

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**April 2016**

**Issue 83**

**The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.**  
*Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994*  
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Print Post Approved: PP 339540061

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**Life Member Doug Brazier (RIP) at the RAEME Tree, The Melbourne Shine, January 2016, with son Rod**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Committee Meeting at Seymour

On Saturday 13 Feb, our Committee meeting was hosted in Seymour by Dave and Sonnyia Maddick.

Not only did we have perfect weather, but the country hospitality was genuine and appreciated by all! Thank you, Dave and Sonnyia for opening your home to us.

### Alkira College

The WW1 descendant's project got under way for 2016 on the Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Thanks to members who give their time, namely Neil Charter, Peter Morgan, Don Kinsey, John Sloss and especially Andrew Mclean who stayed on for the second session as well!

Thank you also to Margaret and Ivan Royle who unfortunately got their dates mixed up and turned up a day late at the school.

### ANZAC Day

Anzac Day is our next major event on the calendar. I encourage you to attend if possible. We will have a vehicle available for those who feel that the distance is too great (from our start point in Collins Street to the Shrine).

Unfortunately I will not be in Melbourne for the march as Janice and I will be on a cruise, departing Sydney to Hawaii via New Zealand and the French Polynesia islands. We will arrive back in Melbourne on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

Aloha!

**Mike Newbond**  
President



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Seymour Meeting ; Widows Lunch;** At the last Committee meeting the value of the Association Widows being the guest of the President at the Presidents Lunch was subject to a lengthy discussion, over the last several years only 1-2 widows had attended. It was finally agreed that the Association Remembrance Day at the Melbourne Shrine would be a more appropriate function and that in future the Association Widows would be the guest of the Association President at the Shrine. This would give the Widows the opportunity to place a Remembrance Poppy on their husband's Cross, additionally it would allow the families to be in attendance (at family cost if staying for lunch). This year would be the final Presidents Lunch that widows would be guests of the President

**Alkira College: WW1:** The ANZAC Commemorative Ceremony at Alkira Secondary College will begin at 10:45am on Friday the 22nd of April 2016. Morning tea will be served beforehand at 10:15am.

**In order that the College can arrange catering please advise the Association Secretary if you will be attending the Ceremony by the 18th April 2016.**  
**☎ 0704 6700. email; secretary@vic.raeme.org.au**

On 8<sup>th</sup> March several Association members along with other WW1 descendants sat down with the Alkira College Students and gave a talk about their family member who served in WW1. Our thanks to those members. Neil Charter, John SLOSS, (RAV) Peter Morgan (RAASC/RACT) Don Kinsey, Andrew McLean. for their time and effort

**RAEME National Association:** Phil Coppin has resigned as RNA President, Richard Moyses of SA has stepped in as interim President. Dennis Clarke has indicated that he will remain as RNA Vice President (President Elect) as elected at the RNA Committee last year. The meeting to be held on the 9th March 2016 was cancelled due to illness in the family of Richard Moyses. The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc forwarded our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Next RNA Meeting 23rd March 2016, RAV Inc has submitted a detailed Agenda for the meeting.

**Life Member:** Nomination Forms for Life Member are available from the Association Secretary. Nominations will be accepted from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 by the Association Returning Officer. Nomination details noted in Nomination Form.

## COMING EVENTS

### ANZAC Day Reunion

To be held at the Clayton RSL  
Opposite Clayton Railway Station  
Date 16th April 2016  
Time 1130hrs-1500hrs  
Nibbles Supplied  
Drinks & Meal at Bar Prices  
Ample Car Parking

### ANZAC DAY PARADE

25th April 2016  
Form up @1130h  
Collins St West South Side  
Step off @ 1155h

As RAEME is the 2nd largest Corps  
it is only fitting that we should have  
the LARGEST contingence marching.

All wearers of the HORSE are welcome to march  
under the RAEME Banner regardless whether still  
serving Full Time, Reservists or Retired

After March Celebrations  
Palace Hotel  
550 City Rd South Melbourne

### The ANZAC Commemorative Ceremony

at Alkira Secondary College  
5 Nurture Ave, Cranbourne North  
will begin at 10:45am  
on Friday the 22nd of April 2016.  
Morning tea will be served  
beforehand at 10:15am.

