association (Vic) including:

Gus Allen, Allan Hawkins, Mike Newbond, Peter & Leonie Cartledge, Dennis Clark, Bob Crawford, John Peters, Jeff Gould, Ivan & Margaret Royle, David Scott, Rex Foord, Pat & Terri Marley.

President John Boothroyd was unable to attend due to severe illness.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our 71st Birthday Dinner was once again held at the Clayton RSL with 64 members attending the night. The Ladies prize was taken out by Julie Cox

Craftsman of the Year was a little different from previous years. HOC selected a Craftsman from Tasmania as Vic/ Tas Craftsman of the Year. The Committee of Management made the decision to present to the nominee from the Victorian Units the Perpetual Trophy as the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc award. This was presented to CFN Mathew Higgs 105 Wksp Coy by Col-Cmdt Brigadier David McGahey (Rtd) and Association President Major John Boothroyd (Rtd)

Our departing Col-Cmdt Brian Jones handed the baton over to our incoming Col-Cmdt Brigadier David McGahey, with the Association President John Boothroyd presenting retiring COL/CMDT Brian Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation. Further Association Certificates of Appreciation were made to previous Col-Cmdts Jack Wilson and Terry Beaton.

It was disappointing that several members failed to turn up on the night without notifying the Committee; this meant that the Association had to meet the cost of the dinner as the members were yet to pay. It would be appreciated if members are unable to turn up that they notify the Committee even on the night in order that we can notify the Caterer and not be charged for the catering.

Life Membership nominations are to be with the Association Secretary no later than May 1st 2014 (Nomination forms can be obtained from the Association Secretary)

Our next function will be the Association Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine to honour our departed members. All RAEME Soldiers and families are welcome to attend (refer to attached notice)

The Membership Officer advises that several members are yet to pay their Annual fees. It would be appreciated if those Members could forward their fees to the Membership Officer forthwith. All fees are due at the end of the financial year 30th June for the 2013-2014 years

Congratulations to Sean Halley 105 Wksp Coy on his recent promotion to Warrant Officer Class 2

Alan Rogers
Secretary

We Were Wrong

In the "Lightning Flash" newsletter of January 2012, a comment appeared on page 3 in the Secretary's Report to the effect that Jeff Gould had married Annie Huet.

This has been found to be incorrect, due to a misunderstanding.

The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc unreservedly apologises for the error, and regrets any inconvenience to any affected person.

Join our Shrine Pilgrimage 16th March 2014



Memorial Crosses placed at RAEME Tree during January 2013 Pilgrimage



SEYMOUR / PUCKAPUNYAL CHAPTER

The Seymour/Puckapunyal Chapter held its 2013 AGM at the Royal Hotel, Emily Street, Seymour on the 25 October 2013. There were eight members present with seven apologies from a membership base of 22.

As there were no Resignations, Withdrawals or Volunteers for Committee membership, there was no need for an election and the previous (current) members were re-elected to the committee:

President:	David Maddick
Vice President:	John Phoenix
Secretary:	Jack Bishop
Treasurer:	Mick Quinlan
Committee:	John Blackwell
	Geoff (Tex) McPherson

Spanner Club Meetings were held at the Seymour RSL Hall, in conjunction with the Seymour RSL Social Club on Wed 27 November, with a magnificent supper provided for all by the RSL Ladies Auxiliary, 11 members were present.

A second Spanner Club get together and Christmas drinks was held at the Seymour Club, again in conjunction with the Seymour RSL Social Club on Wed 18 December, 9 members were present.

It is proposed that future Spanner Club get-togethers take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month in conjunction with the Seymour RSL Social Club.

RAEME members continue to be active within the community such as the RSL, Vietnam Veterans Association and Memorial Walk, Fire Brigade, Seymour Car Club and local businesses, as well as the present Defence Contractor at Puckapunyal.

David Maddick
President



BLUEBELL VIETNAM VETERANS SOUTHERN

Another "Veterans Bike Ride" is being organized in Trawool – located on the Seymour to Yea Road - from Friday 7th to Monday 10th March 2014 (Labour Day weekend). Trawool is on the former Seymour to Yea railway line which is now converted to the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail. Given the location, Vet Ride 2014 will also conduct a number of specific activities, including a "Ride to Pucka", lunch with some current serving members and a night visit to the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk at Seymour. During WW2 there was an Army camp based on the on the Seymour to Yea road, prior to Puckapunyal being established. Details regarding this ride can be found at the website www.vetride.org/.

