

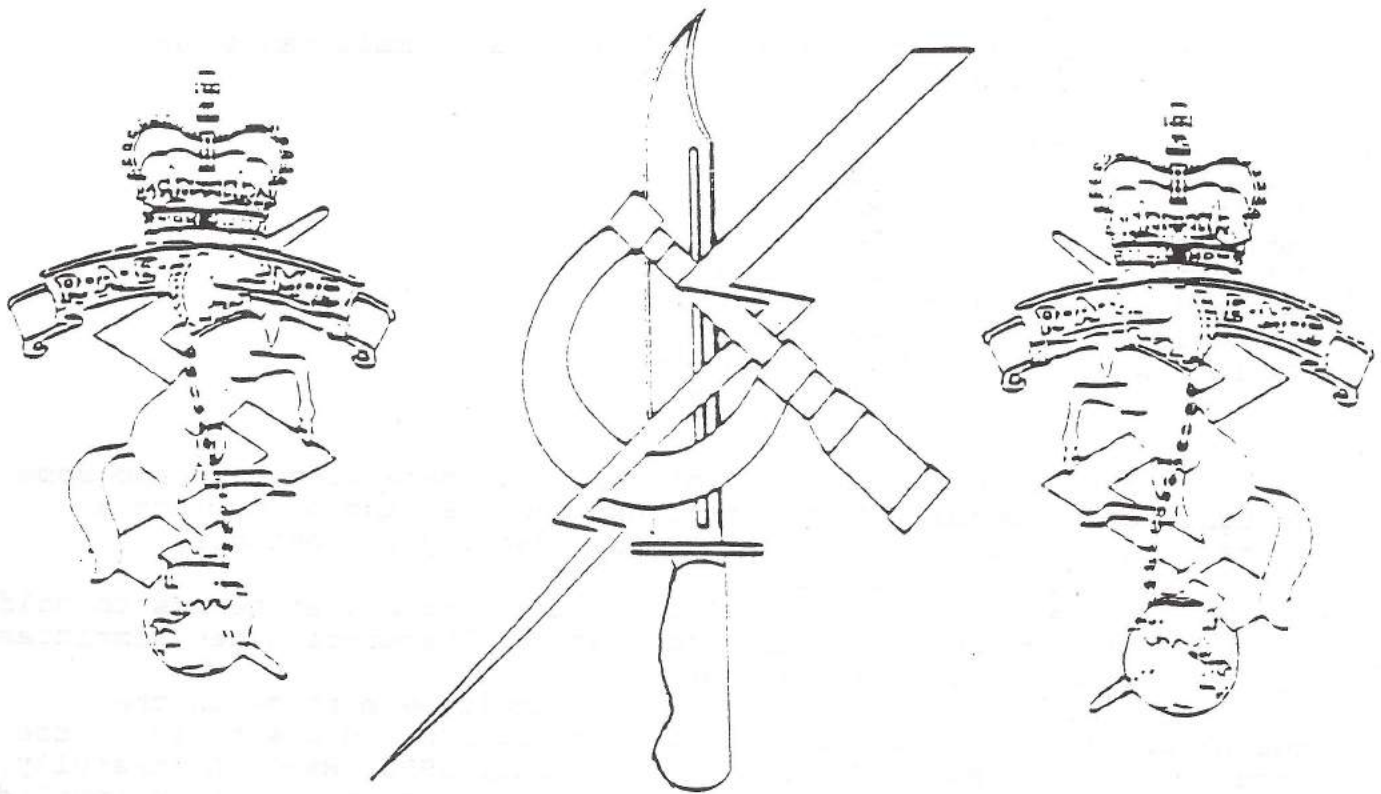
# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC)  
PATRON Brig C Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust FAIM CPeng

Pres Col John Lee RFD ED (Ret'd)