In order that the College can arrange catering  
please advise the Association Secretary if you will  
be attending the Ceremony by the 18th April 2016.  
☎ 0704 6700. e-mail; secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

### President's Lunch

15th May 2016  
Clayton RSL  
Opposite Clayton Railway Station

The newly acquired Association Centre Piece was  
Commissioned at the 2015 Birthday Dinner by the  
Association President Major Mike Newbond.

Acknowledgements to the Association Members who  
made the Centre Piece possible:

**WO2 Sean Halley** (*Manufacture of the Centre Piece*),  
**WO1 Allan Hawkins** (*Design*),  
**Major John Halstead** (*Retd*)(*Badge*),  
**S/SGT Alan Rogers** (*Retd*) (*Badge*),  
**WO1 Alex Birrell** (*Retd*)(*Carry Case*),  
**WO1 Jim Lewicki** (*Retd*), (*Carry Case*)

It is intended that the Centre Piece will be paraded at  
Association Functions, be available to the Association  
Chapters and to Victorian RAEME Units for display at  
the unit on application to the Association Secretary

**Alan Rogers**  
Association Secretary



## Vale Doug Brazier - Life Member

Vice-President  
WO1 Allan Hawkins

During the month of February, we lost a most true gentleman in Doug Brazier, I was asked to say a few words on behalf of the Victorian RAEME Association at his funeral, and the following is a recap

### Vale Douglas George Brazier

Douglas Brazier has been a stalwart and was an esteemed long-time serving Member of the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.



Doug Brazier was one of three who experienced first-hand this new re-organisation and the birth of AEME. These three original "BLUEBELLS" arrived via very different routes but given the war situation at the time, they were decidedly underwhelmed by its birth. Doug's pathway to AEME began in 1942 when he in listed in the militia and was sent to Ordnance, as he was a carpenter by trade, where he was posted to 113<sup>th</sup> Brigade Workshop, and later that year he was deployed to Port Moresby via Queensland. Excerpt from the book With Skill and Fighting – the Craftsman of the Australian ARMY 1942-2014, it is written

*"Doug recalls that he and his mates were impressed by the birth of the new Corps, and they liked the idea of their new individual title of Craftsman. But there was no time for celebration, they were just too busy."*

Doug had been a member of the Victorian RAEME Association for a few decades.

Doug was awarded Life Membership of RAEME Association Vic in 1996.

Doug was awarded a Certificate of Cinematography in 2014 for his outstanding work in the recording of the history of events for the Victorian Association. His gentle nature and caring attitude are some of his attributes that induced respect for the man that he was.

It was extremely pleasing to see Doug at last year's ANZAC day service although not of good health was surrounded by his wonderful family that made sure he was going to enjoy the day.

The Victorian RAEME Association committee and members extends their deepest condolences to the Brazier family on the passing of this true gentleman.



**Barry Irons**  
4 January 2016

**Doug Brazier**  
Life Member  
5 February 2016



## Vale: 3103486 Staff Sergeant Barry Irons

It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of 3103486 Staff Sergeant Barry Irons EM RFM on the 4th January 2016. Barry was a well-known identity in the Corps of Arty having served many years as a Recovery Mechanic and an Armament Artificer in both 15 Fd and 2/15 Fd Regiments. His latter years of service were with 3 EME Services Unit and 105 Field Workshop. The high esteem and respect that his military colleagues held for Barry was clearly evident by the many 'Craftsmen and Gunners' who paid homage by attending his funeral.

I first befriended Barry when he was a CEBS Leader ( Church of England Boys Society ) at All Saints Ch of Eng in Clayton in the late 1950's and it was also here that he met his wife Margaret. They were married in Daylesford on the 1st May 1965.