Sad news with the recent passing of three of the RAEME Victorian Family:

LT Jack Westerhagen, was a 3rd Intake Army Apprentice, and involved in establishing the Army Apprentices Association. Jack served on the Committee of the RAEME Association Victoria, of which he was a Life Member.

LTCOL Ed Sullivan, who was a 9th Intake Army apprentice, served at 101 Fld. Wksp, Puckapunyal in 57/58 with Major Fred Greenway and after other postings joined Fred at Officer Training School Portsea in June 61, in 63/64 was at RAEME Training Centre and then posted to 1 Armoured Regiment LAD as O.C at "Pucka". Next posting was Vietnam with the "LAD", followed by ADC to Brigadier Long on his RTA. After Army retirement, Ed worked as an Associate to His Honour Judge Thomas A Neesham of the County Court.

CAPT Dennis Edwards was also an Army Apprentice, 20th Intake. His athleticism allowed him to represent AAS Balcombe in both basketball and cricket. He later became 106 Fld. Wkshp CSM in 70/71 and set the Army standards for welding. After leaving the Army Dennis used these skills by working in several executive positions with a number of welding specialist companies. Upon retirement Dennis travelled to Vietnam and set up the Edwards Family Treasure Chest to help educate a large number of street kids in South Vietnam. He raised money by organizing entertainment functions.

All three men contributed greatly to their civilian communities as well as the Corps and will be a great loss.

**Vietnam: LOOKING BACK
AT THE AMERICAN FACTS**

Author K.G. Sears, Ph.D.

- Prior to 1965; US Advisors and Aid only.
- 1965 – 1967; Build-up of US Forces and logistical supply bases, plus heavy fighting to counter Communist North Vietnamese invasion.
- 1968 – 1970; Communist “Insurgency” destroyed to the point where over 90 % of the villages were, free from Communist domination. As an example: By 1971 throughout the entire populous Mekong Delta, the monthly rate of Communist insurgency action dropped to 3 incidents per one hundred thousand population. [Many a U.S. city would envy a crime rate that low].
In 1969 President Nixon started troop withdrawals that were essentially complete by late 1971.
- Dec 1972; Paris peace agreements negotiated and agreed by North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the South Vietnamese Communists [VC,NLF/PRG] and the United States.
- Jan 1973; All four parties finally sign Paris Peace Agreements.
- Mar 1973; Last US POW released from Hanoi Hilton and in accordance with Paris Agreements, last American GI leaves Vietnam.
- Aug 1973; US Congress passes the *Case – Church* law which forbids, US naval forces sailing on the seas surrounding, US ground forces from operating on the land of and US air forces from flying over South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. This at a time when America had drawn its Cold War battle lines and as a result had the US Navy protecting Taiwan, 50,000 troops in Korea and over 300,00 troops in Western Europe [which has a land area, economy and population comparable to that of the United States], along with iron clad guarantees that if Communist forces should cross any of those Cold War lines or Soviet Armour should roll across either the DMZ in Korea or the Iron Curtain in Europe, then there would be an unlimited response by the armed forces of the United States, to include if necessary, the use of nuclear weapons. In addition, Congress cut off all aid to the South Vietnamese and would not provide them with as much as a single bullet.
- In spite of the *Case – Church* Congressional guarantee, the North Vietnamese were very leery [wary] of US President Nixon. They viewed him as one unpredictable, incredibly tough nut. He had, in 1972, for the first time in the War, mined Hai Phong Harbour and sent the B-52 bombers against the north to force them into signing the Paris Peace Agreements.

- Previously the B52s had been used only against Communist troop concentrations in remote regions of South Vietnam and occasionally against carefully selected sanctuaries in Cambodia, plus against both sanctuaries and supply lines in Laos.
- Aug 1974; Nixon resigns.
- Sept 1974; North Vietnamese hold special meeting to evaluate Nixon’s resignation and decide to test implications.
- Dec 1974: North Vietnamese invade South Vietnamese Province of Phoc Long located north of Saigon [Hoa Chi Minh City] on Cambodian border.
- Jan 1975; North Vietnamese capture Phuoc Binh provincial capital of Phuoc Long. Sit and wait for US reaction. No reaction. *To Be Continued.*