ISSUE 3  
JUNE 1992

Secretary Bruce Williams  
6 Chestnut Crt  
Mulgrave 3170



SOLDIER  
and  
CRAFTSMAN

Editor Capt Bob Hunter (Ret'd)  
126 Alexander Ave Upwey Vic 3158 (03) 754 6314  
Australia Post Publication No VAS 91 8601

This has been your Committee that has steered this Association through the first tough year of being an incorporated body:-

President	John Lee
Vice President	Don MacLeod
Secretary	Bruce Williams
Treasurer	Bob Hunter

General	Ron Clifford
	Aranka Illia
	Ken James
	Ken Kermonde
	Jim McFarlane
	Geoff Maggs
	Max Moore
	Bill Sledgers

(Ken James resigned because of personal commitments and was replaced by Alan Freeth)

Sub Committee Chairmen:-

Corp Reo	John Lee
Social	Max Moore
Membership	Ron Clifford
Editorial	Bob Hunter
Welfare & Betterment	Jim McFarlane
Historical	Bruce Williams
Geelong Area	Ron Clifford
Korumburra	Bill Sledgers

Some of the decisions that had to be made were hard and some a delight but on behalf of the President and his band of toilers a sincere thank you for your support and long may it continue.

However time marches on!.

At the AGM on 19 July 1992 the above committee ceases to hold office in accordance with our constitution. Therefore a new Committee has to be elected at that meeting.

Nominations to serve on the new Committee must be on the nomination form at the rear of this publication and are to be in the hands of the Secretary NO LATER THAN 10 July 1992. Read it carefully, it MUST be filled in correctly and completely otherwise it is invalid.

If you want the Association to prosper this is your chance to either register as a candidate or at the very least be there to show your support.

See you on the 19th July.

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THE ALL IMPORTANT LADIES.

Mention may be made elsewhere in this publication of the tremendous support we continue to get from our ladies in all our activities. Your Committee may have ensured that all our needs were in place for Anzac day but it was the ladies who made it all happen the way it did. To Jenny Moore, Sandra Williams, Lyn and Remeeka Lee, Aranka and the guys who assisted a sincere thanks from the organising committee for a sterling job cheerfully done.

Sick Parade.

One of our hard working committee members. Don McLeod recently



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANZAC day and all the associated activities have been and gone. Any concerns we had about running ANZAC activities from our new "home" have been put to rest. With good planning, hard work and the utmost co-operation from Oakleigh Barracks staff the Social Committee and their helpers made it all happen.

We now look forward to future social events with a high level of confidence - thanks to all concerned.

Now to the immediate future and our AGM. It is a very important day and requires your close attention. Any organisation that leaves it all up to the Committee runs the risk of decay or at least derailment. The Association needs your support at the AGM, first of all to hear and, if necessary, question the various progress reports of the out-going Committee, then, most importantly, to elect the best possible Committee for the up-coming year.

The current Committee is a good one but every committee can be improved. All the individuals on your Committee must be thinkers and doers. It is up to you to make sure the best possible Committee takes over for 1992/93.

Please come along to the AGM, be informed, participate as required and elect a Committee that will take the Association from strength to strength.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Your President  
John Lee.

## PRESENTATION

On Tuesday 31st March 1992 an important event took place at the Oakleigh depot. On that night our President John Lee presented the Associations 3 Div Award to Cpl Kerry Bullmen for being dux of the combined ARA & ARES Sub 2 Cpls examination. From all members of the Association, and indeed the whole Corps, congratulations Kerry we are proud of you for such an achievement.

## FAREWELLS

Two of our members from the far flung reaches of Kooka land have finally had to surrender their uniforms and join the ranks of the retired, very worthy, Craftsmen. I refer, of course to Kevin Moon and Wes Missen. (I wonder how many years of combined service that would total?)

The farewell was held at Korumburra on 30 May and was attended by about 80 people including members from Castlemaine, Stawell and other far flung areas of Victoria.

## RE-UNION

A re-union of 2 Recovery Platoon and 3 Recovery Company will be held at the Korumburra depot on Cup Day (3 Nov). It will be a case of BYO meat and the refreshments are available on site.

