



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

**October 2018**

**# 93**

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

ABN: 96 873 522 994

Patron: BRIG Konrad Ermert. MSc, FIE Aust, CPEng (Retired)

Colonel-Commandant (Vic/Tas): BRIG David McGahey, CSC (Retired)

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Vice President: MAJ Peter Crosby

Treasurer: Aranka Illia

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Print Post Approved: PP 339540061

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2018 Annual General Meeting.

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

MAJ Michael Newbond is honoured with "Life Membership" to the RAEME Association of Victoria.

Pictured here, Mike receives his membership certificate from RAEME Victoria, President WO1 Allan Hawkins.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Association, it has been indeed an honour and privilege to be re-elected as your President for the 2018/2019 year.

As stated at the Sep 2018 AGM, this year looking forward, a number of changes to the committee will see a changing of the guard, to the previous incumbent's a sincere thank you for your years of dedication, input, advice and assistance in the areas in which you have undertaken.

I would like to publically acknowledge and thank, Mr Alan Rogers for his tireless work undertaken and at most times in the back ground by him as Secretary of our Association. Alan is standing down as secretary this year but will remain on as the Membership member.

Further I would like to thank Pat Marley for his outstanding work in producing the Flash and the management of the RAEME Association Victoria web site. Pat very much appreciated and he is standing down as web master after a long and fulfilling time in the role, the mantle is now being passed onto Morgan Cornelius to provide the on-going support via the electronic medium.

Meeting and function notifications will be sent out once details have been finalised, so watch this space.

As previously, reported RAV in conjunction with Richmond RSL, 105 WKSP COY, 22 ER and City of Yarra have embarked on a restoration activity on a WW1 Artillery piece that was captured as part of 76 others by ANZAC Corps in September 1918. This gun is currently on loan to 105 WKSP COY 4 CSSB to start the restoration process. If you wish to assist or provide advice on the restoration, then please email RAV Vic Pres. MAJ Peter Crosby or myself. I am trying to organise an open day for those interested to come down, some-time late Nov or early Dec as planning at the moment but will advise once finalised.



Over the last 12 months we have lost a number of our fellow brethren, those being:

1. Stan Kimel 15-10-2017,
2. Jack Balsille 30-10-2017,
3. Jeff Gould 1-8-2018
4. Associate Member Verna Rogers 11-8-2018,
5. Widow Elaine Perrot 13-08-2018.

Lest We Forget and our condolences go to the family of those who have passed on.

The Victorian RAEME Corps Birthday Dinner is being held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Clayton RSL. Please mark this in your diaries, calendars.

RAV VICTORIA Barracks Chapter have organised a number of Spanner Club functions for the remainder of this year, details have been previously emailed to all members and if available please come along and have a chat with your fellow spanners.

There will be no Presidents lunch this year as the numbers wishing to attend are dwindling, however they may be something in its place.

To the new members of the committee, welcome.... Come in, sit down, buckle up and let the ride begin, because it will indeed be an adventure.

ARTE ET MARTE

**Allan Hawkins**  
**President**  
 RAEME Association Victoria

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting in September I was elected Secretary, taking over from Alan Rogers.

I am honoured to be able to assist with the day to day running of the Association. I would like to thank Alan for his dedicated efforts as Secretary over many years. I hope that I will be able to carry out my duties to the high standard that Alan has set.

Coming activities include the following:

Remembrance Day ceremony at Clayton RSL 11 Nov 18;

Bandiana Chapter Dinner 17 Nov 2018 and

RAEME Birthday Dinner 30 November 2018.

I look forward to chatting with you at these events.

I can be contacted by e-mail at [secretary@vic.raeme.org.au](mailto:secretary@vic.raeme.org.au) or by phone 0419 004 809.

I encourage you to become involved in the restoration of the captured Krupp WW1 Field Artillery Gun that the Association is involved with in conjunction with Richmond RSL and the City of Yarra. This is a wonderful opportunity to assist the community by restoring the gun to a safe condition that can become an integral part of memorial space within the City of Yarra, whilst getting together with fellow RAEME brethren and exercising your skills.