RAEME Vietnam Unit Reunions

1 Field Squadron Workshop
Adelaide Sth. Australia Final Date TBA 2016
Contact Don Grieveson
grieveson@internode.on.net

17 Construction Squadron Workshop October 2015
Bendigo Victoria
Contact Garry Whykes H 08 9276 1920
M 0411 810077
gwhykes@gmail.com

102 Field Workshop September 2015
“Avondale” 601 Bray’s Rd Gannawarra
Contact Noel Lake 03 5456 9246

1 Armoured Regiment LAD
Halls Gap Victoria 2015
Contact Russell Cunningham H 03 5766 2413
M 0437 834089
bungie12@bigpond.net.au

1 Div. S&T / 5 Coy. Workshop
Darwin 15th 16th 17th August 2014
Contact Trevor Smith H 08 8985 4116
M 0408 033380
trevor.smith13@bigpond.com

106 Field Workshop
Wrest Point Casino Hobart 3rd 4th 5th October 2014
Contact Patrick Downey H 03 244 2508

Dennis Clarke
President

BANDIANA CHAPTER

Bandiana Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner on Saturday the 16th November was again well attended including our Colonel- Commandant COL Brian Jones and Lorraine, Deputy Head of Corps LTCOL David Phillips, Corps RSM WO1 Craig Webb, State RAEME Association President John Boothroyd and Robina, with Secretary Alan Rogers and Verna and Patron of the National Service Association COL David Miller and Beverley. Earlier in the day the State Committee held a meeting in Wodonga.

We changed venue this year to the Commercial Club Albury and it was an enjoyable dinner with a memorable talk from WO1 Michael Waters, ASM Armament and Construction Wing, ASEME, ALTC. Michael has extensive experience in Operational Support of Special Forces. Michael shared his insights of weapons support to SAS in Afghanistan.

Michael's wife Heather also attended our dinner and is known to many present as they knew her parents Noel and Sandra Bonnell. In thanking Michael for his talk our Chapter also offered our thanks to all recent veterans and their families.

Look at this Committee above. My thanks to them.

RAEME ASSOCIATION (Vic) 71st CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER MELBOURNE

On Friday 29 November Anje and I and travelled to Melbourne for the State Association Corps Birthday Dinner and enjoyed ourselves while getting to know 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.

Coming Up

Thursday 6 February 2014

RAEME Remembrance Day
6.00pm at The Craftsman Memorial
South Bandiana.

AGM Mar 2014

Annual General Meeting,
7.00 pm at the Wodonga RSL

Andy Turner

Bandiana Chapter President



Bandiana Chapter Committee

*Jack Colville, Rodney Bolt, Joe Owen, George Reid, Andy Turner,
Brian Jones, Hans Sievers and Phil Stevenson (and Harry the Horse)*

BEERSHEBA DAY - 31 OCTOBER 2013

Colonel Commandant COL Brian Jones and I again attended the 3rd Cavalry Regiment memorial at Tongala in northern Victoria for their annual service. RAEME “black hats” are welcome at this service where the memorial reflects the mutual respect between CAV and RAEME. Troopers and Craftsmen turn up from all over Australia.

Tongala school children placed the flags of our KIA including for Craftsman Doug Borlace.



I thank Brian Jones for his COL COMDT visits over the years to the CAV Memorial.

His presence was significant for the CAV / RAEME ongoing relationships.

MAJ Andy Turner
A SQN 3rd CAV LAD SVN 1967

Corps 71st BIRTHDAY DINNER

At the Corps Birthday Dinner on 29th November, President John Boothroyd welcomed our incoming Colonel-Commandant **BRIG David McGahey**, and presented former Colonels-Commandant:

- Jack Wilson**
- Terry Beaton**
- Brian Jones**

with Certificates of Appreciation

Presentations



Col/Cmdt Sigediar David McGehey presenting CFN Matthew Higgs with the RAEME Assn Vic Inc CFN of the Year Award



President John Boothroyd presenting past Col/Cmdt Jack Wilson with the RAEME Association Vic Inc Certificate of Appreciation



President John Boothroyd presenting Past Col/Cmdt Terry Beaton with the RAEME Association Vic Inc Certificate of Appreciation



President John Boothroyd Presenting out going Col/Cmdt Brian Jones the RAEME Association Vic Inc Certificate of Appreciation

Salute to our Heroes

An article written for the Alkira Secondary College
VCAL program "In Their Footsteps"
by student Jenna Hutton-Murdoch.