If you intend going please contact WO Kelly through the depot at Korumburra.



## ARMY APPRENTICES - A Short History

On 31st August 1939 six young lads enlisted in the Australian Army Ordnance Corps at the depot in Coventry St South Melbourne and their numbers were given the prefix VP. They were Ken Blonton, Les Cashion, Geoff Thompson, Jim Wylie, Jack Hudson and Jack Wilson. The latter arrived two days later and soon, along with Jack Hudson, managed to join the AIF and served with 2/4 Workshops in the Middle East and neither completed their apprenticeship.

In March 1941 three more enlisted, namely Paul Musto, Jack Richardson and Phil Stamps. On 29th May 1941 Glen Bona, "George" Davidson, Ray Green, Tom Harbour, Les Hildebrandt, Ray Kitchen, Les O'Neil, Laurie Pelling and Neville Pitman enlisted as members of Australian Army Ordnance Corps (Apprentices) (AAOC(P)).

In 1945 the following enlisted as RAEME members; Ian Archer, John Pallister, Kevin Boase, Bill Caldeo, Maurie Dunstan, Keith Dyall, Sam Gibbs, Paul Steppings, Bob Sheddon, Athol Tomkin, Frank Towers and David Watson. They were later joined by Tasmanian apprentice Tim McPartlan.

Apart from a short period at Victoria Barracks and Royal Park (Instrument Section) the practical experience was gained at 3 Base Wksp Broadmeadows, whilst the theoretical studies were taken at various Technical Schools around Melbourne.

Until 1943 all apprentices lived at home, country members living out, travelling each day to the workshop. This caused some financial difficulties as the weekly wage at that time was 15 shillings (\$1.50) per week and as the price of train fare exceeded this, dodging ticket checkers was part of the learning experience.

In 1942 all moved into camp at Broadmeadows where we were part of the AMF, became AEME when it was formed and, later, RAEME. All joined the AIF at the first opportunity and were given VX numbers instead of VP. It was Army policy that apprentices were not allowed to join overseas units until their apprenticeship was completed. Some, however, much to the chagrin of the others managed to find a way around this ruling.

On the cessation of hostilities quite a few took their discharge and the 1945 group took their place. Those that re-enlisted now gained another regimental number (See my own three below).

In 1950 the Army Apprentices School was started at Balcombe and was virtually a Technical School with recruits coming from all over Australia.

Geoff Thompson, Athol Tonkin and myself, all ex apprentices, became instructors in the Metal Trades section. I taught intakes 1 to 9 and left in 1954 and joined the Victorian Education Department.

At Balcombe the apprentices were trained by a mixture of Military and Civilian instructors. The apprentices served in all areas of Australia, Middle East, England, Germany, PNG, Korea, Malaysia and Japan (BCOF).

The 1945 group had a 40th year get together at Broadmeadows in 1985 and it was great to renew those old acquaintances.

The above was supplied by;

John Gilbert "George" Davidson VP7390 VX128980 3/640

Editors Footnote; Thanks to George for the above. (Apprentice training is now done at the Army College of TAFE, Bonegilla).



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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

Since the last report things have been pretty hectic.

The lead up to ANZAC eve (our reunion) and ANZAC day was very time consuming what with preparations and liaison between all parties to ensure the function went smoothly and could be enjoyed by all.

Our reunion night was well attended and our new meeting/function room is well appointed and very spacious. It was pleasing to see our members travel, in some cases long distances, to the Oakleigh Barracks. Those that made it had a most enjoyable evening with plenty of food and beverages.

Many of those who attended the reunion slept - in some cases fully booted and spurred - in the depot as usual.

ANZAC day saw us attend a depot "stand to". This was a combined function between all units at the Oakleigh Barracks, RAEME Association and the Old Sappers. All formed up and marched onto the parade ground with the troops. The parade was followed by a "Gunfire" breakfast. Next year RAEME will be laying a wreath at this parade, so come on and give us your support. All in all it was a great start to ANZAC day.