**Alex Birrell**

**Secretary**

RAEME Association Victoria



**AGM, RAEME Assoc. VIC members elected for 2018-2019.**



1. Stan Kimel 15-10-2017,
2. Jack Balsille 30-10-2017,
3. Jeff Gould 1-8-2018
4. Associate Member Verna Rogers 11-8-2018,
5. Widow Elaine Perrot 13-08-2018.
6. John Peters 24-07-2018.
7. Eddie (Alf) Hatzakortzian 1-09-2018.



### **Editors Notes.**

As this is the first of hopefully many editions of the 'Flash' that I will endeavour to help publish over the coming months and years, it would be remiss of me to neglect the many hours of hard work and dedication that was shown by my predecessor, Pat Marley.

'Thank You' Pat.

This being my first publication, I will only make notes for the current edition, and leave all other communications and/or insights to the members that wish to contribute. This is the important part. The more information I receive leading up to future articles for the "Flash" will help pass on information that may provide some relevance to a multitude of members, from varying backgrounds and interests.

Information will also be shared via social media, with the use of the website where applicable. For those that wish to utilise such, following is a list of media pages that may be of interest for all serving and ex-soldiers and trades of the RAEME brotherhood.

Thanks, Morgan.

### **Social Media Pages**



- Australian Army Apprentices Association
- RAEME
- Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth
- RAEME MATES
- RAEME Association Victoria
- Appy Motorcyclists



Instagram

- raemevicasn

**Blue Bell****Vietnam Veterans Southern Chapter**

President	Dennis Clarke
Vice – President	Robert Gazzara
Secretary	Dennis Meek
Treasurer	Martha Clarke
Committee	Fred Greenway, Graeme Unmack, Neil Bennett

**LEST WE FORGET**

Unfortunately Harold John Baker, 3792983, who has been a Committee Member, stalwart and long-time member of our Association has passed away. He will be greatly missed. Harold served with, B and C Squadrons, 1 Armoured

Regiment Light Aid Detachment, between 22 – 12 – 1968 till 17 – 12 - 1969.

Sadly we also recently lost former member, John Ferguson, 3012921, who served with 4 Field Regiment, from

3 – 11 - 1970 till 11 – 3 - 1971.

Remembrance Day will be celebrating 100 years this year. A number of RSL will be lifting the bar somewhat to make it a memorable event.

Very pleasing to see the re-generation of the Clayton RSL cenotaph. In its new location it is clearly visible memorial.

Long Tan – Vietnam Day at the Melbourne Shrine. We would like to thank Chris Murnane and John Forster for carrying the banner and Rob Gazzara for laying the wreath.

The Day celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Coral-Balmoral operation, which was recently awarded an American Citation. A number of RAEME Units received it, although, you had to be in Vietnam at the time of the Operation Surfers. Twenty- six Australians died and a number were wounded. Many lessons were to be learnt from this engagement.

A large picture screen was used at the Shrine to enable to see the speech- makers visually, who on the wire during the battles. It was the first time a screen was used and it was most effective. The Army Band were in attendance, along with a rock band from Eltham College who did a great rendition of “Only Nineteen”. There was a school choir and students from Mentone College carried twenty- six Australian flags, along with the Shrine Guard.

Next year we'll recount t the battles of Hat Dich and Binh Ba, as it will be fifty years since they occurred.

Congratulations to former RAV President, Michael Newbond on receiving life membership of the RAEME Association Victoria.

Congratulations also to Vietnam Committeeman, Neil Bennett on receiving a letter of Appreciation for his efforts with the Australian Army Apprentices Association.

**RAEME VIETNAM Unit Re- Unions**

1 Armoured Regiment LAD A, B, C, Squadrons or C 1 Sections 1968-1971

2019 OCTOBER

CANBERRA

Contact Russell Cunningham Tel: 03 5766 2413 M: 0437 834089

[bungie12@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bungie12@bigpond.net.au)

106 Field Workshop & Stores – 50th Anniversary

18th November 2018 .Steeples Restaurant

Mornington Victoria

Contact Milton Pearson

[csm10668692@gmail.com](mailto:csm10668692@gmail.com)

161 Recce Flight Re-Union

2019 September - Victoria

Contact John Custance

[janducustance@bigpond.com](mailto:janducustance@bigpond.com)