'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At
the going down of the sun and in the morning We will
remember them.' (From the poem *For The Fallen* by
Robert Binyon)

Our past is important, it is ageless and should never be forgotten. It is the reason for our present and our future. We must never forget the sacrifices that were made and it is our duty to preserve the memory of those who have been lost. Australia and New Zealand have been shaped by many events. We have survived wars, natural disasters and conflict between our own borders. We are a free country and a proud nation, our freedom though was hard won, on the shores of Anzac Cove in Gallipoli on the 25th of April 1915. A battle began and Australia assisted her allies. On the days the battle raged, bonds were forged that would last eternity and an event occurred that would never be forgotten.



This article is dedicated to Aranka Illia and all of our service men and women past and present to whom we owe our lives and our freedom. There are those who have faced war head on and fought risking their lives, for our country in the field. Those courageous people who fought for us, some paid with the ultimate sacrifice. We remember them, those who have faced the horrors of war.



Aranka Illia

There are individuals who don't fight in the field that are significant to the cause and also deserve our respect and gratitude. The bravery they possess to serve our country is immense. Those behind the lines such as those from the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association are responsible for the maintenance of the equipment involved with army service and as such they are also exceedingly essential within the Australian community.

The RAEME association is dedicated to developing spirit and tradition throughout the RAEME Corps, established in 1942. RAEME only became official in Victoria on the 7th of December 1945. Through RAEME military relationships are developed and preserved while involving members in social, military and Corps events in Victoria. There numerous members within the RAEME Association that I would like to dedicate this article to but I would especially like to honour Aranka Illia.

Aranka has served Australia in countless ways, firstly by being the interpreter for her Hungarian family when they first migrated from Europe. She is a valued citizen and has devoted much of her life to her country. The embodiment of the Australian spirit she calls herself a 'true blue' Aussie. Her extensive service record includes sixteen years with the Australian Reserves from 1977-1993. She also spent time in the Woman's Royal Australian Army Corps, until its disbandment in 1980, from 1980-1984.

Aranka was involved with The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery which preceded a transfer to RAEME. After a discharge from the reserves in 1993, Aranka now holds rank within the police force as a finance officer, again another job behind the scenes that ensures that others can do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

Aranka still assists with those in military service in addition to keeping in touch with her military companions. She has become the first female president of an RSL, her standing is held with the Clayton RSL Sub-branch.

This article is a testament to how every service man and women represents their country, the ideals they uphold, the example they set and those they inspire. Some may physically fight for us but they all protect us and all of them deserve our respect.

The Anzac Spirit drives our service men and women today, they are our inspiration and they are the reason for hope in one of the darkest times in Australian history. The ANZAC spirit is people, the people who fought, the ones who were lost, members of our family and friends. We carry on the ANZAC spirit within our lives, through the relationships we form, the people we meet and the Australia we represent through the choices that we make. Without our citizens, Australia is just land and our history is incomplete.

Aranka and RAEME uphold the ANZAC spirit every day. Aranka's voluntary and prestigious position, as the first female president of an RSL, is a testament to the ANZAC spirit and this is the future she has fought for. Aranka's involvement with the police force is another form of the ANZAC spirit. Whenever you do something in the name of justice, whenever you help another person and whenever you represent your country, it is showing the ANZAC spirit. The people who loved their country so much they fought the ultimate battle. We must not let our past define us for there is always the future for redemption and opportunity, but we must allow our past a voice as it will guide and shape us for a better future.

The ANZACS have shaped Australia more than they could have ever imagined at the time. Even when the war commenced on the 4th of August 1914, Australians chose to represent their country and assist an ally.



Even when they didn't have to, Australians voluntarily enlisted which showed their courage. The families back on the home front continued building Australia and New Zealand which showed perseverance. The war brought people together and still does. It is a symbol of Australian history and represents both the good and the bad.

The ANZACs have taught us that everything comes with a price and that together we can achieve anything. Even when the odds were against us on the blood stained sands of Gallipoli and the frozen trenches of the Western Front, we didn't give up. We fought on together, and together we persevered and protected our nation.

The ANZACs have taught us it's not about wars that nobody really wins, but rather that together we can make a nation, together we can heal and together we can make a better future. Together on the ANZAC Day, the 25th of April and Remembrance Day, the 11th of November we stand together as one to remember all of this.