Barry was an apprentice Sheet Metal Worker/Panel Beater. However it was a trade not to his liking and he became a 'Painter and Auto Re-Finisher' – a skill in which he excelled and which also gave him 'job satisfaction'. He was employed by Dulux for the better part of his working life in their Automotive Section specialising in ducos/paints and later in their Research Section as a 'Trouble-shooter'. Barry was a profound reader – particularly Military History and Armaments, he enjoyed welding and had an interest in restoring old cars.

On the 3rd January 1959 Barry enlisted in the National Service – 20 NS Bn. On completion of his National Service training, he enlisted into the CMF on the 1st July 1960. He was posted to 15 Fd Regt LAD on the 6th September 1960 as a Cpl Recovery Mechanic.

As the OC of the LAD ( Light Aid Detachment ), I particularly re-call two memories where Barry's 'recovery' skills were brought to the fore. The first was during the Arty Group camp in Cultana ( Sth Aust ) in 1975 when an ambitious ARA Captain borrowed (?) an APC to go 'yabbing' on the very close shores of Spencer Gulf. The coastline was tidal and swampy to say the least and the APC became bogged. With a threatening high tide it took all of Barry's leadership and experience into the night (not to mention all hands from the LAD ) to extract the vehicle and avoid an investigation and the submission of a very expensive and unexplainable L & D.

Secondly : The CO of 2/15 Fd Regt, Lt Col Graham Allinson planned a movement exercise for the Regiment over the Snowy High Plains during the first week of the 1977 annual camp. The CO's strategy was that if Barry could drive the Twin Boom Wrecker over the rough mountain terrain during the reconnaissance exercise then the Regiment could do it towing their 105 Pack Howitzers as a challenging diversion on their way to Pucka.

Barry accomplished the mission and the Regiment undertook one of the most daring ( but exciting ) exercises that I partook in during my eight years with Arty.

Barry served continuously for a total of over 24 years in Artillery for both 15 Fd Regt and 2/15 Fd Regt ( after the Regiments merged in 1975 ). Initially he was a Cpl Recovery Mechanic during my stint but later qualified as an Armament Artificer.

As previously mentioned, one of Barry's interests was the study of weaponry and armament equipment. To this end he wrote some very detailed and comprehensively researched articles for 'Cascabel' – the Artillery Association Magazine - during the period 2010 through to 2014. These presentations included "The Origin of the 25 Pounder", a five part series on "The Development of the Tank", and "The History of Artillery of the Civil War".

Barry was a valuable asset to the LAD ( later the TST ). He was very proficient in the performance of his task and was always willing to help when there was work to be done outside his area of expertise. His knowledge of not only recovery techniques but also General Engineering ( incl welding ) and weaponry was an asset that he applied in a skilful manner. Barry's later contributions to the Regiment was as a qualified Armament Artificer. He was well respected by all members of the LAD and the Regiment and I held him in very high regard as an NCO. He reflected a friendly disposition and was a companion to all those who knew him.

In more recent times Barry was an active member of the Clayton R.S.L. He was on the Committee as the Historian and Memorabilia Officer and last year despite his illness, Barry was on the "Steering Committee" with Monash Health for an Exhibition dedicated to WW 1 Nurses, and his knowledge of researching and obtaining information was exceptional.

We were very proud to serve with him.

Stand easy soldier; your duty is done

**Brian Cahill Lt Col RFD ( Retired )**



### Barry Irons' RAEME Record of Service

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 20 National Service Training Battalion  | 3rd Jan 1959    |
| 106 Infantry Workshop                   | 21st March 1959 |
| 105 Infantry Workshop                   | 1st July 1960   |
| 15 Fd Regt Light Aid Detachment         | 6th Sept 1960   |
| 2/15 Fd Regt Tech Support Troop         | 1st July 1975   |
| 3 Electrical & Mechanical Services Unit | 1st April 1985  |
| 105 Field Workshop                      | 21st March 1987 |
| Retired from Service                    | 14th Jan 1995   |

**Vale: VX131987**  
**Douglas George Brazier**

Douglas Brazier was born on 22 August, 1921 in Coburg, Victoria. He was educated at Coburg West Primary and Brunswick Technical Schools. In 1941 he received the 'British Institute of Carpenters best apprentice award then later was to become president of the institute. Employed at H. Parsons Joinery Works in Coburg with his Father who was Foreman wood-machinist, he completed his carpentry & joinery apprenticeship and worked on defence work. He trained with the 'Air Raid Precaution Unit' and 'St John Ambulance' and after hours did 'Toc H' work making hospital equipment.