The march

To our surprise we had more than forty marchers, the best turn out for a number of years. It was especially pleasing to see Tom Money at age 91 marching next to me in the front row from Collins St to the Shrine, a great effort and I was proud to be beside him.

Our banner parties, troops from 105 Wksp and Ordnance, did us proud. The march was led by our President John Lee.

Since ANZAC day I recently arranged a special combined meeting of all Victorian RAEME Associations with a view to working closer together, especially during this our 50th year and, of course, into the future.

For those who have not heard, we have now obtained the RAEME Corps Banner for ANZAC day 1993. All those other units have been invited to march with us showing their own banners in support of the Corps Banner. These representatives plus, of course, troops from RAEME could see in excess of 1000 marchers (more on this later).

Administration.

Don't forget our Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 19th July 1992 at the Oakleigh Barracks. Join us for the meeting and the social event afterwards.

It is important that all members attend, also all serving or ex-serving members of RAEME are invited to participate.

If you wish to become an active member of the Committee we would be pleased to receive your nomination  
(Please use the nomination form in this issue of the Lightning Flash).

Correspondence from members has been poor - except for a letter and photographs from Bob Young.

Bob explained in detail many of the bright notes, and some not so bright times, during his career. I have passed the info to John Lee and we may feature them in a later edition of the Lightning Flash. My thanks to you Bob for your input, it is much appreciated.

From Murray Lewis - Secretary RAEME Vietnam Assn - the following details:-

Australian Forces Vietnam National Memorial dedication dates for

75th anniversary - Battle of Cambrai - 1st Armoured Regiment  
Reunion dates 19th - 23rd November 1992.

For complete details you may phone Murray during business hours on 3054181. Murray has also supplied me with full details so you may alternatively speak with me.

In closing; Did you know?

Following the grant of title "Royal" to our Corps His Majesty King George VI was pleased to approve an alliance between RAEME and REME. Approval was promulgated in 1949. This formed a permanent tie between the two Corps and RAEME adopted much of the regalia of REME - its badge, its flag, tactical signs and its march. The march was modified later.

The next alliance was not sought until 1971 when Queen Elizabeth 2 was approached seeking her approval to an alliance between RAEME and RNZEME because of the close ties between both those Corps. Her Majesty was subsequently pleased to approve this alliance.

(Extracted from Annex F, Corps history precis, October 1985).

Bye for now.  
Bruce Williams  
Secretary

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#### CORPS AWARDS 1991

National Craftsman of the year 1991

ARA Cfn J T O'Brien - Norcom (Vehicle Mechanic)

ARES Cpl P J Reynolds - 107 FD WKSP (Recovery Mechanic)

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The Artificer of the Year - RAEME - 1991

Sgt P W Allan - Moorebank LOG GP (Fitter Armament)

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The Regimental Award RAEME - 1991

Sgt D H McIver - Oakey WKSP BN (Vehicle Mechanic)

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The Junior Regimental Award RAEME - 1991

Cpl G F Anderson - 102 FD WKSP (Technician Electronic  
Systems - Ground)

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The LT Peter Jennings Award - 1991

Lt Mark Andrew Fishburn - 2/3 FER (BE (MECH) (HONS))

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The Brigadier H L C Martins OBE, Memorial Encouragement Award - 1991



## RSL HONOURS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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Two of our members, Don Macleod and Frank Bell have been recognized for the outstanding work they do for the RSL. The following is an extract from the March 1992 issue of "Mufti";

# RSL thanks three busy men

AT the Victorian State Council meeting on the 14 February this year, Australia Day Achievement Medallions were presented to Major F. J. Bell, RFD, (RL), Lt Col D. I. Macleod, ED, (RL) and Mr H. W. Farrell.

Frank Bell joined the CMF with the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the 1950s, was commissioned as Lieutenant in 1959 and served in a wide range of regimental and staff appointments until his retirement in 1988.