Jenna Hutton-Murdoch
VCAL Student
Alkira Secondary College
Cranbourne

Bibliography:

1. *Gallipoli and the ANZACS*, (2010), Australian Government, retrieved 14th of October 2013 <<http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/>>
2. *RAEME Association of Victoria Inc*, (2013), *RAEME*, retrieved 14th of October 2013 <<http://www.vic.raeme.org.au/>>
3. *Mrs Nicole Scott* who introduced the idea and was my liaison with Aranka Illia who this article is about
4. *Aranka Illia* herself



Jenna Hutton-Murdoch reading the Ode at the RAEME Tree in the grounds of the Shrine on 16th October 2013



HEALTH ISSUES

BLOOD PRESSURE:

WHAT IS BLOOD PRESSURE?

Blood pressure is the pressure of blood in the arteries as the heart pumps blood around the body. Blood pressure is normal. We all have it and need it to stay alive. Your blood pressure is always changing. When you are resting it is usually lower. It is often high during exercise and when you become angry or excited. Blood pressure can be measured by your GP. The result will have two numbers (e.g 120/90) The first (higher) number is the pressure when the heart actually beats and is called the systolic pressure. The second (lower) number is the pressure when the heart rests between beats and is called the diastolic pressure. Your doctor may take your blood pressure several times before deciding if your blood pressure is low, normal or high.

HERE IS A GUIDE TO BLOOD PRESSURE LEVELS IN ADULTS:

Normal -less than 140/90

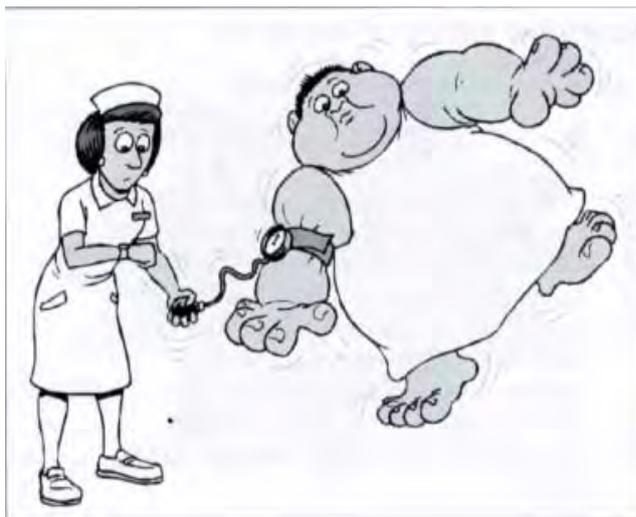
Borderline -between 140/90 and 160/95

High -more than 160/95

Very high -more than 180/110.

Blood pressure is normally lower in children and in women during pregnancy. Low blood pressure is generally not a problem. However, it sometimes can be a symptom of a medical problem. Your general practitioner will advise you. The medical term for high blood pressure is hypertension. About one in seven Australian adults have it. It increases your risk of heart disease, stroke and other heart problems. The causes of high blood pressure are often unknown. However lifestyle factors such as smoking, being overweight, your diet, alcohol and lack of exercise can increase your risk of high blood pressure.

High blood pressure rarely gives you any warning signs. The only way to know what First Edition **HEALTH ISSUES BLOOD PRESSURE:** your blood pressure is, is to have it checked every two years, or more often if your GP advises you to.



WHAT CAN I DO TO CONTROL MY BLOOD PRESSURE?

- Eat less fat and salt
- Eat plenty of cereals, fruit, fish and vegetables
- Eat less red meat
- Stay a healthy weight
- Exercise for at least 30 minutes on most or every day of the week. If you like, the 30 minutes can be accumulated in shorter sessions of at least 10 minutes.
- Limit alcohol to two glasses per day or less
- If you are given tablets to control blood pressure, take them as prescribed
- Be a non-smoker
- Have your blood pressure checked every two years or as directed by your general practitioner.

For further information you may wish to consult your family GP or contact
Vic Health on
www.vichealth.gov.au

SPANNER PACK THANKS

Here are some letters written to Raymond Norman, President of the RAEME National Association expressing thanks for "Spanner Packs" sent to RAEME personnel serving overseas - names omitted:

On behalf of the Rotary Group Wing 7 Technical Support Troop (TST), I would like to express our sincere thanks for the Operation Spanner Pack care packages we received.