In 1942 with the Japanese advancing rapidly towards Australia he volunteered and served in the Civilian Military Forces (CMF) from April to December, then the AIF from December 1942 to September 1946. He was 20 years of age and joined as Group 2, Carpenter. His unit was the 113<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group Ordinance Workshops AAOC (Army Ordinance Corps) which was a mobile workshop unit.

He was sent to Bendigo for 6 weeks Infantry-training. Bombs had already fallen on Port Moresby, New Guinea, and the recent Coral-Sea battle (Warships and Aircraft) had temporarily saved the Japanese occupation of Port Moresby.

He travelled north by train to Townsville and while waiting embarkation to Port Moresby his party loaded millions of sandbags for shipment due to wharf strikes at the time. Also, food dumps were established for Queensland Civilians in the event they were invaded by the Japanese.

He sailed aboard the H.M.T Swartenhondt to Port Moresby and arrived on 21<sup>st</sup> June. His first camp was established at '14 Mile' on the 'Rigo Road, Bootless Inlet'. Whilst air raid alerts became the norm day and night, imitation anti-aircraft Guns helped fool the enemy. He and his mates' battled diarrhoea and exhaustion caused through the lack of acclimatisation (blistering sun and torrential rain) as they worked from daylight to dusk 7 days per week on Kokoda Track equipment. Warm bully beef and dog-biscuits were a luxury.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1942, he saw his unit re-designated as 113<sup>th</sup> Australian Independent Brigade Group Workshop AEME. His 2<sup>nd</sup> camp was at Pit Street (adjacent to Bomana Cemetery). While there a Marauder aircraft crashed in to the camp. This camp was at the apex of airstrips, a dangerous position with ack ack fire and bomb run overshoots. Enemy night air raids were frequent. On 12<sup>th</sup> April 1943 during a daylight 100 plane raid 4 x 60kg Anti-Personal Bombs were dropped into the centre of the workshop area. Three key vehicles and their contents were destroyed and 6 personal were injured. A lucky escape for Doug.

The workshops were quickly moved to 'Pioneer Crossing, 8 Mile camp' on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1943. This was adjacent to Wards airstrip and here they experienced heavy ack ack during air raids.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1946 he sore his unit re-designated the 113<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade Workshops AEME, AIF and a month later "Tradesmen became known as Craftsman".

After 18 months in Papua New Guinea Doug returned to Australia for 21 days home leave. Then followed re-training as infantry with the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade on Atherton Tablelands, Queensland he sailed to Madang, New Guinea.

In Madang bayonets and shovels were used to clear the overgrown Siar Plantation. Humid, wet and muddy conditions required necessary drainage of the area and so it was 23 days before work could be accepted by his workshop. After 3 months of hard work and having crated stores and pre-fabricated kitchen and mess hut roof trusses Doug sailed to Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. He had been in active service areas in New Guinea for a period of 2 years.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1944 he arrived at Torokina, Bougainville and disembarked down cargo nets into barges for the journey ashore. The Torokina Perimeter was located near the entrance to the "Numa Numa Trail". The camp site was drained and cleared. From the ANZAC airstrip, fighter-protection was available while bombing Japanese held Rebaul. Also, New Zealand Corsair Aircraft observed Japanese activities in their very strong base in Buin in South Bougainville.

To contain the Japanese the AIF cleared the "Numa Numa" trail and then North Bougainville. Though the Japanese had plenty of Military equipment they were short of food, and crept out of their foxholes at night to try and steal food. Doug then crossed Empress Agusta Bay" by barge to land at Motupena Point, traveled in Convoy over the corduroy 'Buin Road' through crocodile infested swamps to cross the wooden Puriata River bridge. He arrived to camp on the Southern Eastern bank of the Puriata River.

