



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

December 2005

Issue 2

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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Welcome

Welcome fellow Bluebells to the second edition of the RAT Newsletter. In the inaugural newsletter I indicated that the newsletter would only be printed and distributed every six months..... Wrong, I have decided to attempt to send the newsletter out quarterly. It was felt that by doing this it will keep all Bluebells up to speed on what is happening, and keep you in the loop.

It was disappointing to see the poor response at our last BBQ in September. It was hoped that by reforming the Association it would give all Bluebells a chance to meet, have a quiet ale and tell a

few stories, I would like to see this continue, over to you.

We are having the RAEME birthday celebration on Sunday the 11th December 05. This year the COLCOMDT TAS/Vic Region, Colonel Terry Beaton will be present at the BBQ, I can honestly say that this will be the first occasion in many a long year that a COL COMDT has shown an interest in traveling to the Apple Isle to speak to fellow Bluebells more on that later in this edition.

Finally I would like to wish you and your families a merry and safe Christmas, see you at the birthday. – Ed

Norm Thomas

Most of you know doubt would know Norm Thomas (23rd intake). Norm unfortunately has been ill with cancer. I have spoken to Norm, he is on the road to recovery and he has shown a positive attitude since learning of his illness. I'm sure you would join me in wishing Norm good health. Give Norm a call, he likes a chat as we all know, and let's hope that he can make it on the 11th.

RAEME Birthday.

This year we will be holding the RAEME birthday at the Lair on Sunday the 11th December 2005. It will be in the form of a BBQ and the annual cutting of the cake.

As I mentioned earlier Colonel Terry Beaton COLCOMDT Tas/Vic Region will join us to help celebrate the Corp birthday. Terry has shown a great deal of interest in the reforming of our Association, and no doubt he is keen to talk to all Bluebells and partake in quiet ale or two.

A flier will be sent out with the Newsletter. Pin it on the beer fridge. Please try and make it, remember it is a family day and the more that attend the merrier.

Membership.

Phantom advises us that membership stands at 55. I know that there are a number of people out there that attend functions and are yet to fill in an application form, please get them back to Phantom.

Constitution.

The committee has revisited the constitution, we will endeavor to have a draft copy of the constitution at the birthday for members to make comment on.

Annual General Meeting

It was discussed at the last committee meeting whether we should hold the AGM next March, most likely at Fort Direction with the idea of having an overnigher. At this stage if there interest from members to book the camping spot at the Fort, we will book it and make it a family weekend. More on that at the Birthday.

Bruvs back

Andy and Bruv are back in the state after their exploit around Australia. I'm sure that we will see them at our next function.

**A message to Locate and Record
All RAEME in the Region
By COL T.R.Beaton**

An initiative has been started to try and capture **all** RAEME (both serving and former members –ARA and GRES) in Victoria and Tasmania. The project had started in Early Oct 05 with updating the Retired Officers List, which regrettably has not been updated since CAPT Vaughan was the Secretary of the Corps Committee (Southern Region) in 1999. With advice that the WOs/SNCOs Association has sadly defuncted, the project was expanded to then also capture all WOs/SNCOs residing in Victoria and Tasmania. With the realization that there little scope for OR's to gain information about Corps activities, it was then decided to go "all the hog" and capture all RAEME personnel serving and former members currently living in both States. For those who have not received the "RAEME Association Tasmania – Member Details Form please complete the form and return it ASAP to the address shown on the form. With the officers, I have at least have an outdated list to start with for the collection of names and details. I have no such starting list for either WOs/SNCOs or the OR group. Your cooperation in

completing the form will ensure you name is register on the Colonel Commandant's Listings; thereby ensuring that you will be able to be sent Corps news updates in the future. If you have received the form already through either the "mail out" or by email via the Mafia network and have not yet found time to complete and return it, then please do so, as you name will be either eliminated or not added to the database, if I don't receive your form - to indicate your willingness to be part of the "Force" of the newly invigorated RAEME Corps in Vic & Tassie. Instead you can remain on the "Dark side" moping about what used to be in the past! It is time to get over it and come out of the dark days and join the rest of us trying to make a brighter future. The ball is in your court!!!

Where are they now?

About 129 letters were sent to address on the old Retired Officers' list. Several have been "Returned to sender". I am now seeking help to locate the following former RAEME members. Last known address:

Name	Street	Suburb	Post Code
Mr A. Perrot	8 Vincent Street	DEER PARK	3023
COL W.P. Delves	16 Faversham Road	CANTERBURY	3126
Mr R. Hunter	126 Alexander Road	UPWEY	3158
Mr R.D.Digance	425 High Street	KEW	3101
LTCOL G.J.Bryant	234 Bridport St	ALBERT PARK	3206

Note: The committee has sent Terry a print out of current members listed with the Association. Phantom has also sent letters

out to current and retired officers in the apple isle. *I think it was done in crayon.*

Biography on COL COMDT Tas/Vic region – Colonel T.R. Beaton

Born in Alexander Barracks Hospital, Singapore in 1952 and raised for 7 years in England and Malaya. Son of a British Army Warrant Officer who left the Army in 1962 and emigrated to Australia with his family as a 10 Pound tourists, settling in South Australia.