We are currently deployed to Afghanistan, namely Kandahar Airfield (KAF). Our task here is to provide 24hr maintenance support, to the two Australian CH-47D Chinooks operating out of KAF. RWG is working as a part of the US Task Force, flying in support of NATO. As the TST, we cover all the maintenance that is required with conducting flying operations. Maintenance varies constantly, be it scheduled maintenance or the unfavourable un-scheduled maintenance. When not keeping the Aircraft serviceable, our days are kept busy by the regular requirement for keeping our vast array of Ground Support Equipment serviced and calibrated. Not to say there isn't time for the regular 'stitch up' or practical joke. There is always time for a good practical joke, or two.

We have been here for a bit over 3 months now and the weather is beginning to heat up. The care packages have arrived at an ideal time, especially for keeping our sugar levels up. I'm sure you could imagine, it gets pretty hot completing work inside and around the aircraft, when they are sitting on the flight line tarmac (this being the location for the majority of our workload).

In regards to the contents of the packs, honestly, I think you have nailed it. While we have access to 'candy' here, there is no substitute to opening a pack and seeing some childhood favourite lollies. This is evident when you see the huge grins on grown men, when the care packages are opened. Personally, it was the 'Arnotts Ginger Nut Biscuits' that did it for me. Love them. The stubby coolers are great for 'esprit de corps', and will make a great reminder of the tour, and an honourable entrant to the collection back home. Playing cards...who doesn't love cards.

Once again, please accept a huge thank you from the RWG TST to the RAEME National Association for the packages. I can say with confidence that your efforts and thoughts are greatly appreciated by all of us here.

On behalf of all members here in the A Vehicle Maintenance Section of the MTF -4 Workshop, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the recent arrival of the Operation Spanner Packs.

The packs contents are awesome, and a large morale boost at our present stage of the operation.

Once again a big thank you to all involved in these Spanner Packs.

I received my spanner pack. Thankyou goes out to you and the RAEME Association.

Most of the ANZAC Day Spanner packs arrived some weeks ago, the remainder are trickling in with the last of the ANZAC Day good will mail. Thank you once again for the efforts of yourself and your volunteers. I know the Spanners Packs are gratefully received by all members of the Corps, especially those who are serving their deployment in the more remote and isolated Patrol Bases.

I would just like to take the time to write you a quick email and thank you on behalf of myself (CFN Shaun Martin VM) and CPL Lee Bailey (fitter armourer) for the spanner pack that you and the RAEME National Association send us. We are currently serving as part of MTF 4 out of Patrol Base Wall just outside of Tarin Kowt. It's always heart warming to receive packages especially ones that remind us of home and the people back there that are thinking over us and giving their support to us while we are away from our friends and family for an extended period of time. This is both of our second deployments as RAEME soldiers and the RAEME Association has shown their support of both of us on both trips so thank you for your continual support to RAEME soldiers both overseas and back home.

Just wanted to drop a line and let you know that the Spanner Packs are making their way around to all the guys here in AFGN. We are very grateful. They are slowly being sent in through postage on incoming flights from UAE and most have arrived at their final destination. It is a true surprise to all when they crack it open to find the joys of home packed snuggled away inside. Can you please thank those that have helped in providing these packages, we have certainly appreciated them.

Wish you all the best on this ANZAC Day and thank you from all the RAEME personnel in TK.
Arte et Marte

I am currently deployed on OP ASTUTE in East Timor as part of the Timor Leste Aviation Group (TLAG).

Last month we received several of the "Spanner Packs" to share amongst the Technical Support Troop (TST) members.

Myself and most of the TST are from the 5th Aviation Regiment in Townsville, where we maintain the S70-A9 Blackhawk.

Just thought I'd drop you a line and say thanks for the "Spanner Pack" that was organised for the two RAEME members here at Camp Phoenix in Dili.

The Boss and I divided the pack, but he got the ginger nut biscuits. Also Brett mentioned that the PTI should have a look in as he and Brett did a lot of work together at RAMS (School of Helicopter Fixers) together.

So, I got the stubbie holder and the muesli bars.

Thanks for the thoughts and the packs.

The three RAEME soldiers from 9 CSSB that are currently deployed on Op ANODE arrived in the Solomon Islands in early April and will RTA in early Aug 12. Many thanks for your support.