Defence positions were installed and quickly manned, as the previous night the 10<sup>th</sup> Battery 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment had fired one of their seven 25 pounder guns point-blank at the Japanese around the market-garden clearing. Also, that night enemy patrols attacked the Puriata River Bridge behind them. They destroyed a section of that bridge.

Artillery were active as they cleared native vegetable-gardens of sweet potatoes, to enable tents and workshops to be erected and also for the erection of the pre-fabricated kitchen and mess hut. With Japanese forces in the vicinity booby-traps were set off. Guards were very alert and all personnel had guard duty every second night. Fire-flies and phosphorus lit up the jungle. Japanese split-toe jungle-footwear left footprints around the Bren-gun pits. All workshop sections were extremely busy.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1945 Japan surrendered after the Atom bombs were dropped.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1945 his unit was disbanded. Coupled with a De-Mobilisation Point System operating low priority personnel were transferred to other units. Some like Doug instructed at 'Torokina Rehabilitation Training Centre' in carpentry and joinery. On 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1945 the 113<sup>th</sup> Units ceased to exist after 1,363 Days Service. Splendid mate ship prevailed.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 3<sup>rd</sup> Division had proved to be quite an efficient jungle fighting force. They included 57<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup>/59<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions. Doug said we all fought together and was a member of 57<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association which was raised in the Preston area. Doug joined the AEME Association in 1951 and was a proud life member of the RAEME Association.

After receiving his discharge from the AIF in September 1946 Doug returned to work at H. Parson's Joinery Works. He married Thelma in 1949 and their son they named Rodney. After running his own joinery/carpentry business for 9 years and after 22 years in the building industry he then spent 22½ years as a Technical School teacher, retiring as a Senior Teacher in 1981. He retired at age 60 years. He enjoyed travelling with Thelma and also with friends and his hobbies included being a member of various Movie Clubs where he enjoyed making movies.

This hobby, Doug put to good use in recording many RAEME activities and his own Family history.

Thelma sadly passed away in 2001 and Doug continued to travel and make movies and shared them with family and friends. By this time he had 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. In 2014 Doug's health deteriorated and he moved in to BlueCross The Boulevard, Mill Park.

Doug wrote the history of 113<sup>th</sup> Brigade Workshop AIF, AEME and contributed articles for the recently published 'With Skill and Fighting – Craftsman of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 1942 to 2014', book. In 2014 and 2015 he became involved with the Diamond Creek East Primary School where his great grandson Mitchell was a student. This was a great opportunity for him to be involved with family and able to do something constructive in the community, tell his war experiences and educate young people. He was involved in class discussions and interviewed along with other veterans and attended the ANZAC Day 2015 Commemorative Service for Diamond Creek Combined Schools as a VIP. Doug said that with his photo albums and along with involvement with the association he had been able to keep all of those memories alive and to share those experiences with others.

Doug passed away peacefully at The Boulevard, on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. He was 94. "Full of Years". He will be sadly missed by his Family and Friends.



**Barry Irons**  
4 January 2016

**Doug Brazier**  
Life Member  
5 February 2016

## Light Horse & Field Artillery Museum

[www.lighthorsemuseum.com.au/](http://www.lighthorsemuseum.com.au/)



Remember with gratitude the men and women  
who served for us.

Purchase a brick inscribed with your own  
personal message of remembrance  
and help re-open the Museum

Lest We Forget.

Download the information leaflet  
and order form here:

[www.patmar.net.au/LightHorse-ArtilleryMuseumPromotion.pdf](http://www.patmar.net.au/LightHorse-ArtilleryMuseumPromotion.pdf)

*(This is inserted for members' interest  
The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc has no involvement  
with the LH & FA Museum)*

## BLUEBELL Vietnam Veterans Southern

### RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS

#### Next Meeting:

Wangaratta RSL 76A Reid Street Tel. 03 572125017th  
April @ 1030hrs.