1 Field Squadron Workshop

July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Hervey Bay Queensland

Contact Norm Barrett

Tel M 0427 431796

[normbarrett@bigpond.com](mailto:normbarrett@bigpond.com)

102 Fld Wkshp Re-Union 2018

“Avondale” 601 Bray’s Road Gannawarra Victoria

Contact Noel Lake Tel 03 5456 9246

[koonda@activ8.net.au](mailto:koonda@activ8.net.au)

101 Fld Wkshp Re-Union

Return to Sydney Re-Union Liverpool Catholic Club

October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Time 1800 to 2300

Cost \$60-00 per person

485 Hoxton Park Road Prestons, NSW 2170

Accommodation: Adjoining the club is the Mercure Hotel.

Quote 101 Workshop & a 12% discount is available when booking

Contact Gary Hodges Tel 0415 764069

[garyhodges101@gmail.com](mailto:garyhodges101@gmail.com)



## Membership Report Oct 2018

**While the majority of members have now paid their 2018-2019 Annual Fees, there are still members who are yet to pay.**

Reminder to those members who are yet to pay their 2018-2019 Membership fees that your **FEES** are now well overdue.

In order that your Association may remain viable it would be appreciated if you can forward your overdue fees;

EFT to raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com or Post to Membership Officer PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805

Without the Annual fee it becomes difficult for the Association Treasurer to meet the financial commitment of the Association.

Alan Rogers

Arte et Marte

**Please follow the EFT details as noted BELOW.**

**This the only way I know that you have paid your Annual Fees**

Please advise Membership Officer of **EFT Payment Details**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail to; raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805

EFT to Bank a/c at - NAB; BSB: 083 547 Account No: 28634 9442

At the AGM I stood down as the Association Secretary and would like to thank the Committee of Management and all members of the Association for their support during my tenure as Secretary which I have enjoyed over the last few years, although I must admit at times has been frustrating.

*Alex Birrell has nominated for the Secretaries position, having worked with Alex during the formation of the Victoria Barracks Chapter, the Association is extremely fortunate to gain the experience of Alex who will make an excellent Secretary.*

I continue to remain on Committee as Membership Officer so members can look forward to the many e-mails that I sent as Secretary to continue if only to extract you hard earned cash to keep the Treasurer happy.

I have also offered to continue the distribution of our newsletter 'The Lightning Flash and organise our Shrine Remembrance Day.

Alan Rogers

Arte et Marte



## Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers Association (Vic) Inc. Annual Shrine Remembrance Day

**Sunday 3rd March 2019**

Sanctuary & RAEME Tree Service 1200hrs  
Light Lunch from 1300hrs

A Short Service and Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary followed by a Remembrance Service at the RAEME Tree

**All Serving; Retired Members of the Corps, Relatives,  
Friends & Children are invited to attend this day**

**A most important day to Honour our RAEME mates who are no longer with us**

Light Refreshments will be Available after the Service. Cost of \$10-00 P/h

For Catering Purposes

RSVP to Alan Rogers by 20th February 2019  
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805

P/No 9704 6700 e-mail; raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com



I Will/Won't \_\_\_\_\_ be attending the Service

I Will/Won't be attending for Light Refreshments

No of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ for Light Refreshments

Enclosed is my Cheque /Money Order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ Payable to RAEME Assn (Vic) INC

Please forward your Cheque / Money Order payment to PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805

EFT to Bank a/c at - NAB; BSB: 083 547 Account No: 28634 9442

Record as - RAEME (Vic) Shrine 2019

**Please advise your EFT payment details to [raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com](mailto:raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com)**

RAEME Association (Vic.) Inc.  
Inc. Reg. No. A0022655Z

## Bandiana Chapter

Annual



Dinner

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Venue: Commercial Club Albury, Stanley C Room

Timings: 7.00 for 7.30pm

Cost: \$40.00 per person, guests welcome

Dress: Coat and Tie

RSVP: Return below by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

RAEME Members, partners and guests are invited to the RAV-B Spring Dinner. The Colonel Commandant for Victoria and Tasmania, BRIG David McGahey, will be in attendance. A Guest speaker is yet to be named. This three-course dinner will be a great opportunity to come together for the many RAEME members, both serving and ex-serving who live here in the Albury / Wodonga area. It will also be a great excuse for members living further-a-field to re-visit their old stomping ground. For Special Diet requirements, please notify Secretary.