I am currently serving in Timor Leste with TLAG 17, this is now my 3rd deployment here, and I can say I know Dili quite well now, as you would assume. I have done deployments both as a single member and a married member, and I think that being deployed single is rather a harder thing to cope with.

You sit back when the mail comes in and everyone is getting mail from their wives and children, which is fantastic for them, but can be a very depressing time for the people that are not getting any mail. So this leads to where my ramblings are getting to.

The care packages that are sent from the RAEME Association are a much sought after item when they arrive, the feeling you get when you open them is just like being a little boy on Christmas morning, so I thought that I would put a few words together and thank everyone for the spanner packs, so believe it, they really are cherished by a lot of people over here, even though they think they are too manly to say *so*.

So if you could keep up the great work it would be very much appreciated.

PS the ANZAC biscuits are my favourite, great with rum and coffee.



The 44th Intake of Army Apprentices is holding a 25 year Anniversary next March,

Please canvas your members to get this message as widely distributed as possible.

Invites are extended to ex apprentices, staff and partners.

Place: Brisbane CBD – Venues TBA

Date: 01-02 March 2014

Contact: Jamie Sharpe

44thhappyreunion@gmail.com

Expressions of interest to attend:

RSVP: by no later than 30 Jan 2014.

Diary Dates - Functions 2014

16th March Shrine Pilgrimage

Melbourne Shrine
1100hrs Shrine Tour
1200hrs Sanctuary & RAEME Tree
1300hrs Light Luncheon

13th April Anzac Day Reunion *

Clayton RSL 1130hrs

25th April ANZAC Day March *

18th May Presidents Lunch *

Clayton RSL

6th July Reserve Forces Day Parade *

24th August Annual General Meeting *

Clayton RSL

11th November Remembrance Day

Clayton RSL 1100h

Bandiana Annual Dinner *

RAEME Birthday Dinner *

(* = details to be advised)

Jest a minute

An Irish C130 Hercules, contracted from the Irish Air Force, was flying from Karachi to Kandahar.

As they approached Kandahar airport, they looked out the front window.

"Begorra!" said Paddy "Will ye look at how short dat runway is." "You're not kiddin, Paddy" replied Seamus. "Dis is gonna be one a' de trickiest landings you're ever gonna see," said Paddy.

"You're not kiddin, Paddy." replied Seamus. "Right Seamus. When I give de signal, you put de engines in reverse" said Paddy. "Right, I'll be doing dat" replied Seamus.

"And den ye put de flaps down straight away" said Paddy. "Right, I'll be doing dat" replied Seamus.

"And den ye stamp on dem brakes as hard as ye can" said Paddy. "Right, I'll be doing dat" replied Seamus.

"And den ye pray with all a' your soul" said Paddy. "I be doing dat already" replied Seamus.

So they approached the runway with Paddy and Seamus full of nerves and sweaty palms. As soon as the wheels hit the ground, Seamus put the engines in reverse, put the flaps down, stamped on the brakes and prayed with all of his soul.

Amidst roaring engines, squealing of tyres and lots of smoke, the plane screeched to a halt centimetres from the end of the runway, much to the relief of Paddy and Seamus and everyone on board.

As they sat in the cockpit regaining their composure, Paddy looked out the front window and said to Seamus "Dat has gotta be de shortest runway I have EVER seen in me whole life".

Seamus looked out the side window and replied:

"Yeah Paddy, but look how wide it is".

(Being half Irish, Editor Pat Marley is allowed to tell Irish jokes!)

RAEME SERGEANTS

- * Can cuss for ten minutes without ever repeating a word.
- * Can play a new Lieutenant like a finely tuned instrument.
- * Have eyes in the back of their heads.
- * Don't know how to be politically correct.
- * Can run 5 miles with a hangover.
- * Can tell you anything you want to know about a L1A1 and L1A2 although they are no longer in the inventory.
- * Believe that they do have a rendezvous with destiny.
- * Don't believe that a CCSB really needs a CO.
- * Know how to properly construct a field latrine.
- * Would rather be NCO than Commissioned
- * Don't believe a thing civilians say.
- * Don't need a GPS to find themselves.
- * Think that combat rations taste good (with a little tomato sauce).
- * Have more time on the front-line than most others have in the mess line.
- * Know that it's not good coffee when you can see through it.
- * Don't blame poor marksmanship on their Steyr.
- * Know that inept leaders will always say they have inept soldiers.