Guest: Geoff Trevor- Hunt - former VVAA National  
Secretary & RAEME Viet Nam Secretary.

**Our meeting and stopover at Rusty Springs Avenal  
will happen later this year.**

#### ANZAC DAY

Vietnam Veterans to lead the March in 2016. The form  
up will be in Swanston Street, starting from The Flinders  
Street intersection. The Armoured Regiment LAD will  
move off first at 9.07 on the 25th April.

**BE AWARE OF THE EARLIER STEP-OFF TIME**

#### AFTER THE MARCH

**RAEME VIC BARRACKS CHAPTER** have arranged an  
after-march lunch refreshment etc. at the Palace Hotel  
at 550 City Road, South Melbourne.

The hotel is open from 1000hrs. 9682 3177

**PRAHRAN RSL** at 301 High Street Prahran is the other  
option, which serves lunch organized by the RAE Viet  
Nam Association. It can be reached by catching Tram  
Route No. 6. 0416 062743

#### VVAA ACTIVITIES FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LONG TAN

There was an Involvement in the Vietnamese TET  
Festival held at the Melbourne Show-grounds with an  
extensive display by The Education Team of our  
involvement in the War.

TheVVAA organized a Vigil for the ninety-eight Victorian  
Veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the  
War. Bob Elworthy AM and his team did an excellent  
job of organising and coordinating the event. I would  
like to thank Mike Newbond and Alan Rogers for  
attending and all the Veterans for attending.

A Commemorative quilt depicting all the VVAA sub-  
branches has been produced and organised by  
"Bluebell" Gary Elliot's wife Alma.

A Commemorative cycle Vetrade titled Service  
and Sacrifice from Victoria to the Vietnam  
Veterans National Memorial in Canberra. The  
Victorian portion included visits to locations  
where soldiers were trained before being  
deployed to Vietnam.

Following ANZAC DAY there will be a ladies luncheon  
planned with the Partners of Veterans Association of  
Victoria and the War Widows Guild of Victoria to  
acknowledge the significant role wives, partners and  
carers play in support and encouragement of Veterans  
and to acknowledge the service of female members of  
the Australian Defence Force.

In July a Civic Reception will be conducted at the  
National Gallery of Victoria. The history competition  
winners will be announced and acknowledged. A  
Vietnam War inspired musical composition will be  
performed. Vietnam entertainers and a selected high  
school string quartet will perform. Members of the  
Vietnamese Community will be included.

#### REUNIONS

##### **106 Field Workshop 2016**

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

Venue: Frankston Football Club Victoria  
(The Mighty Dolphins)

Note: There is a lift access & the function centre seats  
over 200

Contact Milton Pearson Tel 03:8976 8648

[Csm066869@gmail.com](mailto:Csm066869@gmail.com)

##### **17 Construction Squadron**

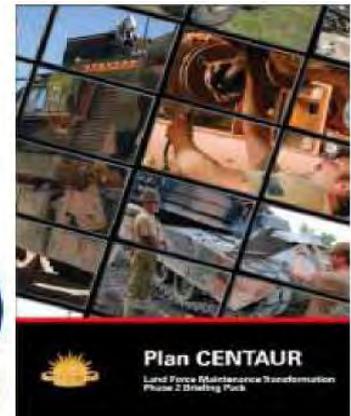
2017 on The Sunshine Coast

##### **1 Fld Sqdn Workshop**

2017 Date and Place to be determined.



**Plan CENTAUR as it is a major initiative in regard to ARMY's future maintenance needs. This overview is for your information.**



## Plan CENTAUR (Phase 2)

### Land Force Maintenance Transformation

*Plan CENTAUR represents Army's approach to reform Land Maintenance to meet its future needs. Phase 2 provides the maintenance community an opportunity to work together to undertake a deep analysis of all major maintenance constraints. The end state will be improved maintenance effect on operation supported by the efficient sustainment of equipment in barracks.*

#### Plan CENTAUR Phase 2 Overview

The Primary focus of Plan CENTAUR Phase 2 is the identification and elimination of maintenance issues and constraints that will impact the deployment, operation and sustainment of the Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR) within the Multi-Role Combat Brigade.