He joined the ANZAC Day March Staff in 1988, serving as assistant to the Assistant Chief Marshal, Assembly, (Lt Col Macleod) for the 1988 and 1989 ANZAC Day Marches.

His civilian career was with the Victorian Railways where he retired in July 1989 as Superintendent of the Railways Workshops.

On his retirement from the Railway, he accepted the appointment of Chief Staff Officer to the Chief Marshal, ANZAC Day Ceremonies.

In addition to his ANZAC March function, he has under-

taken a wide range of RSL activities, such as dealing with enquiries about Unit histories, the war records of individuals, school projects and the identification of memorabilia.

Don Macleod enlisted in the AIF at the minimum age and served in the South West Pacific with the 2/7 Infantry Battalion and the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

On discharge he pursued a career in the State Electricity Commission as a Mechanical Engineer and Supply Engineer. He was commissioned as Lieutenant in R.A.E.M.E. in 1950 and was recruited as an ANZAC Day March Marshal in 1951.

As a March Marshal he progressed through senior positions to Assistant Chief Marshal, assembly in 1976. This is the key position, being responsible for control of the assembly and despatch from the start point of some 320 Associations and 60 Bands, employing a staff of about 50 marshals.

In addition he has attended at ANZAC House for many years to

assist in planning and organising the March.

He has been active in veterans affairs, for example, he has been on the Committee of the A.N.F.A. (Victoria) for a number of years and is currently the Honorary Treasurer.

For many years he has been on the Committees of both the R.A.E.M.E. Association and the 2/7 Infantry Battalion Association.

He was President of the 2/7 Infantry Battalion Association for several years.

On the formation of The Australian National Flag Association, Victorian Division, in 1983, Henry W. Farrell was elected Honorary Assistant Secretary.

In August 1984, he was elected Honorary Secretary and has held this office to the present day.

During this long period of voluntary work, he has displayed great diligence and dedication to the aims and objectives of the Association for the retention of the Australian National Flag in its present form.

Congratulations and thanks Don and Frank.

## NSW RAEME ASSOCIATION

Our President, John Lee, and the President of the RAEME Association NSW, Joe Marment, have set up good lines of communication and they will be meeting in Sydney this month. From here on in we will be exchanging newsletters to the mutual benefit of both Associations. For those of you with old mates "somewhere in NSW" here is a vehicle for tracking them down. Get your enquiry to me and I will ensure it is published in the NSW Newsletter. As our lines of communication develop we will run a segment on news from Interstate Associations and help them locate mates south of the Murray.



## PROFILE OF A MEMBER

Edward (Ed) Collins

Ed Collins enlisted in the 2nd AIF at the age of 16, at his second attempt, on 2 July 1940 at the Melbourne Town Hall and was drafted to the Infantry at a new camp at Epsom Racecourse (Bendigo). His first CO was an ex Tankie, Capt Murphy and the OC Lt Edmondson, also a WW1 veteran, and Ed was appointed as his batman.

After an interview he subsequently transferred to Signals and in March 41 transferred to Melbourne Technical College for technical training. These 2nd AIF Signallers learnt all aspects of signalling, power supply and rigging so that they could cover every facet of their Corps requirements. Training completed, they were transferred, first to Balcombe, then to Puckapunyal as the 8th Divisional Sigs Unit bound for Singapore.

Before embarkation the unit became 9th Div Sigs 6th Reinforcement, the colour patch was changed from an oval to round to which a "T" was added after El Alamein and they were bound for the Middle East.

In July 1941 three liners, the Queen Mary, the Queen Elizabeth and the Aquitania left in convoy escorted by HMAS Australia and HMAS Canberra from Fremantle. Despite a submarine scare they arrived in Palestine. After stints in 105 LAD and 106 LAD Ed was transferred to 4th Australian Ordnance Workshops at Tel El Kirbir, Egypt.

In October 1942 Ed returned to Australia in an un-escorted Norwegian Motor Cargo Ship loaded with phosphorus which survived storms, a sub scare and steering gear failure. (The sub turned out to be one of our own).