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION
(Vic) Inc.**
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805
**COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT**

President:

MAJ John Boothroyd RFD.ED (Retd)
☎ (03) 9704 6625

Vice President:

WO1 Alan Hawkins
☎ (BH) (03) 9282 6926
Mobile: 0409 662 916
allan.hawkins@defence.gov.au

Secretary & Public Officer:

Alan Rogers
☎ (03) 9704 6700
Mobile: 0422 8 88 851
raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

Membership:

Gus Allen
☎ (03) 9802 5460
gus_allen@bigpond.com

**Treasurer/Merchandising/
Promotion:**

Aranka Illia
☎ (BH) (03)9566 9468
☎ (AH) (03) 9796 4794
aranka.illia@police.vic.gov.au (W)
or sm2aranka@optusnet.com.au (H)

Welfare & Betterment/Almoner:

MAJ Michael Newbond
☎ (03) 9799 8048
Mobile 0411 769 980
mn31050@bigpond.com

Rules & By-Laws:

Alan Rogers / John Boothroyd

Membership**Kindred Associations and
ANZAC House:**

Gus Allen
☎ (03) 9802 5460
gus_allen@bigpond.com

Editor / Web Master:

Pat Marley
☎ (03) 9802 0637
Mobile: 0407 056 298
patmar@melbpc.org.au
or pat@patmar.id.au

Social Conveners:

MAJ John Boothroyd RFD.ED (Retd)
☎ (03) 9704 6625
Alan Rogers
☎ (03) 9704 6700
Mobile: 0422 8 88 851
raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

**Unit Representative
& Military Adviser:**

WO1 Alan Hawkins
☎ (BH) (03) 9282 6926
Mobile: 0409 662 916
allan.hawkins@defence.gov.au

Chaplain:

John Brownhill

BANDIANA CHAPTER

President Andrew Turner
☎ (02) 6056 1946
Secretary: George Reid
PO Box 231
WODONGA Vic 3689
☎ (02) 60593153
reidysnr@inet.net.au

SEYMOUR CHAPTER

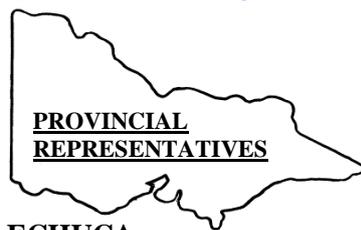
President David Maddick
☎ (03) 5793 8396
muffettsplum@bigpond.com

RAEME VIETNAM SOUTHERN

President Dennis Clarke
☎ H (03) 9848 6757
Mob 0409 518744
eastern.auto@optusnet.com.au
Secretary Dennis Meek
☎ H (03) 9798 3452
dennis.meek@bigpond.com

VICTORIA BARRACKS CHAPTER

President CAPT Tony Minniti
☎ Mob 0431 546 337
Tony.Minniti@defence.gov.au
Secretary Alex Birrell
☎ Mob 0419004 337
alex.birrell@defence.gov.au

**ECHUCA**

Dom Pontelandolfo
☎ (03) 5482 1035
dpontelandolfo@msn.com

SHEPPARTON

Mark Ryan
☎ (03) 5823 1022
stay@sheppark.com.au

BALLARAT/DAYLESFORD

George Hepburn
24 Junction St. BALLARAT 3350
☎ (03) 5331 3153

**BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/
HEATHCOTE**

Jack Balsillie
147 The Outlook Bendigo Village
Mandurang Rd.
Spring Gully 3550
☎ (03) 5443 4803

HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG

Rex Foord
598 Thompson Rd,
NORLANE 3214
☎ (03) 5275 1728

WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT

Brian Driscoll
☎ (03) 5595 4273

**BERWICK/PAKENHAM
WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/
TRARALGON & SALE**

Alan Rogers
☎ (03) 9704 6700
Mobile: 0422 8 88 851
raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

**CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA
& WELSHPOOL**

Kevin Moon
1 Hawkins St,
KORUMBURRA 3950
☎ (03) 5655 1545

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 31 March 2014**

**Items to Pat Marley:
patmar@melbpc.org.au**

or

pat@patmar.id.au

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

If undeliverable return to
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The RAEME Association of Victoria Inc
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