Any enquiries please contact our Secretary: Mr. George Reid (02) 60593153 e-mail: [reidysnr@inet.net.au](mailto:reidysnr@inet.net.au)

The Secretary  
RAEME Assoc. (Vic.) Inc. – Bandiana Chapter  
P.O. Box 231  
WODONGA 3689

I ..... will be attending.

Address: ..... City; ..... PC: ..... Phone: .....

My guests' names are: .....

Seating Preferences.....

Enclosed is a Cheque for Total amount of \$ .....

or,

A Direct Deposit of \$ ..... Has been made to BSB: 633 000. A/c No. 127901593 Bendigo Bank, RAEME Assoc. Bandiana (remember to include your name in a direct deposit transaction)

## Life Members Honour Roll

**NOMINAL ROLL OF LIFE MEMBERS**

	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>1</b>	HEPBURN (TINY)	George
<b>2</b>	LEE	John
<b>3</b>	CARTLEDGE	Peter
<b>4</b>	ILLIA	Aranka
<b>5</b>	ALLEN	Gus
<b>6</b>	MARLEY	Pat
<b>7</b>	ROGERS	Alan
<b>8</b>	TURNER	Andy
<b>9</b>	CLARKE	Dennis
<b>10</b>	NEWBOND	Mike

**PATRON**

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>Name</b>
ERMERT Brigadier Rtd.	Konrad
Wife	Mimi

**COLONEL /COMMANDANT**

McGAHEY Brigadier Rtd	David	2013-
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**Past Col/Cmdt**

Jack Wilson 2002-2005	Terry Beaton 2005-2008	Brian Jones 2008-2013
-----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

**Life Members now Deceased:**

Brig G H S Moran	W.Hammond
N J Thompson	LTCOL Don McLeod
Ken Kermonde	Bruce Williams
Jack Westernhagen	Tom Mooney
Max Moore	Doug Brazier
Reg Cox	Ross Hope
Les Bailey	

# VetRide:

## Living life with some get up and go



Do you remember Norm? He turned up on our TV screens in the 1970s as the main character in the highly successful *Life Be In It* health campaign. We saw Norm encouraged to get off the couch and participate and by the 1980s 94 per cent of Australians recognized Norm and his *Life Be In It* message. The message 'Be in it today, live more of your life' remains relevant today. In fact, after a revival of Norm in the year 2000, *Life Be In It* and Norm are still recognised by 85 per cent of Aussies.

One group in the veteran community who embrace that message is VetRide who, in their words, are, 'dedicated through cycling to the welfare of all service and ex-service personnel of the Australian Defence Forces'.

This organisation encourages all service and ex-service personnel, regardless of age to get out and participate in a healthy activity: cycling. The residual benefit of this is that they give each other social and emotional support, while being active. VetRide conducts an annual ride event, the *Service and Sacrifice Tour*. This year it included riders travelling from Toowoomba in Queensland and Seymour in Victoria, to Canberra, where their epic journeys culminated in a commemorative ceremony in the Australian capital.

*Let's ride a mile in the lycra of the Queensland contingent is an account of the ride by tour leader, Arthur Willemse:*

*The VetRide Queensland contingent consisting of nine Veterans and four Current Serving ADF Members and support drivers, Robert and John, set off from Toowoomba on the 5 March 2016, on a marathon cycle ride to Canberra to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.*

*The group ranged in age from 23 to 79. The younger serving soldiers proved to be the fittest and fastest, however the old and bold showed their guile and endurance. The 14-day VetRide Queensland was predominantly self-funded except for kind donations from RSL Queensland, Searles Garden Products, Monza Imports, Carmen's Kitchen, FE Sports, DVA VAN Community Support Queensland, some private donations, and a number of RAR and Battalion associations.*