This will involve a detailed baseline analysis to better understand and quantify the issues, and the development of a comprehensive set of improvement initiatives with associated business cases ready for implementation.

The ultimate vision for Plan CENTAUR is to deliver improved maintenance effect on operation, supported by the efficient sustainment of equipment in barracks.

#### Programme Approach

Plan CENTAUR is a CONOPS focused, Army led and contractor supported Programme review of maintenance functions. KPMG has been engaged by Army as their partner to support the delivery of Plan CENTAUR.

The Programme will take a systematic and collaborative approach to address the root-cause of issues and drive a grass-roots challenge to existing structure, culture, doctrine and practices.

This will be followed by an intensive period of stakeholder collaboration in order to develop a comprehensive set of improvement initiatives, and agreed Programme of Work for implementation in Phase 3.

#### Timeline for Phase 2

Phase 2 commences in September 2016 with completion to be achieved by 31 August 2016.

#### What about the wider Combat Brigade?

The ACR within the Combat Brigade is the focus of Phase 2 analysis, however the outcomes are intended to be applicable to all maintenance organisations within Army with minor adjustment.

#### Will jobs be lost under Plan CENTAUR?

This is not a cost-savings activity, and overall workforce numbers will remain the same. Future operating requirements will be achieved by balancing maintenance capacity to asset.

The Team has developed a framework to quantitatively link operational availability with the vehicle fleet and maintenance labour inputs.

#### What does this mean for me?

Plan CENTAUR will remove obstacles effecting our ability to conduct maintenance, effectively streamlining the maintenance capability.

We seek your input and support for Phase 2 data collection and information gathering activities, such as surveys, workshops and including the provision of ongoing feedback throughout the Programme. This will deliver the optimal result for Army.

#### How can I get further information?

Further information will be provided on an ongoing basis throughout the Programme. For additional queries, please contact:

BRIG David McGehey  
Plan CENTAUR Programme Director General  
[david.mcgehey@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.mcgehey@defence.gov.au)

Plan CENTAUR PMO  
[Plan.centaur@defence.gov.au](mailto:Plan.centaur@defence.gov.au)



## SPANNER PACKS FOR RAEME in KABUL



Email to Ray Norman, Coordinator of Spanner Packs:

G'day Ray,

*On behalf of the RAEME guys deployed here in Afghanistan I would like to extend a huge thank you for the Spanner Packs we received today. As we work hand in hand with our REME brethren from 2 Scots, it is very easy to establish that the work done by our association members and sponsors supporting deployed members is truly world class!*

*Although a little disappointed that these days sick mags and rum cans are not encouraged the contents were great and will be shared around with all (yes even with the REME blokes).*

*Thanks again for your support and although we won't be home in time, I trust you and all RAEME Association members will have a great march and successful function at the Port Office next month.*

Kind regards,

Nick.  
WO2 N Shaw

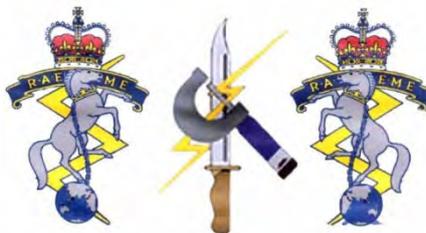
## REME & RAEME in AFGHANISTAN



### Advantages of being over 70 and heading towards 80

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 8 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 5 PM .
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
11. You can't remember why you walked into a room.
12. And you wish these were all in Big Print for your convenience.