Ed was temporarily promoted to Corporal but lost the stripes later (He never did tell me why but I will find out. Ed) before transferring to 1 Base Ordnance Depot at Bandiana as a bulldozer operator. At work he loaded gravel into trucks from an old gold mine at Chiltern while in his spare time he studied Diesel Engineering.

Ed was discharged on 7 May 1946 after six years service in a variety of areas and tasks.

Back in civvy street Ed joined William Adams as a service mechanic in the workshop and in the field, sometimes demonstrating their products to potential customers. In 1949 joined the SEC at Morwell where the open cut operation was just beginning.

He spent many years in the diesel truck and engineering field with a variety of employers and during the time with the SEC Ed joined Engineers, 99 Construction Coy as a part time soldier. One of the most satisfying tasks during that period was the construction and installation of the water pumping station and piping for the Pan Pacific Scout Jamboree at Wonga Park.

Ed also served as a CFA volunteer fireman for 16 years.

Finally Ed retired from the workforce on 18 December 1980

(All information supplied by Ed Collins and I am sure there are many more interesting sides to his history than can be recorded in this newsletter. Ed)



From the Social Committee.

During this, our first Incorporated year, the main social event was the ANZAC Eve Reunion. This was an excellent night, well attended - good food - lots of free drinks and very good comradeship.

As this was our first function in the new depot the success of the evening must be attributed to the excellent cooperation and hard work of many people. Our thanks go to the Depot staff, the RSM, the OC and staff of 105 WKSP and the efforts of our liaison man Alan Freeth. The excellent catering by the ladies, Bill Sledgers for his contribution of breakfast (which we traded in lieu of donating towards transport to and from the march) and all members for their assistance. Thanks to all especially Doug Brazier for his video of the farm day.

An early reveille was followed, at the depot, by one of the best dawn services we ever attended. In addition to the honour guard we had veterans on parade from three Associations, RAEME, Engineers and Ordnance; in all about 50 strong. Then followed a Gunfire breakfast before the busses left for the march.

The next FOUR activities on the Social Calendar are:-

1. Social gathering after the AGM (19 Jul)
2. 50th Anniversary BALL IN OCT/NOV
3. 50TH BIRTHDAY PARADE AT BANDIANA 27TH NOV 92
4. FARM DAY AT BILL SLEDGERS 29TH NOV 92.

#### AGM FAMILY SOCIAL DAY

The date is the 19th July following the AGM, with the BBQ family lunch expected to start about noon.

#### 50th Anniversary RAEME Ball

The date for this Oct/Nov function will be decided soon but will be close to our birthday date 1 Dec. This will be a BALL and NOT a Dinner Dance.

The last RAEME Ball was in the Royal Exhibition Ballroom, do you remember that far back, but this is to be a RAEME Association ball and we hope to use the excellent facilities of the Oakleigh Barracks. The Ballroom would be the main Gymnasium and will support over 150 couples and is supported by an excellent kitchen for catering.

Plan your table now and when the proforma arrives in the near future, return it, and secure your table.

#### 50TH Birthday Parade

This will be the climax of all RAEME Anniversary activities and will be one of the biggest parades RAEME has staged and should even exceed the Banner Parade. Participants will be serving RAEME soldiers, both ARA and ARES, plus men and women from the 2nd World War, Korea and Vietnam.

Because of the large attendance, it is now impossible to book accomodation. To overcome this the Social Committee has, as previously advised, a bus tour the agenda for which is:-

26th Nov - Evening pickup from 2 locations, South and North sides of town, stop enroute for supper before arriving at top accomodation.

27th Nov - First class breakfast before transportation to the Parade after which the bus will return you for your evening then you are free to do your own thing - Movies - Pokies or whatever.



10  
28th Nov - After breakfast the coach will leave Albury for a tour of the Wineries with a BBQ lunch then return to the pickup point.

Total cost for all this is a mere \$116:00 per head.

It is possible for the bus trip to be extended by one day and return to Melbourne on Sunday 29th Nov.