*Each day's ride was approximately 100kms with the first five days very hot and we were told to keep the fluids up, so of course they complied at the end of each day. The crew endured two wet days, one was bearable,*



*but the other was just horrible with lightning, thunder and a lot of rain. The farmers were happy, but not the cyclists!*

*On the way to Canberra, the VetRide Queensland group had two rest days. The first in Tamworth, where Gordon Sharp (KIA at Long Tan 18 August 1966) is buried, and the second in Coolah, the resting place of Paul Large, (KIA at Long Tan). Graveside services were conducted at each site, presenting family members who attended each service with a Royal Australian Regiment Association sash. Coolah also provided a unique memorial: the Vietnam Memorial Avenue of red flowering redgum trees honouring those who died at the Long Tan Battle.*

*Queensland VetRide continued on their way, and five days later joined with 65 VetRide Victoria riders in Yass. There were many reunions between old service mates and everyone enjoyed the mutual support and care generated amongst the group.*

*Along the last road from Yass into Canberra, local people were amazed at the dedication of these intrepid cyclists and offered them encouragement and motivation. Finally, VetRide rode down Anzac Avenue in Canberra, to the Vietnam Memorial. After a moving commemorative service, the group rode to Old Parliament House to enjoy a much needed lunch in the Members Old Dining Room. It was a great finish to a wonderful trip where old friends reconnected and new friendships were formed. Some were more saddle sore than others after 1300 kms on a bike, but getting to know the current serving soldiers from 8/9 RAR and hear about current service life was a highlight.*

*It was a great commemorative ride and achievement for all involved.*

*If life is a journey, then it is up to each of us to get in the driver's seat and get going, just like the VetRide crew.*

*Nikki Wood, DVA*

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION**  
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**WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT**  
Brian Driscoll  
☎ (03) 5595 4273

**BERWICK/PAKENHAM  
WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/  
TRARALGON & SALE**  
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[vauxy58@hotmail.com](mailto:vauxy58@hotmail.com)

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#### ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

This Newsletter is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

#### DISCLAIMER

The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.

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

### Recent Upcoming Events.

**November 2018**

#### **Bandiana Annual Dinner**

*24th November. 7:00pm for 7:30pm Start.*

Commercial Club, Albury.

(Stanley C Room) - Coat & Tie Dress.

\$40.00 Per Person

RSVP - 20th Nov.

#### **RAEME Birthday Dinner**

30th November 2018.

Time TBC....

Clayton RSL, Carinish Road, (Opposite  
Railway Station)

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

#### **RAV, Chapter Meeting**

10th November. 10:00am start.

Venue - Geelong RSL

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

50 Barwon Heads Rd, Belmont.VIC

#### **SPANNER CLUB Function**

Friday 23rd November 2018.

Venue - Little Mule Cafe. 19 Somerset Place.  
CBD. Melbourne

[https://www.bing.com/search?  
form=GEOTRI&mkt=en-  
au&PC=M19P&q=n&sk=&q=little+mule+cafe](https://www.bing.com/search?form=GEOTRI&mkt=en-au&PC=M19P&q=n&sk=&q=little+mule+cafe)

0396704904.

Time 14:00HRS

### Shared Communications.



## Welcome to the Army Museum of South Australia



In partnership with the RAEME Assoc. VIC an agreement has been struck with the sharing of each partners newsletters. If you are interested in more information, please visit their website - <https://amosa.org.au/>



<https://mailchi.mp/shrine/whats-on-at-the-shrine-in-september>

**MORTLAKE FARM KID in the Army**

Dear Mum and Dad,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Bill and George the Army beats working for old man Jones by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Bill and George all you do before breakfast is smooth your Bed, and shine some things. No Pigs to feed, Cows to milk, wood to split. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, steak, Pig trotters, pie and other regular food, but tell Bill and George you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee and smokes Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags and yells a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and Colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Bill and George with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a Possum head and don't move, and it isn't shooting at you like the Smith boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that old pig at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Bluie Jordan from over in Sea Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Bill and George to hurry and join before other Blokes get onto this setup and come Rushing in.

Your loving daughter,

Joyce

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**Let's hear from you!**

Deadline for next Newsletter – TBC.....

Items to Morgan Cornelius:

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



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