Entered Duntroon in 1971 graduating into the Corps of RAEME with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering in Dec 1974. Represented Australia at the 1974 Commonwealth Games as a Decathlete. Apart from appointments in TSU, Pucka Wksp, MEA, Mat Div, HQ 3MD, and DGEME also commanded 21 Const Sqn Wksp as a CAPT and 102 Fd Wksp (Lt) as a MAJ. Sent to Royal Military College of Science in UK in 1981 and completed a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Promoted to LTCOL in 1988 and later posted to Thailand for 3 years as the Military Mechanical Engineering Advisor. During this time became actively involved with the Burma Railway and have subsequently had several articles published. Returned from Thailand to become SO1 Corps in 1992 and became the last SO1 Corps under a DGEME (Kingo) and when the position was disestablished in 1994 as part of the ramping down of the Army. Posted as SO1 Gen Stores at HQ Log Comd being now suddenly multiskilled. Looked after Med & Pharm supplies Tri-service, as well as those sent to support Rwanda. Transferred to the Inactive Reserve in early 1996 when position civilianized, but continued to work for Defence for another 4 years as a Coordinator for study visits by Very Senior Thai Officers. In Dec 1999 I became the first

Australian Curator of the Australian Government's Memorial Museum at Hellfire Pass in Thailand. A position held for two years. In late 2001 I returned to Melbourne and now spend most of my time researching, writing or speaking about the railway, whilst also undertaking the responsibilities of a voluntary RSL Pensions Advocate assisting Veterans from all wars to seek compensation for service caused medical disabilities. In Jun 05 appointed ColComdt (RAEME) for Vic and Tassie by CA. Any spare time is spent riding my VFR 800 with my wife, Sheila (she rides her own Honda Hornet 600) over the winding roads throughout Victoria.

RAEME History in Tasmania

John Lennox our Historian will be placing extracts of history in relation to our corp in up coming newsletters. What is more fitting than the first volunteer soldier tradesman in Tasmania.

Tasmania's First Volunteer Soldier Tradesman, James CHISHOLM

James Chisholm in 1860 with his appointment as Armourer Sergeant to the Manchester Unity Rifles became Tasmania's first volunteer soldier-tradesman. But who was he?

James was born in 1832 at Campbell's Close, Cannongate, Edinburgh. He arrived in Tasmania in 1852 with his father James Chisholm Senior an Enrolled Pensioner who had previous service as Armourer to the 1st Royal Scots and 7th Royal Fusiliers Regiments. He gained employment with a local gunsmith John McConnell who operated at 51 Collins Street, Hobart and remained in his employ for 8 years.

It is probable given his fathers trade young James was already a qualified gunsmith when he arrived in Hobart aged 20 years.

With the birth of the Volunteer movement which in Tasmania was largely tied to the Free Masons both father and son gained employment as Armourers to different units.

James Junior in 1861 was also appointed Armourer Sergeant to the Buckingham Rifles. His father died in 1863 and this event led to James being appointed as Armourer Sergeant to the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Volunteers in 1865.

He married in 1864 but his wife died the following year and one of their four children in 1865.

James was kept busy with his appointment and also looked after all the eight country rifle clubs arms as well the Artillery and Rifle Units arms.. His appointment carried an annual salary of 100 ponds per annum plus quarters which were located behind the Royal Engineers building in Lower Maquarie Street, Hobart. He remarried in 1868 and a further 12 children resulted from this union (only one of whom died in infancy). He was very active in the Free Masons which service was later recognized after holding office for 25 years.

In 1872 he was gazetted as Master Gunner and Sergeant in Charge of the Powder Magazine. His new office was in the Ordnance building, Castray Esplanade and he resided here on the New Wharf.

He retired from service in 1902 aged 70 years. His service was recognized by the Commonwealth with a Meritorious Service Medal in that year and later (1904) with Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

He continued to reside at the Magazine Keepers Residence at the Queens Domain

and from this last appointment he finally retired in 1908.

43 years Government Service and 40 years service to the Masons.



From the Mailroom

From the information provided by members on their "Membership Details" I have attempted to set up an electronic mail list via email. Unfortunately most of you Greasers and Fitters have handwriting that looks like shearer using a thumb nail dipped in tar. So on receipt of this newsletter please send an email to peter.mcdonough@bigpond.com and put your name in the address line.

Cheers

Summary

Well that's it the second edition put together, I would like to have a few more stories for the third edition in March, please email them to me. Any photos? Send them and we will print them.

I would like to see a large gathering at the Birthday, if you see any ex members give them a reminder about it. See you at the "Lair" on the 11th.

Arte et Marte