Start planning now, we have already filled one bus of 40. We have no limit but get in early as accomodation may become even more limited.

Please indicate your preference for the return day ie Saturday or Sunday as it may be possible to have one bus each day.

FARM DAY at Bill Sledgers

Note the date 29th Nov.

Those that attended the last farm day were treated to a good old fashioned country hospitality by Bill, Carol and family. After BBQ lunch we were taken on a hayride and saw more spectacular breathtaking views of mountains and lakes than one would see anywhere in the world before finally returning for refreshments. The day was topped off when milking time arrived with Bill explaining the ins and outs of milking and vat procedures for storing. We guarantee a perfect family day so bring your family, children, grandchildren, ex members of the CORPS and other friends.

A TOP DAY, DONT MISS IT.

Max Moore  
Social Secretary.

8 Padua Crt  
Glen Waverley 3150

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#### SPECIAL NOTICE

After our first issue of The Flash, in which we announced that Ron Byron was not well, one of our members contacted Ron's wife Gwen (Tel No 803 8407) and offered help. Unfortunately Gwen has lost the note she took which included the members name and telephone number. She recalls the member worked at the Red Cross in South Melbourne.

Would that member please contact Gwen Byron again.

(Thanks for the original offer and a follow up would be much appreciated - Ed)

We also mentioned the bad luck that persued Ken Kermonde and asked for assistance. I have received the following letter from Ken:-

"We would like to express our thanks to the members of the Association for their sympathy and many offers of help after our loss of house and possessions. With their help along with other friends we are at last able to settle back in comfort in our rebuilt home with most things required to make it a house once more.

This sad experience underlines the aims of our Association which goes beyond the mere recreational side of our charter. Alice and I are forever grateful for this,

Ken & Alice Kermonde"



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## DISCOUNTS YES DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS.

Here is the result of the initiative of one of our members, Stan Konrad, that will benefit all our members.

At Caribbean Gardens Sunday Market there is a wide variety of stalls which supply a huge range of products. Among them are some who will give all financial members of the Association a discount on production of a current membership card. They are:-

Caribbean Discount Cosmetics Row D stalls 16-20  
Perfumes, Gifts & Novelties.

Video & Audio Row D stalls 10-11  
CD's Video & Audio tapes.

Graylings Footware At rear of market

Sofnik Row E stalls 5-8  
Quality leather goods.

Sporting Goods Row H stalls 6-7  
Golf balls and many other selections

Plants Row H stalls 8-9  
And other garden aids

Stan's Jewellery Row H stalls 1-4  
Silver chains, rings, brooches and repairs

Ski Row H & T Cnr  
Glasses, sunglasses, footballs, basket balls,  
soccer balls and more.

Souvenir Row I stalls 5-8  
Spoons, spoon racks and ornaments.

There are nine traders above and if our members show a reasonable amount of interest then I am confident more will join the list for the future. We will keep you posted.

Remember you MUST produce your membership card to show you are financial, otherwise the discount will not apply

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This is a great start to an interesting idea, maybe you know some firms that would extend a similar service to our members. Let us know if you do.

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Stop Press

Just received a letter from one of the original members of  
105 WYNDHAM ROAD, HANLEY, COVENTRY, CV4 7JF



THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED

PATRON Brig c Emmert ARMIT Msc FIEAust CPEng

NOMINATION for COMMITTEE.

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)

offer myself for election as a Committee member of the RAEME  
Association of Victoria at the Annual General Meeting to be held on  
19th July 1992.

Signed.....

Proposed by  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The Candidate, Proposer and Seconder must be financial at the  
time the nomination is made.

NOTICE

DUES FOR 1992-1993 ARE PAYABLE FROM 1 JULY 1992

To keep our Association viable it is essential that  
all dues be paid promptly, you can pay 1992-93 now  
if you like. Remember, only financial members can  
effectively keep this Association working to serve  
you, those who are proud to have served in the RAEME.





# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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