# RAEME Association Vic Inc



## Presidents Luncheon

Sunday 15th May 2016

Association Widows Guest of President

All Serving and Retired Members of the Corps  
with their Partner or Guest are invited to attend

*Clayton RSL*

*Carinish Rd Clayton Opposite Clayton Railway Station*

*Timing; 1130hrs for 1200hrs to 1600hrs*

*Cost ; \$ 35-00 p/hd*

*3 Course Meal*

*Drinks at Bar Prices*

*Dress: Smart Casual*

*Please notify of any Dietary Requirements*

**RSVP by 5th May 2016**

Please notify: Alan Rogers P/No 9704 6700

E-mail; secretary@vic.raeme.org.au

PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805



I \_\_\_\_\_ & Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Will / Will Not - be attending the 2016 Presidents Luncheon

Enclosed Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payable to RAEME Association Vic Inc

**Cheque — Money Order**

Made out to: **RAEME Association (Vic) Inc., on reverse - Presidents Lunch 2016**

(Please circle appropriate Payment Method)

**EFT:** Bank. NAB. Berwick **BSB: 083 547 Acct No: 28634 9442**

**(Your Name & Function details are required on EFT payment)**

**For you more mature people of diminishing youth  
ARE WE THE ONES WITH DEMENTIA?  
ARE WE THE ONES WHO ARE CONFUSED? REALLY?**

**ONE**

Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets.

'We don't have half dozen nuggets,' said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied.

'We only have six, nine, or twelve,' was the reply.

'So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.'

So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets

**TWO**

I was checking out at the local supermarket with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those plastic dividers that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the divider, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it.

Not finding the bar code, she said to me, 'Do you know how much this is?'

I said to her 'I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today.'

She said 'OK,' and I paid her for the things and left.

She had no clue to what had just happened.

(But the lady behind me had a big smirk on her face as I left)

**THREE**

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car.

'Do you need some help?' I asked.

She replied, 'I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door un-locker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery to fit this?'

'Hmm, I don't know. Do you have an alarm, too?' I asked.

'No, just this remote thingy,' she answered, handing the combined remote and car key to me.

I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, 'Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries. It's a long walk....'

(Don't shake your head too much ....)

*(Left blank for President's Lunch Return Slip)*



## RESERVE FORCES DAY COUNCIL (VIC) INC

[AIN AOO56874F]

[ABN 58 637 427 280]

### RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF RESERVE SERVICE TO THE NATION

The Honourable Tim Fischer AC. Former Deputy Prime Minister and National Chairman of the RFD Council of Australia will be the Host for the Parade/Commemorative Service at the Shrine of Remembrance

Victoria Chairman - Brigadier Neale Bavington, RFD ED Ret'd

# OPEN INVITATION TO RAEME ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND RAEME RESERVE MEMBERS.

To participate in the

**THE VICTORIAN RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE FOR 2016 AT THE SHRINE OF  
REMEMBRANCE, MELBOURNE.**

**SUNDAY 3rd JULY 2016 at 1000hrs  
PARADE THEME.**

A letter from Brigadier Neale Bavington RFD ED former Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Division FF Gp, and the Chairman of the Reserve Forces Day Council Victoria.

This year we will commemorate the formation of the Third Division One Hundred Years Ago. Historians still report the 3 DIV is "the longest serving Australian Army Division", although it was taken off the Orbat after 75 years of Service. 1916 was the year that John Monash was promoted to Major General and assumed command of 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. The Grand Reunion Parade and Commemorative Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne at 10am.

I look forward to welcoming you at this event, please make an effort to come.

Regards,  
BRIG N Bavington. RFD ED  
Chairman  
Reserve Forces Day Council VIC INC.

**It is expected that the Parade will be conclude by 11.45 am.**

**Personnel who feel the March is too much and would like to watch/participate are encouraged to come with their family we have an area set aside but you will need to bring a folding chair, please make the effort.**

**RAEME is the 2nd largest Corps in the Australian Army, there is no reason that we cannot have the largest contingent marching on this parade**

**We look forward to you joining this commemorative and colourful event.**

**Major Mike Newbond RFD  
Association President  
Arte et Marte**

**For further information Contact Association Secretary Alan Rogers  
☎ (03) 9704 6700 (E) [secretary@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@vic.raeme.org.au)**

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION  
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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 July Flash  
Friday 24 June 2016  
Items to Pat Marley:

[webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:webmaster@vic.raeme.org.au)



**THE LIGHTNING FLASH**

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